

Château La Gaffeliere 2019

CSPC# 866099

750mlx6

14.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

1er Grand Cru Classé

Website

<http://www.chateau-la-gaffeliere.com/?lang=2>

Sustainability

Certified High Environmental Value (HEV)

General Info

With the Malet-Roquefort family at the helm for four centuries, Château La Gaffelière is one of the oldest family-owned chateaux in St Emilion. Nestled between the Ausone and Pavie hills, their south-orientated single vineyard has an average vine age of 35 years producing elegant wines with entrancing aromatics and pure fruit character. Historically La Gaffelière was a reference point for many of the great St Emilion chateaux. During the 1970s and 80s La Gaffelière lost some of its direction, but since consulting for the chateau Stéphane Derenoncourt has woven his magic and Parker believes that the wine *"has gone from strength to strength over the last decade"* returning to past glory: *"one would have to go back to the 2005, 1947 or 1961 to find this level of quality"*.

Winemaker

Stéphane Derenoncourt and Simon Blanchard consult.

Vintage

The mild winter led to bud-burst in late March. Flowering took place under great conditions and July was very hot. A thunderstorm alleviated the vines of water stress, allowing them to resist the heat throughout the summer and deliver grapes at the perfect stage of ripeness in time for the harvest. "At around the time of bud burst, this vintage saw a period of stress linked to cold periods, -1°C on the plain at the end of March. Before the primeurs, the spring promised to be very dry and hot, with a very marked water deficit in March. This trend was confirmed in April and May, not necessarily through the cumulative temperature but by high evapo-transpiration. A frost was narrowly avoided in the middle of the spring. Flowering took place under good conditions in June. July was very hot, peaking at 42°C. A large storm with 40 mm of rain at the end of July avoided disaster: The plants were watered, and temperatures fell. August was dry with little rain despite a storm on 27/08. Thanks to this sparse rain, the water balance was not at its lowest. The Merlots at the foot of the slopes started on 17/09, the Cabernets Francs close the harvest on 11/10." - Damien Bielle, Technical Director

Vineyards

The Château La Gaffelière vineyard enlarges upon 25 hectares and gazes its 22 hectares vineyard all-in-one parcel between the Ausone hill and the Pavie one. The whole favourably south oriented, receives an ideal sunshine which benefits to the 35 years old vine. Hillsides are clayey and calcareous, whereas hill-feet are more siliceous. Area: 38 hectares, of which 22 hectares of 1er Grand Cru Classé

Soil: limestone plateau, clay-limestone hillsides, more siliceous at the foot of the slopes
75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc

Harvest

Merlot: 18 September to 8 October
Cabernet Franc: 30 September to 11 October

**Vinification/
Maturation**

The grapes are kept for 12 hours in a cold room at 7°C before passing through the optical sorter. Vinification by parcel in stainless-steel temperature-controlled tanks, filled by gravity without sulfur. Alcoholic fermentation with pumping over and punching down. Malolactic fermentation in tanks (75%) and barrels (25%). Maceration during 30 days for Merlot and 32 days for Cabernet Franc.

14-16 months in barrel. 60% in new barrels (French oak). Three rackings

Tasting Note

Purplish purple. What intensity and complexity in this bouquet, which is marked by notes of peonies, raspberries, for the freshness, blackcurrant, for the maturity, and spices. Juicy and delicious attack. The wine has character, race and is endowed with tight and carrying tannins, in phase with the temperament of the structure. A wine which continues its march forward and which confirms its greatness!



Serve with	<p>Chateau La Gaffeliere is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift.</p> <p>Chateau 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 La Gaffeliere is also good when matched with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.</p>
Production	7,500 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2040
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>96+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2022</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>94-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>95-96 points - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2020</p> <p>96-97 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021</p> <p>94 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p>96 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - September 2021</p> <p>96-97 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2020</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“This rolls out dense fig, boysenberry and red currant paste flavors laced with pronounced chalky minerality and notes of tobacco, dried anise, and juniper. The serious tannic drive on the finish puts this in the 'classically austere' camp. Worth cellaring for sure, but patience is required. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2024 through 2040. 7,500 cases made.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“The 2019 La Gaffelière wafts from the glass with a rich bouquet of blackberries and cherries mingled with subtle hints of burning embers and loamy soil that's framed by a deft application of creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and seamless, it's a concentrated, vibrant wine built around bright acids and fine, powdery tannins. Its vivid fruit tones and classical balance make this Cabernet Franc-rich blend a promising candidate for sustained bottle age. Anyone who has tasted the great wines this estate produced in the 1950s and 1960s knows how great this site can be; and with stricter selection as well as the elimination of fruit from vines growing on the plain from the blend, that potential appears to be being unleashed at last. Drink Date 2027 – 2057.”</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Sporting a deep garnet-purple color, the 2019 La Gaffeliere reveals a tantalizingly bright, fresh nose of ripe black plums, crushed blackberries, and warm black cherries with touches of lavender, star anise, Sichuan pepper and fragrant earth. The vibrant black fruits completely fill the medium to full-bodied palate with loads of crunchy, energetic flavors, framed by wonderfully plush tannins and a lively line of freshness, finishing with a mineral twist. Irresistibly scrumptious!”</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“The 2019 La Gaffeliere is composed of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple colored, it spills from the glass with alluring notions of black raspberries, boysenberry preserves, Morello cherries, and roses, plus suggestions of Ceylon tea, dried mint, and crushed rocks. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is elegantly crafted and refreshing, bursting with bright, lively fruit, finishing long and achingly floral. This is an effortlessly gorgeous Saint-Emilion, not to be missed.”</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Independent</p>

- Reviews** *“A vibrant, fragrant red with aromas of blackberries, currants, walnuts, and mint chocolate. Medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins. Pretty walnut notes on the polished finish. Fantastic length. Driven acidity and focus. Try in 2025.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “A polished red with well-integrated tannins that are soft and persistent. Very tailored. It’s medium-bodied with rich fruit and a flavorful finish. Very fine and polished at the finish. Chewy at the end. Very tight.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “This estate has made a dark, dense wine in this vintage. That density is penetrated by the freshness of the black currant fruits. The result is a wine that is powered both by structure and crisp fruit. There is definitely plenty of aging potential here.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “An estate with a gathering sense of excitement around it, and once again proves why with the 2019. Sleek and flavourful, with the insistent tug of limestone slowing things down and allowing the juice and the tension to really inform the palate. Creamy texture also, with blueberry and raspberry fruit played gently against tobacco and crushed stone minerality. Highly successful. Drinking Window 2028 – 2044.”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “The most gorgeous depth and complexity through the palate, with touches of mineral pulsing and salinity on the finish, a ton of brambled blackberry, raspberry puree, tobacco leaf, leather, and raspberry leaf fruit. 60% new oak. brilliant wine. owned by the Malet-Roquefort family since 1715, with Stephane Derenoncourt consultant since 2004. I love this, and it has delivered on its en primeur promise.”*
- JA, Inside Bordeaux
- “Rich, plush, silky-textured wine with layers of ripe, sweet, fresh, juicy, dark red fruits, licorice, earth, smoke, and espresso notes. Full-bodied, concentrated and with a round, luscious, fruit-filled finish with ripe, fresh, plums, cherries, thyme, cocoa, and crushed rocks in the endnote. The wine is a blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “The 2019 La Gaffelière has a wonderful bouquet of mineral-rich black and red fruit and sous-bois, a little tobacco and pencil box emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, fleshy and ripe. Perfectly balanced, leading to an almost Left Bank, graphite-tinged finish courtesy of the 40% Cabernet Franc, the 2019 continues the purple patch of this Saint-Émilion stalwart. No doubt a wine that will give 30 to 40 years of drinking pleasure. Drink 2025-2060.”*
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2019 La Gaffelière is a distinctive Saint-Émilion, which should be inferred positively. There is something atypically very tertiary about the nose, beautifully defined and focused with plenty of fruit, yet very complex and cerebral. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, a fine bead of acidity and wonderful harmony. The silky texture belies the structure underneath, and the finish is extraordinarily long. Ancient vintages of La Gaffelière like the 1961 are legendary. This ranks alongside them - the best I have ever tasted. Magnificent.”*
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2019 La Gaffelière is just as impressive as it was en primeur. Bright and tightly wound, La Gaffelière sizzles with energy. Dark red fruit, mocha, blood orange, mint and dried flowers lend striking aromatic presence. There is some youthful austerity here, but nothing time in bottle won't take care of. The 2019 doesn't quite match the stratospheric grandeur of the magical 2018, but it comes close.”*
- AG, Vinous

Reviews

“The 2019 La Gaffelière is deep, vivid, and beautifully layered in the glass. Dark fruit, espresso, mint, lavender, and mocha build as the 2019 opens up in the glass. Deep and fleshy, yet also light on its feet, it has a sense of translucence that carries through all the way to the finish. This is a stunning, riveting wine in every way. The Grand Vin is sourced from the core holdings comprised of about eleven hectares of vineyard. Tasted two times”
- AG, Vinous

“The flagship 2019 Château La Gaffelière is mostly Merlot, yet the cuvée always includes around 15% Cabernet Franc. It offers a complex array of spiced red and black fruits, cedary herbs, lead pencil, and a kiss of tobacco to go with a medium to full-bodied, concentrated, impressively balanced style on the palate. It shows the more classic style of the vintage, has no hard edges, and a killer finish. It’s going to be relatively accessible in its youth yet also age gracefully for 15+ years or more. Tasted twice.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“The nose is elegant, racy, fresh and offers a fine/finely acidulous grain. It reveals notes of cassis, fresh iris, fresh raspberry, small notes of racy minerality associated with touches of juicy/crunchy strawberry, grey pepper as well as fine hints of incense, fresh tobacco, and sweet spices. The palate is fruity, fresh, mineral, well-balanced and offers a fine acidulous frame, juiciness, finesse of the grain and a fine tension. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/acidulous cassis, acidulous blackberry, small notes of iris/fresh violet associated with touches of small juicy/crunchy red berries as well as fine hints of juicy/ripe raspberry, toasted, nutmeg and an imperceptible hint of fresh tobacco (in the background). Good length. Tannins are precise and racy. A fine hint of ripe hazelnut on the persistence.”
- Vert de Vin
