

Château Sansonnet 2011

CSPC# 763515

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Website

<http://www.sansonnet.com/accueil>

General Info

In the 18th Century Château Sansonnet was the property of the Duke Decazes, Prime Minister under the reign of Louis XVIII. The historic home, restored, furnished and redecorated now welcomes private and business guests in an elegant, typical Saint-Emilion, setting. Sharing the unique terroir of the best Saint-Emilion crus classés, Château Sansonnet is located to the North East of the medieval village, on the highest point of the limestone clay plateau. The property extends over 7 hectares in a single block of land surrounding the château itself.

In 2012, Château Sansonnet joined the tight circle of Saint-Emilion's Grans Crus Classés. This distinction was a reward for constant, hard and close work carried out on the vines with a continuous concern for quality.

Vintage

The 2011 vintage is characterized by a strong water deficit in spring with unusually high temperatures. Adverse weather conditions in the summer will not be favorable to the ripening of the grapes but the strong sunlight of autumn compensate for these deficits. Be observed still very strong heterogeneities. 2011 will be the year of the sort. As a consequence of green work and rigorous sorting, yields castle Sansonnet are low (30 hl / ha). Vinification was conducted in order to preserve the aromatic complexity of our grapes while allowing express our terroir.

Vineyards

Chateau Sansonnet is located in the St Emilion appellation, on the right bank of the Gironde. Its 7 hectares of vineyards are planted on the highest point of a limestone clay plateau. The vines are split into 2 varieties: 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc. In our quest for superlative quality, we are working towards a gradual transformation of the vineyard, focusing particularly on complantation work, i.e. planting different grape varieties in a specific soil type, on raising the height of the vine training and on meticulously adapting vineyard work according to the evolution and behavior of the vines.

Harvest

The grapes are harvested entirely by hand as late as possible to ensure perfect ripeness. After fermentation, the wine is matured in French oak barrels for 12-18 months.

Vinification/ Maturation

Our vinification equipment is entire suitable for the geography of our vineyards. Straight after harvesting, a proportion of the grapes will undergo pre-fermentation cold maceration; these are kept at 5°C for 6 days. During alcohol fermentation, the temperature of the vats is rigorously controlled. A rail-mounted automatic punch-down fermenter optimizes extraction. This is then followed by hot maceration. Malolactic fermentations take place in casks of French oak in which the wine will then age for 12 to 18 months. This fully custom-made vinification is orchestrated by our œnologist, Jean-Philippe Fort, from the Michel Roland Practice!

Tasting Notes

Chateau Sansonnet 2011 presents a large tannic substance harmoniously melted in a discreet and bathed in cool wooded, red fruit is omnipresent. The long finish is remarkable

Production

1,690 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2014-2028

Scores/Awards

90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014

89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014

90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2014

89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012

90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2012

87-90 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2012



Scores/Awards **16.5 points** - Decanter.com - April 2012
90-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 24, 2012
88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
13 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

Reviews *"This has heft and depth, but relies more on purity, with a sleek core of damson plum, anise and raspberry fruit, melded with a racy, chalk-tinged spine. Shows a floral echo through the finish. Best from 2015 through 2021. 1,690 cases made. "*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Ripe, but not big, with nicely focused raspberry and currant fruit intertwined with red licorice and apple wood notes. Nice polish on the finish. Score range: 89-92 "

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Sansonnet has been on a hot streak over the last few years, producing strong efforts in both 2009 and 2010. Not surprisingly, they have hit pay dirt again with their 2011, a blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. This dense purple-colored, impressively endowed wine reveals plenty of blue fruits along with a confiture of black cherries, medium to full body, sweet tannin and a long finish. Drink this serious sleeper of the vintage now and over the next 15+ years. "

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The wine reveals a dense ruby/purple color as well as surprising intensity and depth, full body, fresh acidity, ripe tannins and a heady, long finish. Not yet totally formed, this young St.-Emilion is impressive despite its juvenile state of evolution. It should be at its finest after several years of bottle age and keep for 12-15 years. This 16+ acre property is emerging as a potential star of the appellation. Yields in 2011 were a low 30 hectoliters per hectare, and the final blend was 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc that tipped the scales at 14% natural alcohol."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The Sansonnet has an intense bouquet of saturated dark cherries and blueberry. There is a lot of extraction and pumping over in evidence here, although there is no sign of volatility. The palate is medium bodied with crisp tannins, a clean ball of black cherry and spice with crisp tannins on the finish. It has agreeable length and delineation. Tasted April 2012."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Lovely balance of fine tannins that are polished and pretty with ripe fruit. Full and concentrated yet in harmony. Well done for the vintage."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Deep, opaque ruby. Pungent notes of spices, minerals and coffee complicate dark berry and plum aromas. Brooding and muscular on the palate, this fairly full-bodied Saint-Emilion broadens out impressively on the back end, showing very good sweetness of black fruit, black pepper and spice flavors. The very firm tannins mount with air, but there's also strong lingering fruit. This will take no doubt require time to come into harmony."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Since the new owners took over in 2009, this has been a St. Emilion estate to watch. Blending 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Franc, there is minerality, floral and raspberry with soft textures, medium body and a sweet cherry-filled finish. 90-91 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
