

Château Canon La Gaffelière GCC 2014

CSPC# 744967

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

54% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Franc, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classé B

Website

<http://www.neipperg.com/index.php?act=1,9,3,,,,,en>

Organic

First vintage Organic Certified by FR-BIO-10

General Info

The von Neipperg counts are descended from a noble line dating back to the Holy Roman Empire. This family has contributed great soldiers and illustrious diplomats throughout the centuries. Responsible for numerous military exploits, the family's long history is grounded in their attachment to their land. In fact, the Counts von Neipperg have been making fine wine there since the 12th century.

In 1985, Stephan von Neipperg was officially named estate manager and proceeded to make in-depth changes at Canon La Gaffelière. He started by making a complete analysis of data concerning his vineyard and then drew logical conclusions of what needed doing. His collaboration at a later date with e also contributed to Canon La Gaffelière's reputation around the world.

Vintage

2014 was marked by an extraordinary Indian summer that saved the vintage. Fine spring weather was conducive to a good start to the growing season. However, challenging summer conditions seriously slowed down ripening. Fortunately, the month of September was absolutely beautiful, with dry, extremely sunny weather accompanied by highs of close to 30°C. This superb weather, with cool night-time temperatures, enabled the grapes to ripen beautifully, and they were able to be brought into the vat house having reached a perfect level of ripeness.

Vineyards

The 19.5-hectare vineyard has a complex, outstanding terroir of clay-limestone and clay-sand soil. The topsoil is primarily sandy, increasingly so as one moves away from the slope. The vines, an average of 45 years old, are deeply rooted in the soil and absorb all the goodness in the terroir. They are mostly replaced individually rather than plot by plot (which maintains the average age). The last major replanting dates back to 1986. Mass selection is practiced. This is especially useful in order to perpetuate the precious old Cabernet Franc vines. It not only maintains the vineyard's genetic heritage, but also its unique balance

Harvest

Cropped between 25 September to 9 October. Harvested by hand, into small crates to avoid bruising Sorted before and after destemming No crushing. The grapes arrive on a conveyor belt

Vinification/

Maturation

Fermentation in wooden vats for 35 days. Extraction by pneumatic pigeage (punching down the cap) Ageing in new oak barrels (70%) on the lees for 17 months. No fining.

Production

4,083 cases made.

Cellaring

Drink 2020-2035

Scores/Awards

95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017

93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015

90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015

93 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017

93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015

93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015

15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015

17.25 (90+) points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2015

94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015

93-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015

92-94 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015

94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015

16 points - Farr Vintner - March 2015



Scores/Awards **89-92 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015
95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Scores/Awards *"This cuts a wide swath, with mouthwatering tobacco and warm ganache notes leading the way, followed by a wave of fig, blackberry and black currant preserves. Shows remarkable definition already, even though the structure is strident. Tempting now, but just put this in the back of the cellar. Best from 2020 through 2035. 4,083 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"A strong ganache element flows along with the dark currant and blackberry flavors. A charcoal edge underscores the finish, imparting drive and definition. This will be a winner when it stretches out. Score range: 93-96"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The Château Canon-la-Gaffelière 2014 is a blend of 55% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Franc and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 25 September to 9 October. Stephan von Neipperg told me that this is the first vintage that the estate is certified organic. Matured in 70% new oak barrels, it has a really quite sensual bouquet with lascivious red cherries and strawberry fruit lavished in new oak that is completely in sync. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, crisp acidity, harmonious as usual. It is not the most sophisticated Canon-la-Gaffelière that you will ever taste, but there is engaging freshness and impressive length here. I suspect it will settle amongst the upper band of my score once in bottle. Very fine."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"This is a big, rich wine with masses of ripe black-fruit aromas and a lot of supple, dry tannins that support the full body very nicely. Drink in 2020 but delicious now."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A beautiful and succulent red with blueberry, violets and berries. Full body, long and intense. Extremely integrated. Made from organic grapes. 55% merlot, 36% cabernet franc and 8% cabernet sauvignon."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"93-95. Barrel Sample. Super ripe fruits dominate this wine. It is generous and full in the mouth, the tannins and structure buried within the fruity richness. The finish shows ample freshness."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Dark healthy-looking blackish crimson. Overripe notes on the nose. Very definitely playing the mass-and-alcohol card but there are slight green notes on the end. Fast fade. Not the way to go. Drink 2021-2029"
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"55% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Franc, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon. Organically certified. Zesty, dark fruit nose. Good vineyard expression. Fresh and vibrant on the palate. Tiny, textured tannins."
- JL, Decanter.com

"Fresh, flowery, elegant, refined and with a beautiful, purity of fruit, freshness, silky textures and length in its, ripe, sweet, dark, red berry fruit, filled finish. This should age quite nicely."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Distinctive floral scents with ripe, black raspberry and plum notes are found in the perfume. On the palate, this wine is soft yet vibrant with a fresh, sweet, black cherry and red licorice finish. Made from a blend of 55% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Franc and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine reached 13.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.58. 93-94 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *"2014 Deep and saturated colour; lovely fat seam of fruit; bold, dense and concentrated; some chocolate; glossy ripe entry once again; this is polished and creamy St Emilion; wonderful texture to the palate; very harmonious; good concentration on the finish. Very good length. Palate very impressive. Very good wine indeed. [55% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Franc, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon. 13.5% alc, 24 hl/ha, 70% new oak, harvested 25/9-09/10]. Tasted Canon-la-Gaffelière 1st April '15. Drink 2020-2030. 92-94+ [second note at UGC] Deep and saturated look; very deep core; ripe; glossy and polished; voluptuous on the nose; black cherry; some spice; velvety palate; plenty of extract and chew but structured nicely; some grip; nice fruit and texture overall. Mineral and wet rock tones too. Substantial and long St Emilion. [55% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Franc, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13.5%, 24 hl/ha, picked 25/9-9/10]. Drink 2019-2035. 5. Tasted UGC 1st April '15. 92-94.*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"There is something of a house style to the properties that Stephan von Neipperg owns, but it's a style that's extremely appealing. This organically certified property has made a very smart 2014: deceptively forward, mineral and complex with fruit purity and well-integrated oak."
- TA, timatkin.com

"Bright on the nose there is an attractive red fruited freshness. The fruit on the palate feels ripe rich and sweet in the middle quite supple and although fresher at the back there is sweetness on the finish. 2019-28"
- Derek Smedley MW

"Stefan Von Neipperg's Canon la Gaffeliere was one of the first vineyards where winemaker Stephane Derenoncourt made his mark. Modern in style but not overblown or jammy. 55% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Franc, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 70% new oak. A sweet, plummy, mulling spice nose. The palate is ripe and modern with creamy red fruits. The core is fleshy but with a lightness of touch through fresh and clean acidity. Ripe and long finish with a little sweet spice."
- Farr Vintners

"A pretty Canon La Gaffeliere with attractive aromatics of violets, cedar and sweet spices. Palate is fairly light with velvety tannins and freshness. As always, the focus is on finesse and subtlety for this wine. Consistently well-made despite vintage variation."
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"One of the wines of the vintage, the 2014 Canon La Gaffelière is explosive, lifted and aristocratic in its breeding. Bright Cabernet Franc aromatics give the wine its signature lift and precision. Raspberry jam, rose petal, mint, blood orange, tobacco and pomegranate build slowly on the palate, leading to a super-expressive, finely knit finish. Powerful yet also impeccably refined, the 2014 has it all. The 2014 is 55 % Merlot, 37 % Cabernet Franc and 8 % Cabernet Sauvignon. Don't miss it. 95+ (AG)"
- AG, Vinous

"Exuberant and explosive, the 2014 Canon La Gaffelière is quite forward in style, yet all the elements seem to come together. An open, exotic bouquet melds into sweet red cherries, plums, spices and dried rose petals. The high percentage of Cabernet Franc gives the wine considerable aromatic lift and tons of personality. Floral and savory Franc notes abound on the super, long finish. The 2014 is 55% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Franc and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon. "
- AG, Vinous