

Château Canon 2019

CSPC# 801686

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

74% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

First Growth B. Premier Grand Cru Classe B.

Website

<http://www.chateaucanon.com/>

General Info

Chateau Canon is a highly esteemed wine production estate in the Saint Emilion appellation of Bordeaux, France. Originally referred to as Clos St-Martin, this top Bordeaux fine wine is ranked among the Premier Grand Crus Classe B, as designated by the classification of Saint Emilion wine.

Chateau Canon, located in the southwest of Saint Emilion, is a neighbor to other renowned wine estates like Chateau Magdelaine, Chateau La Gaffeliere and Chateau Ausone. The vineyard surface measures around 21.5 hectares, with a grape selection of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc.

Since the early 20th century, Chateau Canon has been rated as one of the best Saint Emilion wines; in total, around 7,500 – 9,000 cases are produced each year, of both the first wine Chateau Canon as well as the second wine Clos de Canon.

Winemakers

Nicolas Audebert. Thomas Duclos consultant.

Vintage

Winter: very mild. Spring: cool. Summer: exceptionally hot and dry. Autumn: very fine start to the season, some rainfall end September.

Vineyards

Chateau Canon owns 34 hectares of vines. 24 of those hectares are used to produce Chateau Canon. The vineyard of Chateau Canon is located in the heart of the St. Emilion, on the top of the limestone plateau. The terroir is clay and limestone soils. Their best parcels are close to the chateau, near the cemetery and in front of the chateau, with views of the St. Emilion village. This shows a marked increase in the amount of Cabernet Franc in the vines. There has been a slow, on-going program to add more Cabernet Franc to the vineyard, which took over 15 years. And it is still ongoing! The vineyard is planted to a vine density that ranges from 5,500 to 6,500 vines per hectare. The newer plantings are all at the higher levels of density

Harvest

September 11 to October 4

Vinification/

Maturation

Separate vinification, vatting using gravity, into conical shaped stainless-steel vats with a double walled system for temperature control. Malolactic: 1/3 in new barrels and 2/3 in stainless steel vats. The wine is aged for 18 months in 50% new, French oak barrels.

Tasting Notes

Barely opened, it escapes from the bottle like a sweet summer scent... Ripe and expressive, bursting with life, the wine plunges into the glass in which bright notes of red fruit, lush strawberries and raspberries, spin around each other. A few more swirls of the glass and the fruit intensifies even further, allowing aromas of morello cherry burst forth. There is this constant sensation of sapidity, so smooth and tasty. The wine palpitates. Intense and sappy, throughout the tasting it preserves this juicy character which is characteristic of the vintage. It speaks to us of the mastery achieved in a year that was nevertheless hot and dry. It brings movement over the palate and invigorates the body. This is a generous yet precise Canon, which combines consistency with fluidity.

Serve with

Chateau Canon is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.

Cellaring

Drink 2024-2038

Score/Awards

95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022

97 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022

97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022

17.5+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020

98 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020



Score/Awards **100 points** - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022

98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022

95-97 points - Farr Vintners - May 2020

97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022

98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022

98 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022

96 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020

97 points - Thomas Parker MW - November 2021

19.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020

Reviews *"Violet, cassis, plum purée, and blackberry reduction notes are layered together without being compacted, giving each space to breath and unfurl while letting the fine lacy thread of chalky minerality to flow in between. This shows the heat and slight grain of this distinctive vintage but manages those aspects better than most. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2025 through 2038."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2019 Canon has turned out brilliantly in bottle, wafting from the glass with complex aromas of raspberries and red plums mingled with notions of raw cocoa, dark chocolate, pencil shavings and rose petals. Medium to full-bodied, seamless, and multidimensional, it's one of the most refined, elegant right bank wines of the vintage, with a deep core of fruit, beautifully refined tannins, lively acids, and a long, perfumed finish. This is a superb achievement for Nicolas Audebert and his team. Drink Date 2029 – 2065."

- WK, Wine Advocate

"Blackberries, blueberries and dark chocolate with bark, mushrooms, and chalk. Lavender, too. Full-bodied with firm tannins that are polished and velvety. White pepper, gesso, and crushed stone. It's full-bodied and layered with tightness and focus and a long finish. It's solid and stalwart, as usual. Reminds me of the very special 1955. One for the cellar. Give this until 2026 to see what it really has."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"74% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Franc. Barrel sample. Refined, perfumed nose. Vibrant, juicy fruit with fine texture and tannins. Palate-cleansing finish. Total harmony. Another strong effort from this estate. Drink 2027 – 2045."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Sleek, elegant, and appealing even before you get your nose near the glass. Aromatically it is deep and rich, and then it revs up and takes off. Dense, compact, and intense, zingy limestone vibrancy and grip. Winemakers say they are looking for balance all the time, but here you feel it, with tiny pulses of electricity that appear from beginning to end of the palate. Salinity on the finish with gunsmoke and extremely moreish blueberry and blackberry fruit, with a creamy texture as things open up. 50% new oak. Thomas Duclos consults. Drinking Window 2028 – 2050."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Château Canon has been taking off over the past few years, and here you see why. Just so much complexity, depth, power, interest in the whole thing. This buzzes with life, rises above the palate, full of gunsmoke, truffle, raspberry, blueberry, so delicious. Needs time but already showing it will be worth the wait. 45hl/h, 3.5ph, Harvest September 11 to October 4, 50% new oak. Thomas Duclos consults."

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"One of the few wines I was not able to taste in barrel, what's worth having is worth waiting for. This stunner presents an aromatic display combining crushed rocks, stones, flowers, and red fruits. If that wasn't enough, the wine really kicks in on the palate with its freshness, concentration, energy, purity, and length, which is the perfect backdrop for all the layers of refined, elegant, silky textured, red fruits along with that often, elusive sense of minerality on the palate and in the finish. Drink from 2034-2055."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Nicolas Audebert told us that Canon 2019 tastes like a hypothetical blend of his already legendary 2015 and 2016 vintages. It has the charm, ripeness, and softness of tannins of the 2015 with - at the same time - the juiciness, the blood, freshness, and tension of the 2016. Two personalities in one bottle, but they are not fighting against each other - they just take the wine to a different level. Nicolas described Canon 2019 as a bomb and in his opinion, it is best vintage that he has had produced in his five years at the Chateau. He describes it as being explosive, juicy,

Reviews *intense, with lots of density and volume but yet not losing, at any time, precision and freshness. The finish is long, mineral and very representative of the terroir. It's very Canon. He likes the image of a kilo of feathers although, in the case of the 19, its many kilos! He says that there is a lot of wine here, but it never loses the precision that he fights to achieve. Precision is his obsession while others look for power and structure. He likes the perfect definition of the tannins and the elegance of the balance. The challenge, he adds, is to go as far as he can in term of ripeness and density without losing the tension and that is what he feels he has achieved perfectly in 2019. He is convinced that Canon 2019 will become an iconic wine and the modern-day version of the famous 1955 produced here.*

The blend in 2019 is 74% Merlot and 26% Cabernet Franc, with 14.5% abv. The yield is a healthy 45hl/ha. The vatting period was extended to 30 days due to the quality of the tannins, to create a fuller structure. The wine will be aged in 50% new French oak for 18 months. Deep ruby colour with rich, slightly smoky red cherry fruit on the nose, layered with floral overtones and a hint of kirsch. Layered and fine, with subtle and integrated oak. The palate is multi-dimensional with initially fresh red fruits building sweetness and depth to reveal darker, riper cherries and forest fruit through the mid-palate. As always here, the tannins are ultra-refined, offering a round, creamy, cashmere texture. The Cabernet Franc adds herbal lift and a real graphite minerality that builds into a savoury and lightly smoky note on the finish. The predominant flavour that drives this however is still that pure, fresh red fruit. A fantastic and moreish, focused wine in 2019. Tasted in Bordeaux.

- Farr Vintners

"The 2019 Canon has a fine, detailed nose of blackberry, raspberry, scorched earth and just a touch of crushed stone. The palate is medium-bodied with fine delineation, poised and focused, yet serious. This is a Canon with breeding, but it is more of a long-term prospect compared to the 2018. A second sample at the château showed a bit more depth on the saline finish, and based on that example, I think this will become an outstanding Saint-Émilion. Drink 2028-2055."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Canon is creamy and layered. A wine of immense charm and sensuality, the 2019 is immediately appealing today, but also clearly has the potential to age for many decades. The 2019 is not as exuberant as most recent vintages, and yet its balance is simply magnificent. Readers can expect an aristocratic Saint-Émilion that is holding so much in reserve. Patience is key. Tasted three times. Drink 2031-2059."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2019 Château Canon is another brilliant wine from this talented team that delivers everything you could want from this incredible terroir located on the upper limestone plateau. Based on 74% Merlot and 26% Cabernet Franc, it has a pure, incredibly refined, yet still powerful profile that takes time to unwind. Offering up beautiful notes of black raspberries, wild strawberries, spring flowers, chalky minerality, and graphite, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a layered, multi-dimensional mouthfeel, ultra-fine tannins, and a finish that's something to behold. This isn't the massive style of the 2015 and reminds me slightly of the 2016. It's perfectly balanced and, again, the purity and finesse are off the charts. It needs to be forgotten for 4-5 years and enjoyed over the following 2-3 decades. Hats off to Nicolas Audebert for another sensational wine."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"74% Merlot and 26% Cabernet Franc. Deep ruby colour. The nose is highly aromatic and very complex already for such a young wine. Cherry blossom, violet, kirsch, and roasted plum show a full array of ripeness to the fruit but there are too subtle notes from the oak - sweet vanilla, savoury cedar, and something reminiscent of woody herbs. The palate is velveteen in structure, the tannins beautifully judged to offer a sleek background profile, propping up a generous core of fruit. Despite this, their persistence clearly demonstrates the potential for long-term ageing. Bright red cherry and wildflowers blend with luxuriant milk chocolate and darker notes of cassis. There is a graphite note throughout, keeping the sweeter elements in check. Intense and highly refined, this is another brilliant Canon that should have a long, open drinking window."

- Tom Parker MW