

Château Sansonnet 2018

CSPC# 763515

750mlx12

15.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

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

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

Grand Cru Classé

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 Northeast 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 negociant business which owns and distributes their wines from Château Sansonnet, *La Croix du Casse*, *Jonqueyres*, *Clinet*, the Argentinian *Alta Vista*, and the sweet Tokaji 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.

Winemaker

Jean-Philippe Fort

Sustainability

A restructuring of the vineyard has led to environmentally friendly practices, a pure expression of the exceptional terroir through a micro-plot approach and a renovation of the vat room and cellar. The tailor-made vinifications are carried out under the guidance of famous wine consultant Michel Rolland and Jean-Philippe Fort. All these efforts and investments have been rewarded with an improvement in the quality of the wines, whose stylistic definition comes through more and more with each new vintage, as confirmed by the 2017.

Vintage

2018 Saint Emilion was not an easy vintage for producers. The winter months were easy, but the spring is one of the wettest in history. Depending on where you located in St. Emilion, during the initial 6 months of the year, between 550 mm to 600 mm (21"-24") of rain soaked your soils. This is more than the normal amount of rain the region experiences in a year!

From there growers fended off violent attacks of mildew, which struck fast and furious. 2018 Saint Emilion was saved by the hottest, driest, sunniest vintage conditions since 2003. Barely any rain fell from July to harvest.

Picking took place under warm, sunny, and dry conditions. On average, production was down 10-20% for many vineyards. Conditions were so good between late September and mid-October; vigneron were able to pick at their chosen level of maturity.

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	100% by hand the 26th of September (young vines of Merlot), 28th and 29th of September, 5th of October (Merlot), 15th of October (Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon). Yields 35 hl/ha.
Vinification/ Maturation	<p>The 2018 vintage of this Saint-Emilion property is a blend of 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon. Following a 100% manual harvest and a first sorting in the vineyard, the fruit is sorted again in the vat by densitometry to keep only those which have reached optimal ripeness.</p> <p>After a cold pre-fermentation maceration to extract a wide range of aromas and colors, the wines are fermented in vats drawn regularly. The malolactic fermentation is carried out in new oak barrels. The maturation then takes 12 to 18 months, some batches (about 80%) being vinified in new barrels and others, particularly merlots, in amphoras of 7.5 hectoliters. 80% new French oak barrels for 18 months. This fully custom-made vinification is orchestrated by our œnologist, Jean-Philippe Fort, from the Michel Roland Practice!</p>
Tasting Notes	The Chateau Sansonnet 2018 is characterized by aromas of ripe black fruits. It is a rich and dense wine that has a beautiful aromatic depth, giving it a notable length marked by spices on the palate.
Serve with	Best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	2,800 cases made (30,000 bottles)
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2034
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021</p> <p>93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>96+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p>17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Dark currant, fig and blackberry paste flavors are entwined with singed alder, dried tobacco and iron-tinged minerality. Nice drive through the finish too. Well done. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2022 through 2034. 2,800 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A lush and inviting style, with waves of cassis and plum puree, caressed by a velvety structure. The long and alluring finish is already well-formed. This has depth, mouthfeel, and fruit to burn. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. 2,800 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"With 15% alcohol and a deep garnet-purple color, it opens a little broody, offering glimpses at tar and damp earth notes before bursting forth with expressive plum preserves, blueberry pie and licorice scents, followed by hints of cedar chest and pencil lead. Full-bodied, rich, and impactful in the mouth, the generous black fruits are nicely framed by firm, rounded tannins and loads of freshness, finishing long and earthy. Rating: 94+."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"This 35-year-old, 6.96-hectare vineyard is planted to 6,000 vines per hectare on thin clay and limestone soils atop the Saint-Émilion plateau, just across the road from Trottevieille. With 15% alcohol and a deep purple-black color, the 2018 Sansonnet is a little reticent to begin, opening out to notions of stewed plums, warm cassis, blackberry coulis and fruitcake with hints of grilled meats and fried herbs. Big, rich, full and laden with massive black fruit preserves layers, it has a plush texture and spicy finish."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *"Blackberry, black truffle, red tile and walnut on the nose. Full-bodied with a very dense, polished palate of ripe, firm tannins and beautifully pure fruit. Transparent and gorgeous. This will age nicely. Try after 2024."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "This is a generous, ripe wine, with rich, supple tannins. Its acidity and fine fruitiness are already giving great structure. The wine will certainly age well. Barrel Sample: 92-94."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Merlots picked late September and on 5 October, but the Cabernets were not picked until 15 October. Cold pre-fermentation maceration, extraction by pigeage and/or pumping over for 20 to 28 days. Malo in barrels of 225 and 500 litres, 80% new. The young Merlots were aged in amphorae. Unnecessarily heavy bottle. Deep purplish crimson. Sumptuous nose with notes of tea leaves. Then quite marked acidity as well as very concentrated fruit and carefully managed tannins on the palate. This should age pretty well even if for the moment all the ingredients are a bit embryonic and unknit. Just a little drying on the end for the moment."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Owned by Marie Lefèvre. A ton of interest, with power and depth to the black fruits and the salty lick of limestone coming through at the end. This is excellent quality and has a brilliant, slow slate finish - I love this texture. 80% new oak, with amphorae used in the ageing alongside barrels. This has improved for me over ageing and is an up score. Drinking Window 2024 – 2040."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "The showy nose, with its licorice, smoke, flowers and wild cherries gets your attention. Dark, almost opaque in color, the wine is opulent, lush, and velvety. Full-bodied, ripe, rich and with density, length, and purity, this is just great. And it is still priced quite fairly too!"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "What a beauty! The wine is round, fleshy, supple, and loaded with licorice, dark red fruits and silky tannins. The finish tastes and feels great with seemingly countless layers of sweet, juicy, black, and blue fruits."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The 2018 Sansonnet was impressive in barrel and remains so in bottle. It has an intense, opulent bouquet of layered black cherry and blueberry fruit and crème de cassis, yet it manages to retain fine delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent black fruit, sweet and maybe a little glossy in style, but it has a marvelous, penetrating finish. I suspect this may close down, so either drink soon or cellar for several years."*
- NM, Vinous
- "The 2018 Sansonnet is super-impressive right out of the gate. In recent years, Sansonnet has been opulent. The 2018 captures all of that richness but also has an extra kick of vibrancy that works so well in balancing things out. The style is still concentrated, and there is plenty of new oak, but it all works so well together. Inky red fruit, chocolate, plum, rose petals and spice linger on the exotic finish. The 2018 is so expressive today. Moreover, it is flat-out delicious."*
- AG, Vinous
- " This estate has been on fire of late and that doesn't appear to have changed with the 2018 Château Sansonnet. Revealing a dense purple hue as well as a young, unevolved bouquet of pure crème de cassis, graphite, crushed violets, bouquet garni, chocolate, and distinct chalky minerality, it delivers remarkable purity, full-bodied richness, silky tannins, and flawless balance. A wine that builds slowly with time in the glass, offering a beautiful mix of richness, elegance, and length, it's as good, if not even better than the 2016. Don't miss it!"*
- Jeb Dunnuck
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