

# Château Sansonnet 2019

CSPC# 763515

750mlx12

15.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

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

**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 chateau 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**

The winter of 2018-2019 was mild and dry. Cool temperatures in spring slowed down vine growth. Flowering took place in ideal conditions, without coulure (shot berries) nor millerandage (abnormal fruit set). Storm Miguel swept across the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region on the 7th of June, although our grapes were fortunately spared. Heavy, regular rainfall was conducive to vegetative growth, leading the vines to develop an impressive leaf canopy. The rain came to a sudden halt on the 22nd of June, and a series of successive heatwaves ensued.

July was the third hottest in history after 2006 and 2013, with temperatures reaching a record-breaking 42°C on the 23rd. Fortunately, rain fell on the 26th, followed by cool nights in August, propitious to the synthesis of anthocyanins. *Véraison* (colour change) was slow but uninterrupted. September was marked by fine, dry, and sunny conditions, interspersed by welcome rainfall. Thanks to this ideal spell of weather, all the grape varieties were harvested at peak ripeness and at a leisurely pace.

**Vineyards**

Château Sansonnet is located at the very top of the Saint-Emilion plateau. Its exceptional soil consists of a thin layer of clay over limestone. The vineyard covers a single 7-hectare (17-acre) plot that surrounds the chateau. A dominant 85% proportion of Merlot is blended with Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Average age of the vine are 35 years old.

**Harvest**

100% manual on 19 and 20/09 (young vines from Merlot), on 26/09, 30/09 then from 04/10 to 10/10 (Merlot), the 14/10 (Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon). Yield: 33hl/ha.

**Vinification/  
Maturation**

Vinification: Sorting by density Macera, cold pre-fermentation Pigeage Fermented, on malolactic, only in barrel. Tanks: Thermoregulated double-walled truncated stainless steel & Thermoregulated tapered wooden vats. Aged: 500L barrels wood casks 70% new French oak barrels for 16 months.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	This wine, which has great keeping potential, displays an intense ruby colour. When aired, 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 flavour.
<b>Serve with</b>	Best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
<b>Production</b>	2,100 cases made. (31,000 bottles of 1st wine)
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2023-2038
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Independent (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - June 2020</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2020</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - February 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - February 2022</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This is both lush and structured, with a gush of dark, steeped cassis, blackberry and fig notes leading the way and quickly followed by singed alder and juniper, warm humus, and cast-iron notes, which really linger. This won't ever be a charmer, but it will develop nicely over time. Best from 2023 through 2038. 2,100 cases made. - JM, Wine Spectator</i></p> <p><i>"Opaque garnet-purple in color, the 2019 Sansonnet comes skipping out of the glass with vibrant notes of Morello cherries, blueberry compote, mulberries, and warm black plums plus hints of raspberry leaves, Sichuan pepper, cassia, and cumin seed with a waft of tree bark. The full-bodied palate is packed with crunchy black and red fruits, framed by exquisitely ripe, rounded tannins and bold freshness, finishing very long and mineral laced. Beautiful!"</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Ripe blackberries, cherries, praline, walnuts, and lavender on the nose. It's medium-to full-bodied with fine, plush tannins. Creamy and polished. Drink after 2024."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"A lush, polished, and vivid red with red-berry, cherry, and dark-chocolate character. Medium to full body, plush tannins, and a fruity finish. It shows attitude and structure."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Intense and concentrated, as are so many in the appellation in 2019, with a lovely sense of freshness through the core. Again, a good reflection of what limestone can deliver in terms of balancing out the power of the fruit without losing the creamy texture. Good stuff. A yield of 35hl/ha."</i> - JA, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"Deeply colored, the wine is loaded with an array of black, dark red and blue fruits. Full-bodied, and packed with dark chocolate, toasty oak, opulent, flamboyant-textures that comes in layers, this is going to need a few years in the cellar to soften and fully-integrate. There is a minor touch of heat in the finish, (At 15%) but the wealth of fruit covers most of that up. Drink from 2025-2043."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p>

## Reviews

*“Almost opaque in color, the perfume here hits it! The strong essence of licorice, vanilla, black plum, and even blacker cherry. Full-bodied, voluptuous, lush, and sexy with layer after layer of super-ripe, fresh gorgeous fruits, soft, velvet tannins and length that sticks. The wine blends 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc reaching 15% alcohol, with no touch of heat.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“The 2019 Sansonnet seems to revel in the vintage. The aromatics explode from the glass with precocious black cherry, raspberry and blueberry scents, the oak neatly integrated. The palate is medium-bodied and manages to counterbalance its power with tension, retaining crucial sapidity on the prolonged finish. Excellent.”*

- NM, *Vinous*

*“The 2019 Sansonnet is inky purple in colour. The bouquet is expressive and ripe with black cherries, raspberry coulis, incense, and a touch of cassis. Everything is focused and under control. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, fine definition and pencil lead notes lining the persistent finish. This is a quality Saint-Emilion from this fast-rising estate. Excellent”*

- NM, *Vinous*

*“The 2019 Sansonnet offers a striking combination of fruit intensity and structure. There is plenty of the intense, inky fruit that readers have come to expect in recent years, but that opulence is beautifully balanced by the wine's energy and overall drive. Blackberry jam, spice, leather, tobacco, menthol, cedar, and chocolate build as the 2019 shows off its alluring personality. Tasted two times.”*

- AG, *Vinous*

*“The 2019 Sansonnet is a heady, inky wine. Black cherry, chocolate, licorice, spice and menthol grace this potent wine. The 2019 needs time to come together but possesses tremendous depth and that combination of opulence and energy that is such a signature. The 2019 is a fabulous Sansonnet.”*

- AG, *Vinous*

*“Another beautiful wine from the Lefèvre family that does everything right, the 2019 Château Sansonnet has a textbook Saint-Emilion bouquet of chalky minerality, ripe red and black fruits, notes of truffle and flowers, medium to full body, and beautiful overall balance. In the past, this wine has had a glossy, slightly modern style (in a good sense), but the 2019 has an incredibly classic feel with its oak nicely integrated and just a liquid rock-like minerality on the finish. It's a gorgeous wine that will benefit from 2-4 years of bottle age and keep for over two decades.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The 2019 Chateau Sansonnet reminds me a touch of the 2016 with its concentrated yet elegant profile. Coming from a cooler terroir on the upper plateau, its deep purple hue is followed by a layered, pretty bouquet of black and blue fruits, graphite, crushed stone, and violets. Medium to full-bodied and balanced, with excellent purity of fruit, moderate tannins, and a great finish, it's going to evolve nicely for two decades”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, subtle ocher edge brightening. Fresh heart cherries, red wild berries, delicate tobacco, a hint of candied orange zest. Complex, full-bodied, black berries and ripe tannins, good freshness, mineral and persistent, an elegant accompaniment to food with good aging potential.”*

- PM, *Falstaff Magazine*

*“The nose is aromatic and offers a beautiful definition, power, and a fine grain. It reveals notes of crushed blackberry, crushed cassis, small notes of crushed strawberry associated with touches of chocolate, small red berries, a fine touch of fleshy violet plum as well as hints of Sichuan pepper, caramelization, and vanilla. The palate is fruity, juicy, elegant and offers an acidulous frame, sapidity and a beautiful guideline. On the palate this wine expresses notes of ripe/juicy cassis, wild strawberry associated with small touches of cassis, small acidulous berries, cornflower/lily as well as hints of liquorice, chocolate, and ripe almond.”*

- Vert de Vin