

Château Caronne Ste Gemme 2010

CSPC# 811841

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Haut Medoc
Website	http://www.caronne-ste-gemme.com/
General Info	<p>The vineyard was first reported in 1648 when a local landlord, Denis de Mullet of La Tour St Lambert rented it to a farmer in exchange for the wines produced. Caronne is derived from "Carona" the name of a local spring source, and Gemme a corruption of "James". In the middle-ages the locality was a parish on the grounds of a subsidiary to the Templar Headquarters at nearby Benon a few kilometers inland. Pilgrims on their way to Saint Jacques de Compostelle, having crossed the estuary from Blaye, would rest here before continuing their way across the Landes to the Spanish Border. The Parish was abolished during the Revolution and it is about this time that the first records of wine production at Caronne appear.</p> <p>In 1900 ownership of Caronne passed to Emile and Eugène Borie. The sons of Eugène would later cede their shares to their uncle and purchase Ch. Batailley and later Ducru-Beaucaillou while Emile's descendents would remain the sole owners of Caronne until this day. The property is now managed by Jean, grandson of Emile and François, his nephew.</p>
Vintage	The 2010s are robust wines made from more aggressive and extreme conditions and their concentration comes from more extreme dehydration thanks to El Niño. They are the product of drought, of a more irregular sugar build-up in summer and a sudden re-concentration at the finish. And, most importantly, they get their higher acidities from the cooler August–September minimum temperatures and from the cooler autumn.
Vineyards	The Vineyard is made up of 45 hectares (113 acres) of a single tenant, planted on a mound of first-class gravel on a base of iron rich sandstone, a little sandier to the east, a little more clayey to the west. The vine varieties are of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot and 37% Merlot. The average age of the vines is 25 years old. The density of planting is the traditional 10.000 vines per hectare. Harvesting is 70% manual and 30% machine.
Harvest	Harvest finished October 24th.
Vinification/ Maturation	<p>The wine making follows the pattern very much of the " Grand Cru " chateaux. The grapes are destalked, then slightly crushed and sent into fermentation vats which are either stainless steel or cement with an epoxy coating and always thermo-regulated. Fermentation is lead at the temperature of 28/30° Celsius with light " over the top " pumping for a soft extraction of the skins.</p> <p>The maceration can last up to three weeks. The ageing of 12-month months is made exclusively in the 1.000 French barrels of 225 L., of which 25% are renewed each year. The wine is fined with egg whites and finally bottled at the vineyard 20 months after it is harvested.</p>
Tasting Notes	Very fine and racy. Nose of black fruits with spicy touches. Ample and structured mouth. Silky finish with hints of licorice and smoked. A great wine of character that will last a long time
Serve with	Chateau Caronne Ste. Gemme is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. The wine of Chateau Caronne Ste. Gemme is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Production	20,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2014-2024



Scores/Awards **90 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - October 15, 2013
90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013
90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2012
87-89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011
92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013
89-90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2012
86 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2013
89 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - August 2013
15 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2014
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - September 2012
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2011
4 stars - Decanter.com - April 2011
17.5 points (91) - Stephen BrookDecanter.com - March 2014
87 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2014
87 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2011
16 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
15.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
1 star - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2014

Reviews *"Well-structured, with tobacco and cedar framing damson plum, cassis and black cherry fruit. The tobacco edge re-emerges on the finish, with savory and dark olive notes. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Merlot. Best from 2014 through 2024. 20,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Supple tannins and attractive camphor, mulberry, black currant and dusty, earthy notes are present in this full-bodied, legitimate sleeper of the vintage. The purity, texture, pure charm and depth of this wine are impressive. Drink it over the next 10-15 years. This beauty from proprietor Francois Nony is a two-thirds blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest mostly Merlot with a touch of Petit Verdot. A member of the Alliance des Cru Bourgeois du Medoc."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the Crus Bourgeois 2010 tasting in London. The Caronne Ste Gemme has a reserved, leafy bouquet with strong but attractive undergrowth aromas. The palate is medium bodied with dry tannins. There is good grip and structure; plenty of tarry black fruit and a solid, graphite tinged finish. Surly at the moment, so leave this fine cru bourgeois for a couple more years. This is a fine wine from this estate. Drink 2014-2020. Tasted September 2012."
- NM, Wine Journal

"This has a lifted nose of blackberry, smoke, soy and a touch of hot gravel stones. Moderate definition, this comes across as a little broody at the moment. The palate is medium bodied with a silky-smooth entry, quite masculine and tannic, just missing fleshiness on the finish that would have balanced it up. Maybe this will come in time? Hopefully....I still appreciate the charm of this wine. Tasted April 2011."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Aromas of plums, wet earth and minerals follow through to a full body, with velvety tannins that are polished and clean. I like the walnut and fruity character in a subtle and reserved way. Needs at least five or six years of bottle age to come together. Very fine indeed."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Very fine and racy, with licorice and blackberries and pretty and racy tannins."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"High acidity combines with ripe fruit to produce a tense, full-bodied wine. At this stage, the fruit has not yet integrated with the tannins."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews

"(grown on deep gravelly soil close to Saint-Julien): Bright, medium red-ruby. Sexy aromas of cherry, currant, mocha, tobacco and smoky underbrush, with a peppery nuance emerging with air. Dark cherry, mineral and menthol flavors show good intensity, with sound vinosity leavening the wine's sweetness. Finishes with dusty but even tannins and good acid spine and length. This nicely intense midweight will probably be even more satisfying with a couple years of patience."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Rather simple crimson. Easy and round but with an unappetising green streak. Quite dilute."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Dark crimson. Concentrated and meaty but not (unlike Cambon La Pelouse just tasted) exaggerated. Sweet, opulent palate entry. Very smooth but dense too. The tannins make their presence felt only on the finish. Very nicely made. Lovely liqueur but dry and classically built. Refreshing finish. Bravo!"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Nony family property south of St-Laurent towards St-Julien. Dark purplish crimson. Very luscious nose with lots of interest. Spicy with some top-quality tonnelier interest here. Lovely polish and structure. Long and refined. More St-Julien than St-Laurent. More flesh than usual. Tasted blind: Solid and persuasive. Fine boned and attractive and well balanced, fine but skinnier than the sample I tasted four days ago... The green is more pronounced."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"A Chateau we have followed for many years. Very consistent and offering excellent value. Classy nose, full-bodied, ripe fruit and well-integrated tannins."

- Decanter.com

"Lush but lifted blackberry nose, with a hint of menthol. Medium-bodied, silky, fine acidity, an elegant rather than massive style, with a clean, almost tangy finish, with discreet tannic backbone. Poised and long."

- SB, Decanter.com

"There is a strong herbaceous quality to the dark fruits and rustic tannins that some tasters are going to like much more than others. The dusty, crisp, fruit in the finish is the best part of the experience."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Plums, blackberries, cedar, tobacco. This is a thick dense wine with plenty of dark berry fruits that are lifted by the tannins and fresh acidity. The is a classy medium-bodied red with a fairly long length. It is approachable young but will also keep for at least a decade. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young."

- JCL, asianpalate.com
