

Château Carbonnieux 2020

CSPC# 832573

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Pessac-Léognan
Classification	Grand Cru Classé
Website	https://carbonnieux.com/our-wines/?lang=en
Analysis	pH: 3.70 Total Acidity: 3.43 g/L H2SO4
Sustainability	Environmentally friendly farming for sustainable agriculture (Member of the 1st ISO 14001 certified Bordeaux EMS Association), HVE 3 certificated (High Environmental Value at level 3) / 1 organic control plot.
General Info	<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 varietals.</p>
Sustainability	Plot management with environmental-friendly farming
Winemaker	Romain Racher.
Vintage	A particularly mild rainy Autumn–Winter 2019/2020 resulted in early budding. Around March 20th, while France was in lockdown, the vine was budding about 10 days early. This advance continued throughout the vegetative cycle thanks to generally favourable weather conditions. Flowering went well and homogeneous followed by a fast regular fruit set without <i>coulure</i> or <i>millerandage</i> . The same can be said for the <i>veraison</i> : precocious and homogeneous around July 20th for the first grapes. Practically no rain in fact between June 17th and September 21st but once again our vines grown in regularly tilled soil showed a remarkable resistance to stress. Maturity inspections shook up the holidays and promised a start to the harvest on August 19th still ten days or so early. The harvest was carried out without any major difficulty in spite of the constraints due to strict sanitary measures and everywhere the grapes were healthy, and maturity was evenly spread over time.
Vineyards	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. 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.



Harvest	Hand picking only. Berry selection while picking and twice on sorting tables. Merlot from 10/09/2020 to 17/09/2020 Petit Verdot on 15/09/2020, Cabernet Franc on 17/09/2020, Cabernet Sauvignon from 18/09/2020 to 29/09/2020
Vinification/ Maturation	Fermenting in temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats (3-4 weeks) with pumping-over. Ageing in French oak barrels - 15 to 18 months (35-40 % new oak)
Tasting Notes	The wine has a ruby colour with density and beautiful purple glints. The first nose, superb, immerses uncompromisingly in essences of fruits and flowers oscillating between blueberry and violet. There is also a nice bouquet of spices of white pepper and cloves. After swirling, smokier notes and fresher notes of red cedar finally exhale. The mouth is very elegant, its attack is round and suave. The balance and accuracy of this wine are impressive. When the wine takes on its full expression, we enjoy the fruity and floral notes perceived on the nose, full of brilliance and delicacy. Its length on the palate, fine and tasty, already shows its ability to age long and well.
Serve with	Château Carbonnieux red 2020 will go very well with a lamb mouse confit in the oven, a duck breast with a cep sauce, a veal chop with garlic clove or a shoulder of wild boar roasted in cider. For an agreement with cheeses, privilege those with pressed and uncooked paste: cantal, old mimolette, morbier, saint-nectaire and tomme of Savoy. It can also be enjoyed with Brie de Meaux, Gouda or Salers. For dessert, it will be very tasty with a famous chocolate mi-cuit, a pear-chocolate bavaois or a tiramisu.
Production	170,000 bottles made.
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p>92 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>16.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>89 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>89 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>93-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>92 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021</p> <p>94-95 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021</p> <p>91-92 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p>92-93 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021</p> <p>17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p> <p>1 star - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2023</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Solidly built, this seems to soak up the vintage's heat, turning it around in the form of a broad swath of steeped black currant and blackberry paste flavors supported by warm tar and smoldering tobacco. Shows a nice, singed cedar frame, with a lingering note of warm paving stone on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. Best from 2025 through 2035. 12,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2020 Carbonnieux has turned out nicely, like its white counterpart, exhibiting aromas of plums, cassia and cherries mingled with hints of pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, rich and gourmand, with powdery tannins and a succulent core of fruit, it's an elegant effort from this large Pessac estate. This venerable 92-hectare Pessac-Léognan estate on the outskirts of Bordeaux occupies gravelly soils and is planted with a slight preponderance of red varieties. Today, the style in red is bright and fruity, and the whites are cut from similar cloth, dominated by Sauvignon Blanc (though the great old Carbonnieux whites of</i></p>

Reviews *yesteryear, which have often aged amazingly well, included much more Sémillon, something I'd love to see make a comeback).*"
- WK, Wine Advocate

"Sporting a deep purple-black color, the 2020 Carbonnieux opens with notes of tar, dark chocolate, and licorice, giving way to a core of stewed black plums, cassis, and blackberry compote, plus a waft of smoked meats. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers mouth-coating, juicy black fruits, supported by firm, grainy tannins, and seamless freshness, finishing savory."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"A velvety-textured red with lots of blackberry, black-olive, mushroom, and walnut character. Full and dense, but fresh and vivid on the finish. Pretty layers of fruit and tannins."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Full bottle 1,325 g. Cask sample taken 6 April. Aged in barrel (35–40% new) for 15 to 18 months. Dark purplish crimson. Aromatic with a hint of pyrazines. But no obvious lack of ripeness on the palate until the very end, which is just slightly pinched. But this is a classic Graves. Not for those who seek opulence but very refreshing – and it may well age rather well. But I suspect it may always be slightly austere. 14.5%."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Juice and freshness running through this, with a velvety texture and sense of momentum. Violet reflections, touches of chocolate and rosemary spice, still the savoury fruit that is typical of the vintage, clearly concentrated, but well balanced overall. 2% Cabernet Franc completes the blend. A yield of 42 hl/ha. 40% new oak. HVE3 certificated with one organic control plot."

- JA, Decanter.com

"The nose, with its smoke, flowers, cocoa, and wet earth scents is a treat. But it is on the palate, with all its layers of lush, elegant, ripe, silky, blackberries, plums, and cocoa where the wine shines. Soft, supple, long, and complex, with a solid depth of flavor in the finish that is packed with ripe fruits, chocolate, and coffee bean, this is in contention as the finest vintage of Carbonnieux I have ever tasted. Drink from 2025-2045."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deeply colored, this is already showing off its vanilla bean, flowers, tobacco, cherry, and currant character on the nose. Supple, soft, and silky, with refined fruits that feel stellar on your palate, give this 4-5 years in the cellar and it is going to be even better. This should age for at least 2 decades. 91-93."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2020 Carbonnieux is a bit reticent on the nose, just as I observed out of barrel. With coaxing it offers black cherries, incense, chalk, and light iris flower aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannins, quite rigid at first, fresh and tensile, loosening up towards the finish with a dash of cracked black pepper. It just comes across a bit too "serious" at the moment and it seems to vanish on the aftertaste. Perplexing."

- NM, Vinous

"This Pessac-Léognan has been a little inconsistent of late. The 2020 Carbonnieux, matured in 35–40% new oak, has a slightly subdued nose despite giving it ample aeration, blackberry, mint, and light floral aromas gradually unfurling. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins, fine acidity, crisp blackberry and wild strawberry fruit and a slightly chalky finish. It is traditional in style, but that is not necessarily a bad thing, and I find there is more persistence on the finish compared to the recently tasted 2018 in bottle. This is a return to form."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2020 Carbonnieux is a dark, brooding beauty. Black cherry, gravel, incense, tobacco, smoke, mocha, and cured meats build as this deep, layered Pessac-Léognan shows off its considerable personality. I would give the tannins a few years to soften. The mix of fruit richness and energy is compelling."

- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2020 Carbonnieux is dark and juicy to the core. Inky red cherry, cedar, leather, tobacco, smoke, and mocha are all kicked up in this deep, flavorful Pessac-Léognan. Bright acids and a firm spine of tannin lend energy while giving the wine its sense of proportion. This is such a gorgeous wine.”*
- AG, Vinous

“Another beautiful Graves, the 2020 Château Carbonnieux is medium to full-bodied, with plenty of classic Graves earthiness as well as beautiful red and blue fruits, lots of floral and exotic notes, ripe, polished tannins, and remarkable overall purity. This is certainly going to be an outstanding wine.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Dark ruby, purple reflections, brightening at the rim. Noble wood savouriness, ripe wild berries, restrained plum and fig notes, a hint of nougat with a smoky undercurrent Juicy, ripe cherry fruit, elegant, well-integrated tannins, mineral finish, very persistent.”
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fruity and offers juiciness, freshness, a small concentration, elegance as well as a certain delicacy. It reveals notes of juicy/ripe lemon, juicy/ripe vine peach, small notes of juicy apple associated with touches of Quenette, kumquat, a discreet hint of lychee, small fresh/bright yellow fruits, gunpowder as well as a subtle hint of acacia and almond. The mouth is fruity, balanced and offers a juicy/acidulous frame, a nice definition, delicacy, gourmandize, a small tension, juiciness, justness, freshness, roundness as well as a certain richness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/pulpy lemon, juicy/pulpy Quenette, small notes of acidulous green apple associated with touches of passion fruit, fresh lychee, mandarin, zests as well as fine hints of lemon flower, a very discreet hint of acacia and a subtle hint of ripe hazelnut (in the background). Good length. A nice sapidity and suavity in the finish/persistence. Presence of an imperceptible hint of lemon seed in the finish/persistence.”
- Vert de Vin

“Youthful aromas showing purity and ripeness, both sweeter red berry, plum and darker cassis notes with tobacco leaf, mild oak, and spiciness. Nicely tuned palate, youthful and ripe tannin adding freshness and structure, attractive dark fruit flavours, rounded texture already approachable with well-concealed oak and a long fresh finish. Well-done.”
- AL, Tasted.com
