

Château Sansonnet 2015

CSPC# 763515

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% 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.

He sold Chateau Sansonnet in 1846 to General de Coutard and retired from politics in 1848.

Château Sansonnet was then bought by Prosper Robin, a cooper, in 1892 and remained in the Robin family's hand for 4 generations spanning a century until the d'Aulan family (former owners of *Piper-Heidsieck Champagne*) took it over in 1999. The d'Aulan family has owned Piper Heidsieck since the 19th century and sold the Champagne House in 1988 to the group *Rémy Martin*. Nowadays they are part of Edonia, a French family-owned négociant business which owns and distributes their wines from Château Sansonnet, *La Croix du Casse*, *Jonqueyres*, *Clinet*, the Argentinian *Alta Vista*, and the sweet Tokaj from *Château Dereszla*, amongst others. 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

2015 St. Emilion has it all going on. Frankly, I could sum this article up rather quickly by just saying, "2015 Saint Emilion Rocks!"

Across the board, 2015 St. Emilion was lucky. Vineyards in the cool clay soils that harvested late made stunning wines. But so, did the estates on the limestone plateau, in the gravel soils and properties on the more sandy terroir were also quite successful. That does not mean buyers do not need to be choosy. Some estates pushed the pedal to the metal a bit too far. There are overly extracted wines, and wines that are aging in too much new oak. But generally speaking, the level of quality here is homogenous. 2015 St. Emilion is the product of a hot, dry summer, with drought conditions. April was hot. June was hotter. July was scorching, and the lack of water exacerbated those conditions. What made this unique was that this level of heat is usually experienced later in the growing season. That was not the case with 2015. Fortunately, the rains in August arrived in the nick of time, providing enough nourishment to allow the growth cycle to continue.

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 16 months. This fully custom-made vinification is orchestrated by our oenologist, Jean-Philippe Fort, from the Michel Roland Practice!
Tasting Notes	This wine, which has great aging potential, displays an intense ruby color. When decanted, it releases aromas of sour cherry and blackcurrant. Big on the attack, it evolves harmoniously on the palate towards an expression of fine tannins with a ripe fruit flavor.
Production	2500 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>16 points - Richard Hemmings, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>89-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A ripe, muscular, extracted style, with lots of warm fig, raspberry and blackberry confiture flavors wrestling with one another. Shows a brambly imprint on the fruit, and a grippy undertow of roasted apple wood adds to the heft. Features some cut, but this remains a touch shy on refinement in the end. Best from 2023 through 2035. 2,500 cases made"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Packed with a mix of raspberry, boysenberry and blackberry fruit, this has range, while the brambly tannins add freshness and drive. Features pleasant spice notes in the background. Score range: 90-93"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Sansonnet is composed of 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc aged for 16 months in French oak, 80% new. Deep garnet-purple with a nose of crushed blackberries, plum preserves and beef drippings with touches of sautéed herbs and tapenade, the full-bodied palate has loads of concentration and energy with a firm, velvety frame and long finish. "</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Sansonnet is a blend of 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon that is matured in 80% new oak. It has a precise, quite introverted bouquet at first with just a hint of graphite infusing the black fruit. It turns almost sorbet-like. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, again, that graphite seam embroidered through the black fruit, structured but focused and sophisticated on the finish. Worth checking out, I would not be surprised if this clocks in at the top of my banded score once in bottle."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2015 Sansonnet is a blend of 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc. It has quite a strict blackberry, boysenberry and cedar-scented bouquet that unfurls nicely in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, a crisp line of acidity, quite saline in the mouth with a dash of white pepper on the finish. This is a well-crafted Saint-Émilion that just needs 3 or 4 years in bottle."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Quite floral, this shows a wealth of very ripe plums and black cherries. The tannins are powerful with a thread of spicy cinnamon-infused oak. Rippling with power. Yet ever so refined and beautiful. Try around 2025."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Big, ripe and packed with tannins, this is a dense wine. The concentration is palpable, rich with black plum and berry fruits. This powerful wine with its great tannins and fruit needs to age. Drink from 2025."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Blackcurrant, firm tannic chew, dry and savoury with a lot of liquorice and leather character. Quite hot. (RH)"

- RH, JancisRobinson.com

"Dramatically improved in recent years. Solid example of the limestone plateau. Lots of minerality with a powerful but fine grain of tannin. Clear ageing potential."

- JL, Decanter.com

"Deeply colored with purple accents, the wine is loaded with ripe, sweet dark red fruits, licorice, wet earth, espresso and cocoa. The wine is luscious, rich and fat. The fruits are perfectly ripe, sweet and fresh with salty tannins, giving the wine that desired sense of minerality."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The new owners are on fire here since taking over the estate. This is a beauty that serves up its deep, dark, ripe, black and red fruits, with licorice, earth and truffle. The wine is rich, pure and sensuous."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Opulent, fleshy, ripe and sweet, the palate is painted with super sweet, ripe berries, dark chocolate and cherries. From a blend of 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Cabernet Franc, this is the best vintage of Sansonnet yet. I know I've said it before, but this time I really mean it!"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Proprietors Marie and Christophe Lefèvre and their winemaker, Jean-Philippe Fort, have done a fabulous job with the 2015 Sansonnet. There is no shortage of depth or richness, but what the 2015 has that other recent vintages have not had is fully ripe tannins that are hard to achieve in this cold site. Layers of dark, inky fruit, spices, leather and licorice build as this exotic, flamboyant St.-Émilion shows off its racy personality. This is a striking, modern St.-Émilion. Ripeness, unctuousness and alcohol are all pushed to the extreme. Sansonnet is 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, done in 80% new oak. Tasted three times."

- AG, Vinous

"The finest vintage I've tasted from this estate, the 2015 Château Sansonnet is a deep, full-bodied, opulent beauty with notes of chocolaty dark fruits, leafy herbs and lots of graphite. Possessing a wealth of fruit and sweet, yet building tannin, this thick, beautifully layered wine is an awesome effort that will keep for 15+ years. The lieu-dit Sansonnet lies just east of the village of Saint-Emilion and covers 6.96 hectares. It was purchased by Marie and Christophe Lefèvre in 2009 and this 2015 is 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc, aged 16 months in 80% new oak."

- Jeb Dunnuck