

## Clos de L'Oratoire 2000

CSPC# 749564

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

St Emilion

**Classification**

Grand Cru Classe

**Website**

<http://www.neipperg.com/index.php?act=1,10,3#>

**General Info**

Clos de l'Oratoire is located on Saint-Emilion's north-east slope.

The origins of Clos de l'Oratoire lie in the Peyraud estate, which was established by the Beylot family, a firm of *négociants* based in Libourne, in the middle years of the 19th century. This was a substantial estate which required extensive planting by the proprietors, who were also responsible for the construction of the *château* which still graces the vineyards today. Its division, in which some of the best parcels were cleaved off to create Clos de l'Oratoire, occurred following the first classification of the St Emilion vineyards in 1955. The Beylot family made the split in good time for the 1969 reclassification, seeing the smaller of the two classed as *Grand Cru Classé*. The larger part, by then known as Château Peyreau, remained unclassified, and both parts stayed under the tenure of the family.

Just a few years later, however, came a significant change in ownership with the arrival of the Neipperg dynasty. Today the property is owned by Stephan von Neipperg, although it was in fact his father, Joseph-Hubert, Graf von Neipperg, a descendant of Franconian nobility, who acquired the property. Joseph-Hubert was one in a long line of successful winemakers in his homeland, Württemberg, which is now part of Baden-Württemberg, a southwest German state. He had made his first investment in Bordeaux in 1971, with the purchase of Canon-la-Gaffelière, and it was only the following year that he added Clos de l'Oratoire to his portfolio. Nevertheless, it is Stephan, his son, who is today the driving force behind Clos de l'Oratoire, as well as Château Peyreau, which also came under the direction of the Neipperg family. Contrary to what is sometimes said, the plots comprising Clos l'Oratoire were not acquired in 1991, but in 1971 (at the same time as the von Neipperg's four first vineyards in Saint-Emilion).

During the 2nd revision of the Saint-Emilion classification, in 1969, the owner at the time had already selected the best plots of Château Peyreau and submitted them for classification. His request was accepted, and Clos de l'Oratoire was born in that year. However, major efforts undertaken to achieve Clos de l'Oratoire's full potential date from 1991.

**Vineyards** The 10.32 hectares of vines grow on Fronsac molasse covering a layer of sand with a clay subsoil. Average vine age is 35 years. This terroir is ideally suited to the blend of Merlot (90%), Cabernet Franc (5%), and Cabernet Sauvignon (5%) grapes. Merlot contributes roundness and opulence to the wine, whereas Cabernet Franc is responsible for power, aromatic complexity, and length.

**Harvest** September 26 to October 10, 2000. By hand, into small crates to avoid bruising Yield 20hl/ha. Sorted before and after destemming No crushing. The grapes arrive on a conveyor belt.

**Vinification** in wooden vats for 26 days. Extraction by pneumatic pigeage (punching down the cap)

**Maturation** in new oak barrels (90%) on the lees for 18 months. No fining or filtering

**Tasting Notes** In a very modern ripe style with a deep youthful colour. Lots of lovely ripe fruit (blackberry, cherry and currant) with some oak. This reputed *château* produces wines with great depth and richness. The mouthfeel reveals lots of extract. Will continue to age quite well for at least 5 to 10 years.

**Production** 3,750 cases made

**Cellaring** Drink 2015-2019



**Scores/Awards** **92 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003  
**89-91 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001  
**92 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #189 - June 28, 2010  
**94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 22, 2003  
**92-95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 27, 2002  
**91-94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 22, 2001  
**90 points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - June 2003  
**17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 4, 2001  
**91 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 30, 2016  
**91 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 11, 2015  
**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 17, 2011  
**15 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**16 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**15.5 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)  
**1 star** - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2004

**Reviews** *"Subtle, yet rich. Refined, yet powerful. Full-bodied, with super silky tannins, yet it's elegant and caressing. Joy to taste. Fantastic l'Oratoire. From the same people who bring you La Mondotte and Canon-La Gaffelière. Best after 2010. 3,750 cases made."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Loads of raspberry and cherry jam aromas in this one. Full-bodied and thick, as well as jammy. Medium finish, with medium tannins. Score range: 89-91"*

*"Ripe, well-made, and slightly over-rated in my report written seven years ago, this 2000 exhibits lots of black currants, cherries, smoked herbs, and spice in a full-bodied, round, generous, fully mature style. Delicious at present, it should drink well for another 5-7 years."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"This is one of St-Emilion's foothill (pieds de cotes) vineyards planted with 90% Merlot and equal parts Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. The vinification is classic Stephan von Neipperg and Stephane Deroncourt. Undoubtedly the finest effort this property has yet produced, the black-colored 2000 offers up sexy notes of espresso, chocolate, Asian spices, black cherry liqueur, and blackberries. Opulent, chewy, and powerful, this deep, full-bodied wine has layers of ripe fruit, huge power, yet a classic, well-delineated style. A brilliant wine. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2019."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Given how prodigious recent vintages have been, Clos de l'Oratoire has become a superb, but increasingly expensive St.-Emilion. Undoubtedly the finest effort this property has yet produced, the black-colored 2000 offers up sexy notes of espresso, chocolate, Asian spices, black cherry liqueur, and blackberries. A blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, this full-bodied claret has expanded, with the tannin becoming sweeter and better integrated. It is a very impressive effort! Anticipated maturity: 2006-2020."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"This property has been on fire since it was acquired by the Comtes de Neipperg (the owner of Canon-La-Gaffeliere and La Mondotte). A terrific effort, the thick, blue/black/purple-colored 2000 exhibits soaring aromas of coffee, blackberry liqueur, cedar, licorice, and Asian spices. In the mouth, the wine is compellingly concentrated, with sweet glycerin and highly extracted flavors on the attack. There is noticeable tannin, but it never overwhelms this full-bodied, large-scaled, concentrated yet impeccably balanced wine. It is a classic offering meant for long-term aging. Anticipated maturity: 2004-2020."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Medium ruby. Roasted red and black fruits and a meaty nuance on the nose. Sweet, fat and very ripe; seems more Pomerol in style than St. Emilion. Finishes with full, ripe tannins. 'A bon-bon, not an intellectual wine,' says proprietor Stephan von Neipperg."*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

**Reviews** *“Another von Niepperg and Derenoncourt production and more pushy than Canon La Gaffelière. Very, very, full and rich and supple. Quite flattering but with sharp acidity. It positively massages the palate and has more than a hint of black cherries about it. Just slightly short.”*

*- JR, JancisRobinson.com*

*“Drinking great today, this is a wine for truffle lovers, especially if they also want loads of ripe, juicy, black plums, wet earth and cherry liqueur, all wrapped up in supple tannins and lush textures.”*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*“Fully mature, round, soft and focused on more red fruits than black, with an earthy, smoky accent, this blend of 90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon is probably at absolute peak. There is no reason to hold this wine any longer.”*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*“Black licorice, espresso, blackberry, jam, kirsch, truffle and spice aromas open up this supple St. Emilion wine. On the palate, the St. Emilion wine feels round, soft and supple, ending in layers of spicy black cherries and licorice. At 11, this blend of 90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon is drinking well. In a few more years, it's going to be even better.”*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

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