

## Château Carbonnieux 2014

CSPC# 832573

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc
<b>Appellation</b>	Pessac-Léognan
<b>Classification</b>	Grand Cru Classé
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://carbonnieux.com/our-wines/?lang=en">https://carbonnieux.com/our-wines/?lang=en</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>Chateau Carbonnieux has a long and extensive history in the Bordeaux wine appellation. In fact, it is one of the oldest estates in the entire Bordeaux wine region with a history dating back to the 12th century! The original chateau was first constructed during the years when the 100-year war was taking place. This is easily noticed when looking at the unique design that includes a myriad of historical features from the time period.</p> <p>Jumping ahead to the modern era for Chateau Carbonnieux, after World War 2 ended, Chateau Carbonnieux was in poor condition. By that time, only 29 hectares of vines were remaining. The original chateau had been uninhabited since the First World War and was also in bad shape.</p> <p>The wine making equipment was in even worse condition. After the Perrin family, headed by Marc Perrin, purchased the property, they renovated the entire estate and replanted a large portion of the vineyard. The cellars were renovated in 1990. Today, Chateau Carbonnieux is managed by his two sons Eric Perrin and Philibert Perrin.</p> <p>Chateau Carbonnieux has nice neighbors. In fact, they are situated close to Chateau Haut Bailly and Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte. The gravel based, Pessac Leognan vineyard of Chateau Carbonnieux is planted to red and white grapes. Interestingly, Chateau Carbonnieux is one of the few Bordeaux vineyards that continue maintaining plantings of all 5 red Bordeaux wine varieties.</p>
<b>Sustainability</b>	Plot management with environmental-friendly farming
<b>Winemaker</b>	Consulted by Denis Dubourdieu
<b>Vintage</b>	The climatic inversion between summer and autumn 2014 remains unique in the annals of Bordeaux and as winegrowers from the region we could only be filled with enthusiasm. The 2014 vintage was marked by early flowering and slow ripening. All the aromas were preserved because of the cool summer and the impeccable quality of the harvesting produced a high-flying vintage.
<b>Vineyards</b>	<p>Chateau Carbonnieux is planted for the red wine, 47 hectares are planted to 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 2% Malbec, about .5% Petit Verdot and .5% Carmenère. This makes Chateau Carbonnieux one of the few Bordeaux vineyards with plantings of all 6 allowable grape varieties. The Carmenère grapes are a new addition to their vineyard. On average, the vines for the red wine grapes are 32 years of age. 43 hectares are reserved for the white wine grape varieties.</p> <p>The 90-hectare vineyard of Chateau Carbonnieux is perhaps the largest vineyard in Pessac Leognan. The vineyard of Chateau Carbonnieux is almost evenly split between plantings of the grapes to produce red wine and grapes to make white wine.</p> <p>You can easily divide the vineyard into 3 main sections that is on one large gravel hill. The terroir is gravel, sand, limestone, and clay soils. The large vineyard can be further sub divided into 119 different parcels. There are gravel slopes with elevation that rise to 50 meters at their peak.</p>
<b>Harvest</b>	For the red vintage, the absolutely perfect health of all the varieties allowed for hand picking plot by plot, with the optimum ripeness wanted. Merlot from 09/24 to 10/01. Cabernet Sauvignon from 10/02 to 10/15. Cabernet Franc on 10/07 and Petit Verdot on 10/02.



<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	In 2011, to allow the property to vinify on a parcel by parcel basis, Chateau Carbonnieux renovated and remodeled their cellars. They added new, temperature controlled, stainless steel vats in a myriad of sizes ranging from 150 hectoliters to 200 hectoliters and all the way up to 250 hectoliters. This allows for a plot by plot vinification of their Pessac Leognan wine. To produce the red wine of Chateau Carbonnieux, vinification takes place in stainless steel tanks. Malolactic fermentation takes place in tank. The red wines of Chateau Carbonnieux are aged in 35% new, French oak barrels for an average of 16-18 months.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The ripeness and structure of the 2014 reds have good prospects for excellent tasting and cellaring potential. The 2014 vintage was marked by early flowering and slow ripening. All the aromas were preserved because of the cool summer and the impeccable quality of the harvesting produced a high-flying vintage
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Carbonnieux is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. The red wine of Chateau Carbonnieux is best served with all types of classic meat dishes or stewed meat, swordfish, tuna fish, cheese, chocolate desserts.
<b>Production</b>	23,335 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2018-2024
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>90 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 2017</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2015</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2016</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Richard Hemmings, JancisRobinson.com - October 2016</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2015</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>87 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)</p> <p><b>89-92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only)</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Juicy, with a compact feel to the core of cherry and currant flavors, backed by bramble and tobacco notes, accented by a light loam echo. Should unwind nicely. Best from 2018 through 2024. 23,335 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Has a brisk edge, with plum pit and Campari notes, followed by a hint of rose petal. Iron and sanguine hints chime in on the slightly sinewy finish. Should flesh out a touch more with the élevage. Score range: 88-91"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2014 Carbonnieux Rouge has a delightful, clean and pure bouquet with gravel and sous-bois scents neatly interwoven into the blackberry fruit. It feels quite understated, but it gains intensity in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, a keen line of acidity that lends this impressive tension and vibrancy. There is not enormous length here, but the sorbet-like freshness wins you over. Keep in the cellar for 2-3 more years and then enjoy over the next 15-18 years."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The Château Carbonnieux 2014 has a subtle nose, standoffish at first but losing its inhibitions to uncover blackberry, mulberry and candied orange peel. The palate is structured on the entry, the beginning of a linear Carbonnieux, but one adorned with ample freshness and vitality and plenty of tension towards the finish. It perhaps just does not quite deliver the length that a great vintage would have bestowed, but this is certainly a respectable contribution to the vintage."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p>

## Reviews

*"The menthol and cassis nose here lead into quite a traditional wine, but the dry tannins aren't a jot too much. This is a very solid wine that will gain in harmony with a few years' ageing. Try in 2020"*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is a firmly structured wine, solid with fine tannins. Behind the tight facade, there is plenty of fruit as well as the acidity typical of the vintage. It will develop into a deliciously juicy wine. Drink from 2024."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"92-94. Barrel Sample. Complex wood and fruit flavors mingle richly in this dense wine. It has fine acidity that brings out the black currant fruits, as well as ample freshness. The structure is solid, and the wine will age well."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Tasted blind. Dark crimson. Rather polished and sweet with some energy and bone dry. Very drying end."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Glossy and smooth but with an herby bitterness on the palate. Lovely iodine note makes the finish more interesting than expected. (RH)"*  
- RH, JancisRobinson.com

*"Dark crimson. Intense fruit juice nose (little evidence of oak!) and very enthusiastic extraction. Acidity dominates. "*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"On the fruit spectrum, we are in fresh crunchy redcurrant and raspberry territory, some lovely clean tannins, great lift, all around this is an attractive fresh style, perhaps a touch lean. This is the first vintage with their completely new vat room and new inert presses to limit oxygen contact. Blend is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and an even split between Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot for the rest. Reasonable alcohol levels at 13.5% abv, this is an attractive medium-term drinking wine showing touches of complexity and clever winemaking. Drink: 2021-2035 (90+)"*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*"Lighter style of Pessac Leognan, with all the tobacco, cigar box, some and red fruits you need on the nose, but on the palate, while it hits all the rights notes, it's just a bit thin."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The 2014 Carbonnieux is endowed with notable energy and focus throughout. A spine of firm tannins supports the red cherry, red currant, smoke, slate, and floral notes nicely. Today, the 2014 is a bit unyielding, but there is also quite a bit of appeal to classically austere style, especially if the fruit fleshes out a bit more."*  
- AG, Vinous

*"Subtle and layered with classic Carbonnieux restrained style - especially the low-key, detailed and seamless texture. Delicate red flowers, plum and redcurrant. This is a wine that will attract those who love restraint and subtlety over power and ripeness. A successful year, consulted by Denis Dubourdieu."*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com

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