

# Château Canon La Gaffelière 2016

CSPC# 848991

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

55% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc, 10% 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.

## Winemaker

Stephane Derenoncourt

## Vintage

2016 St. Emilion did not get off to a good start. Frankly, the initial part of the growing season started off wet, and cloudy. The massive amount of water in the vineyards and cooler temperatures set things back. Vignerons already knew 2016 Saint Emilion would be a late vintage. Bacchus must love Bordeaux because at the beginning of June, the rain stopped, the sun came out and the flowering took place during one of the few breaks in the rain. At least now, growers had a glimmer of hope. The quantity was going to be there, but would the quality come as well?

The official start of summer changed everything. The rains were gone and sunny, warm summer days with the all-important shift to cold, nighttime temperatures arrived. Now, growers needed to decide how much, or even if they should deleaf. The vignerons that were careful not to remove too many leaves, for fear of too much sun made the right choice. Indian summer conditions continued. But as the summer wore on, the extreme dryness of the 2016 Saint Emilion vintage began to have an effect on the vineyards. Young vines shut down or died. The older vines were in danger of shutting down their growth cycle as well, to avoid starvation. But September 13 and September 14 brought about 44mm of rain, the perfect amount of moisture was delivered to the thirsty vines, and at the exact, opportune moment! The continued cold nighttime temperatures kept everything in check and growers were able to wait as long as they wished, for the grapes to achieve full maturity. Another shot of rainfall took place the night of September 30, or the morning of October 1, (depending on your point of view) and it was off to the races! The 2016 St. Emilion harvest conditions could not have been better. Some growers reported 125 days of hang time. Other produces reported spending 4 weeks picking their fruit. And why not as conditions were perfect with warm sunny weather and an extended growing season.

## 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 September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup> at 42 hl/ha. Harvested by hand, into small crates to avoid bruising Sorted before and after destemming No crushing. The grapes arrive on a conveyor belt.



<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	Fermentation in wooden vats for 32 days. Extraction by pneumatic pigeage (punching down the cap) Ageing in new oak barrels (60%) on the lees for 17 months. No fining.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The nose is fruity, powerful, delicate and offers sweetness as well as minerality. It reveals slight hints of blackberry, black berries and gray pepper associated with discreet hints of flowers, ripe/fresh cherry, licorice, toasted oak as well as a very discreet hint of graphite. The palate is elegant, well-balanced, beautifully powerful (full in finesse) and offers a beautiful silky matter, a great vivacity, a beautiful minerality, an acid frame, tension, a nice deepness, a very nice finesse as well as a beautiful roundness. In the mouth this wine expresses notes of blackberry, fresh/ripe black berries/cassis associated with a hint of fresh/ripe red fruits (cherry...), toasted oak and spices. Tannins are elegant, fine, and nicely mature. Beautiful and gourmand persistence with slight toasted/caramelized notes, chocolate as well as a very discreet hint of salinity. (2027+)
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Canon La Gaffeliere is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Canon La Gaffeliere is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
<b>Production</b>	6,917 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink from 2022 through 2038
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p><b>95-98 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - May 2017</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>95 points/Cellar selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p><b>17- points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2018</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - January 2016</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2017</p> <p><b>88-92 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>93-96 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - April 2017</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2017</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2021</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This delivers a very fresh, juicy ball of red and black currant preserve flavors laced liberally with bramble, roasted apple wood and sweet tobacco notes. Shows terrific purity, energy, and drive, with a piercing echo of minerality through the mouthwatering finish. Best from 2022 through 2038. 6,917 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This pulls a lot of red and black currant, fig and boysenberry pâte de fruit notes together, wraps them with a brambly thread and then drives them through an anise- and apple wood-edged finish. It's all tightly wound, but it's all there for the long haul. Really, really solid."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Canon la Gaffeliere is a blend of 55% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon (vines organically certified) picked from 26 September to 15 October and matured in 60% new oak. The yield is 42 hectoliters per hectare. This offers one of the most cerebral aromatics that I have encountered from this Saint</i></p>

**Reviews** *Emilion estate: mineral-rich red and black fruit, quite edgy, almost flinty in style. I adore the focus of these aromas that are wired directly into the olfactory senses. The palate is very well balanced and governed by the Cabernet component. The black fruit is lifted by some lovely graphite notes that lend it a very Left Bank-like personality. It is fresh, taut, and linear with a very persistent finish. Unlike other vintages of Canon la Gaffelière, I feel that this will require four to five years in bottle. As good as the 2015 last year, it might even surpass it.*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"The aromas are very complex with sweet tobacco, black truffles, blueberries and blackberries. Subtle. Menthol, too. Full-bodied yet so elegant. Structure with finesse and purity. The tannins are melted in the wine. Fabulous young wine. Try tasting it from 2023."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Lovely silky texture and dark fruit to this wine underlining richness and decadence. Medium to full body and a long finish."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Bold tannins, rich fruit and good acidity combine in a wine that is powerful while always fresh. With acidity and stylish black-currant flavors, the wine's fruitiness comes through the tannins, finishing with a juicy, perfumed aftertaste. Drink from 2025."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Dark and intense, this wine has immense fruit and equally immense tannins. It is powered by its firm structure and concentration. There are hints of firm extraction, although it does not detract from the bold fruits. It should age well for many years."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Bright dark crimson. Smooth and sweet – in fact almost cocoa flavoured. Mouth-filling. Not all that much tannin but a very pleasurable drink. No rough edges. Hint of pencil shavings on the end. Drink 2024-2040."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Dark crimson. Very rich sweet nose slightly reminiscent of the 'modernist' style. Rather thick and heavy. Suffers from being tasted immediately after the superior and sophisticated Ch Canon. Rather drying end. Good effort. Sincere but a tad vieux jeu. Hint of meatiness, then slightly drying tannins but good energy. Drink 2025-2040."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Another successful wine in St-Émilion, with the signature of careful extraction. Well-brushed black fruits and a lovely push-and-pull effect between supple tannins, rich fruits, and fresh acidity. Certified organic since the 2014 vintage."*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*"A super wine combining concentration, elegance, silky tannins and an array of floral, stone, cherry, plum, espresso, licorice and smoky essences. Give this at least a decade before popping a cork and enjoy it for the next 20 years after that."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Hitting the top range of my projected score, this gorgeous wine pops with its mélange of flowers, plums, cherry, licorice, wet earth and smoke. The wine offers elegance, concentration, freshness, and length. It is however the purity in the fruit, coupled with its silky textures that steals the show! With 8-10 years in the cellar, this is going to be a wine you're going to be thrilled to open."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Certainly, a contender for the best wine ever produced at the property, and that is saying something, considering how many good vintages have been made since 1998. The wine is fresh, vibrant and floral, the fruits are ripe, sweet and pure, the finish is pure silk and velvet."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

## Reviews

*"With silky tannins, the wine feels like velvet. The black juicy plums, smoke, espresso, stone, and salty mineral characteristics really shine through. There is concentration, complexity, and length, offering purity of fruit and sensuous palate teasing textures. The wine was made from a blend of 55% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, reaching 13.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.6. The harvest took place Sept 26 to Oct 15."*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*"Canon La Gaffelière is exploiting a rich vein of form at the moment. This is always wonderfully perfumed and intense, with smoky, floral, cedar wood aromas, fine-grained tannins, subtle red and dark berry fruit, crunchy acidity, and real energy. 2023-34."*

- Tim Atkin 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. Very meaty and smoky on the nose, with a dry, firm structure and concentrated black fruit layered by a sharp red cherry layer and lots of toasty new oak. Firm and unyielding, this is a modern, firm and drying wine on the finish."*

- Farr Vintners

*"The fruit is sweet and ripe the nose has depth the mid palate generosity. There is a balancing freshness bramble in the middle, but it fills out at the back with some sweet rich fruit on the finish. 2025-36."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2016 Canon La Gaffelière has an outstanding, very detailed and complex bouquet of cedar-tinged black fruit and touches of truffle, almost Graves-like in style. The palate is medium-bodied with sweet ripe tannin and rounded in the mouth. The new oak is quite conspicuous at the moment, though it should be fully assimilated with bottle age. This wine is driven by the Cabernet Franc, at one of the highest percentages in recent years, lending a great deal of freshness. Give this five or six years in bottle. A fabulous Canon-la-Gaffelière."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2016 Canon La Gaffelière is just as striking from bottle as it was from barrel. Bright, intensely aromatic, and precise, the 2016 has it all. Sweet red cherry, pomegranate, blood orange and rose petal all race through this silky, super-expressive Saint-Émilion. In 2016, Canon La Gaffelière is especially polished, refined, and nuanced, which means also less overly powerful than in the past. It was compelling both times I tasted it from bottle. (AG)"*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2016 Canon La Gaffelière is a huge, voluptuous wine with no hard edges and exceptional balance. Often in the early going, the Merlot and Cabernet Franc elements are easily discernible, but in 2016 all the elements are wonderfully fused together. It will be interesting to see if this powerful wine finds a bit more finesse over time. The 2016 was even more impressive when I tasted separate components from barrel in January 2017. In 2016, the wine spent 30-32 days on the skins and will see approximately 60% new oak. Tasted three times."*

- AG, Vinous

*"One of the most elegant and seamless wines in the vintage is the 2016 Canon-la-Gaffelière, a blend of 55% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon brought up in 60% new French oak. This medium to full-bodied beauty has brilliant minerality as well as tons of cassis fruits, notions of spice box, cedarwood, licorice, and dried earth, silky tannins, no hard edges, and a great, great finish. It shows the purity and elegance of the vintage to a T. Drink this fabulous Saint-Emilion any time over the coming 20+ years"*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Deep dark ruby garnet, firm core, violet reflections, delicate lightening of the edges, black berry fruit underlaid with fine herbal spices, a hint of liquorice, subtle hints of precious wood and graphite, dark nougat. Firm, dark cherries, firm, well-integrated tannins, good freshness, mineral notes, heart cherries, extract-sweet finish, good aging potential."*

- Falstaff Magazine

---