

## Vieux Château Certan 2014

CSPC# 763559

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	80% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon
<b>Appellation</b>	Pomerol
<b>Classification</b>	Bordeaux AOC ( <i>Appellation d'origine contrôlée</i> )
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.vieuxchateaucertan.com/vieux_chateau_certan_uk.html">http://www.vieuxchateaucertan.com/vieux_chateau_certan_uk.html</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>The Vieux Château Certan estate, which in 1745 already figured on Bellayme's famous map under the name of "Sertan", is located in the heart of the Pomerol plateau. Covering 14 hectares (35 acres) in one single block, the Vieux Château Certan vineyard is the fruit of a century of painstaking work and careful decision-making.</p>
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>From winter to the beginning of June, the first half of 2014 began with mild temperatures and frequent periods of rain.</p> <p>The flowering process that followed was even, helped by glorious weather in mid-June. Despite a summer with scattered stormy periods, the weather changed for the better with consistent summer sunshine from the end of August till the harvest. As a precaution, we carried out vine canopy work in several stages as from the veraison. One week before the harvest, de-leafing was necessary on the west side of the rows in order to enhance ripening. Thanks to this glorious Indian summer, the Cabernet Franc was of excellent quality.</p> <p>It brought to the blend delicacy, excellent length and breed. It gives the wine its flamboyant side.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<p>The 13.5 hectare Vieux Chateau Certan vineyard is located in the center of Pomerol, on the plateau. When you arrive at the junction where the estate rests, you are truly at the cross streets that could easily be renamed to the center of the heart and soul of Pomerol. Directly across the street is Chateau Certan de May and just down the road you'll find Petrus. Vieux Chateau Certan has a terroir of clay and gravel soil. Vieux Chateau Certan is one of the largest vineyards in the Right Bank that are planted in one single block of vines. The Vieux Chateau Certan vineyard in total is divided into 23 separate parcels. The vineyards of Vieux Chateau Certan are planted to 65% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon with vines that average 50 years of age. However, there is one very old plot of Merlot that was planted all the way back in 1932, making it one of the oldest parcels in the Pomerol appellation. Alexandre Thienpont is responsible for changing the makeup of the vineyards as well. He removed the Malbec and reduced the amount of Cabernet Sauvignon in the vineyards, while adding more Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Unlike the vineyard farming practices used in the 1960's and 1970's, today, no pesticides of any type are used on the vines. Alexandre Thienpont practices sustainable vineyard management techniques.</p>
<b>Harvest</b>	19th and 20th September, then from 29th September to 2nd October and finally on 7th and 8th October 2014
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	The grapes are picked by hand and sorted meticulously at the end of each row of wines. After a gentle crushing, they are put into oak vats, by variety. Those vats destined to make up the blend of the Grand Vin are run off into 100 % new French oak barrels and aged for 18 to 22 months.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>The Merlot is rich, perfumed, round and vinous. It brings liveliness and pleasantness. The 2014 Vieux Château Certan displays many facets: it shows a balance between freshness and roundness and between fruit character and length of flavour.</p> <p>It is charming and delicious.</p>
<b>Production</b>	3167 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2018-2035



**Scores/Awards** **96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017  
**94-97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015  
**94-96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015  
**97 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017  
**95-96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015  
**97 points / Cellar Selection** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017  
**96-98 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015  
**18.5+ points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015  
**18.5 (95) points** - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2015  
**95-96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015  
**94-96 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015  
**95 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015  
**17.5 points** - Farr Vintner - March 2015  
**91-95 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015  
**94 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015  
**97 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017  
**93-96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015 (score only)  
**96-98 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)  
**18 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**17.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)  
**19 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**18 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)

**Reviews** *"Gorgeous, with a core of remarkably pure blackberry, raspberry and black currant fruit wrapped up in a fresh tobacco leaf accent. Everything is carried by silky yet persistent tannins, while the finish lets suave warm stone and singed juniper details fill in. Shows some coiled-up energy, which should make for fun cellaring. Best from 2020 through 2035. 3,167 cases made."*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"Reserved in terms of aroma, but shows beautiful mouthfeel and depth, with pure cassis, blueberry and plum fruit that glides along, laced with a lively tobacco leaf note and backed by a sanguine twinge. Ample singed vanilla and alder accents chime in as well, but they stay in the background while the fruit plays out. —Tasted non-blind. Score range: 94-97"*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"The Vieux Château Certan 2014 is a blend of 80% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, picked in three stages: 19-20 September, 29 September to 2 October and 7 and 8 October. The yields came in at 38.7 hectoliters per hectare with 13.4% alcohol. Noticeably deep and clear in color, the nose takes time to "rev up" but stick with it because it eventually reveals exquisite pure blackberry and briary scents. It is not a powerful set of aromatics but they are so finely tuned and pretty. The palate is one of the best you will find this vintage: very precise and focused, here the intensity delivered by that Cabernet Franc, complex and cerebral like the best VCC's. Truffle, blackberry, woodland aromas waft temptingly from the glass and there is the perfect balance of sweetness and reserve to beg another sip. Alexandre and his son, Guillaume Thienpont may have overseen the best wine of the vintage."*  
 - NM, Wine Advocate

*"This is so gorgeous with black truffles, stones and subtle blackberries. Black mushrooms, too. Full-bodied, so dense and deep with very silky tannins and an endless finish. The density of fruit is superb. Truly irresistible. Drink in 2022 but already wonderful to drink."*  
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"There's a purity of fruit in this wine that shows the soil and uniqueness with wet earth, tobacco, mushroom and red fruits. Full and silky with fine tannins and a fresh finish. The 20% cabernet franc makes this wine great. It's like a wonderfully cut ruby."*  
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *"This is a rich, finely structured wine. It is highly perfumed, packed with black fruits and a dark, firm texture. At the same time, the acidity is intense and the structure tight, suggesting a wine to age. Beautifully endowed with great fruit, it will take time to develop. Drink from 2026."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "96–98. Barrel Sample. This is a perfumed, refined wine, with a beautiful structure. There is intense acidity and fine, dusty tannins that are balanced by red fruit tones and elegance at the end."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "80% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon. 38.7 hl/ha, IPT just 63, TA 3.68 g/l (= 5.63 g/l expressed as tartaric). Multi-dimensional. Intense and super-healthy nose. Intense and wonderfully round and fresh. Lifted and frisky. Wonderful undertow. His just-deceased oenologue (since 1962/63) would be delighted with this wine of haute cuisine, racy but round and properly full of complex fruit. Complete. 13.4% Drink 2023-2036"*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Classic blend of 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet. Real personality. Elegant, perfumed nose with blueberry, violet and chocolate notes. Refined tannins provide a velvety texture as well as persistence and length. Lovely fruit, fine structure. Vibrant, fresh finish."*  
- JL, Decanter.com
- "Very happy given what it could have been," is owner Alexandre Thienpont's modest comment on his own wine. Silky, refined and elegant, this is fresh and very aromatic, with fine tannins that build on the palate. Very Pomerol, but above all very VCC, it's grassy, complex and well balanced."*  
- TA, timatkin.com
- "A wine where the aromatics are forever going to be a key part of the experience, this vintage reflects violets, kirsch, earth and spicy aromas, creating a delicate, beguiling and complex perfume. Long, pure and vibrant, with ripe loads of fresh sweet cherries and black raspberries, if it puts on more weight in the aging process – and it just might – this wine could be even more impressive. I imagine the wine will hit the top end of my scoring range, but time will tell. Blending 80% Merlot with 19% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine reached 13.4% alcohol with a pH of 3.62. 95-96 Pts"*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "2014 Vibrant and healthy colour; beautiful aromas – plum and creamy blackcurrant and black cherry notes; ripe and clean; spices; creamy note to the palate – very harmonious with good fresh acidity; very attractive prospect; proportional and balanced. Probably will fill out more too. Feels very complete and finely crafted. [80% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc, 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, pH3.62 TA3.68, IPT 63 13.4% alc 39 hl/ha Tasted 3rd April '15. Drink 2022-2030. 94-96+"*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Alexandre Thienpont has been making sensational VCCs for several years from the venerable old vines of this exceptionally well situated vineyard. The youngest Merlots were planted in 1959 and the youngest Cabernet Francs in 1948. This is one of the great properties of Pomerol and it normally has a high (for the appellation) percentage of Cabernet in the blend. Deep ruby colour. Very aromatic, floral, enticing nose with layers of plum, mulberry and graphite. Very intense, fresh and cool on the palate, with soft, silky and polished tannins. There is a vibrant blueberry, violet, and black chocolate core to the palate. The pure Merlot fruit is bolstered with a well measured use of lightly toasty oak. This is clean, balanced and elegant with real precision on a long, enduring finish. Very focused, pure and unforced. Impressive."*  
- Farr Vintners

**Reviews** *“Fragrant floral the nose has charm the palate a mix of black fruits layers of flavours freshness yet richness. Ripe fruit enriches the mid palate fleshy and supple but it is lighter at the back with black cherry underpinned by bramble the finish long and elegant. 2022-40”*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*“Luscious and ripe with ripe plum, spices and cherry. Balanced, lively with fresh juicy red and black berries. The yield in this vintage was good at 39 hl/ha and the late harvest through October 8 allowed the Cabernet Franc to shine. According to owner Alexandre Thienpont, the 2014 wine was 'saved' by the Cabernet Franc, which was beautiful in this vintage. There is 80% Merlot and 19% Cabernet Franc in this vintage.”*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com

*“One of the unquestioned stars of the vintage, the 2014 Vieux Château Certan soars out of the glass with aromatic intensity, bright acids and finely sculpted fruit. Cool, intense but very much reserved in the style of the year, the 2014 exudes class. The flavors are intense and vibrant throughout. Dark red and purplish-hued stone fruit, lavender, mint and spice lead into the striking finish. The 2014 is just as impressive today as it was from barrel. As always, Vieux Certan has the rare ability to confer power without excess weight. The 2014 is a magical bottle. Readers who can find it should not hesitate. The blend is back to classic proportions of 80 % Merlot and 20 % Cabernet Franc. (AG)”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“Fragrant floral the nose has charm the palate a mix of black fruits layers of flavours freshness yet richness. Ripe fruit enriches the mid palate fleshy and supple but it is lighter at the back with black cherry underpinned by bramble the finish long and elegant. 2022-40”*  
- AG, Vinous

---