

Château Calon Ségur 2000

CSPC# 745418

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Estèphe

General Info

3d classified growth in 1855. Calon, meaning little river skiff used in Middle Ages to ferry timber across the Gironde estuary, gave its name to the district which was at one point known as Calones or Saint-Estèphe-de-Calon. In early times, Château Calon-Ségur was one of the original three vineyards in Saint-Estèphe, and in 1825 Château Montrose (in 1855 classified as a Second Growth) was a forest-land parcel belonging to the Calon-Ségur estate. By marriage, the estate came to be owned by Nicolas-Alexandre, marquis de Ségur who also owned Chateau Latour and Chateau Lafite. Despite his ownership of these two First Growths, the Marquis said that his "heart was with Calon" and the wine's label today includes a drawing of a heart around the Chateau's name. Chateau Calon Segur had been in the hands of the Gasqueton family since 1894. The future of Calon-Ségur has been in question since the death of proprietor Denise Capbern-Gasqueton in September 2011 at the age of 87. Bordeaux third-growth Château Calon-Ségur has been sold to Suravenir, the life-insurance subsidiary of French banking group Credit Mutuel Arkea, for an estimated \$212.5 million. Videlot, a Bordeaux wine group owned by Jean-François Moueix, is a minority partner in the deal. The purchase agreement was signed June 29, 2012 and the buyers expect to finalize the sale in November 2012.

Vineyards

The vineyard has 74 acres in total and it is surrounded partially by a stonewall and located in the northern town of St. Estèphe.

Vinification/

Maturation

The wines are fermented for 3 weeks in enamel-lined steel vats and are then matured in oak barriques (40% new) for 18 months.

Tasting Notes

It is ruby red in color with a garnet edge and has tremendous aromatic complexity, and intensity of flavor with black fruits, red plums, cedar, leather, cassis and earthy notes. On the palate the wine is meaty and concentrated with a dense tannic structure, which has now had time to develop and soften. The esters and aldehyde really explode in your mouth, which is no surprise as the 2000 vintage will go down as one of the greatest.

Cellaring

Drink 2013-2043

Scores/Awards

93 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003
95-100 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001
91+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #189 - June 2010
94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003
94-96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 2002
93+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2011
95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2009
95-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2001
93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2003
91(+?) points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2003
88-91 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2001
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2006
16.13 points - Decanter.com - November 8, 2010
86 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 5, 2010
93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
17 points - Farr Vintner (score only)
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)
17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)



Reviews

"Lovely berry, spice and leather aromas follow through to a medium- to full-bodied palate, with firm and silky tannins and a long, caressing finish. A harmonious wine. Not quite what it was from barrel but outstanding all the same. Racy Calon. Best after 2010."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Chocolate, spice and currants. Full-bodied, with super, velvety tannins and loads of fruit and smoke on the finish. Gorgeous. If you can't get any of the great 1995 Calon, you'd better buy this. Score range: 95-100"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Back when my bottle reports came out in 2003, I urged extreme patience for this wine, which is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 10% Cabernet Franc. I projected a maturity curve of 2012-2040, but based on this tasting, I would say the wine needs another 5-6 years, so call it 2016-2040+. One of the most unyielding wines in my tastings of the 2000s, the wine still has a very healthy, deep, dark ruby color, and earthy hints of herbs, licorice, and black currants. Medium to full-bodied, the hard, elevated tannins give this wine a certain austerity, but its outstanding weight, richness, and that very classic style argue for further discipline. Forget this for another 3-4 years and drink it over the following three decades."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"A dense, traditionally crafted wine for those with patience, the 2000 Calon-Segur rivals the estate's finest wines of the last two decades, the 1995, 1988, and 1982. But be forewarned, this wine has already closed down, something totally in character with all top vintages from this estate. This blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 10% Cabernet Franc exhibits a plum/purple color along with gorgeous aromas of creosote intermixed with spring flowers, black cherries, cassis, licorice, and stony, liquid minerals. A powerful, tannic, full-bodied and opulent wine, it possesses considerable structure that is reasonably well-concealed by considerable glycerin and intensity. Look for it to be at its best between 2012-2040. Patience, patience, patience!"

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Last year, because of a scheduling glitch on my part, I was not able to taste Calon-Ségur's 2000. I did not make the same mistake this year. This blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 10% Cabernet Franc exhibits an opaque plum/purple color along with gorgeous aromas of creosote intermixed with black cherries, cassis, licorice, and stony, liquid minerals. Full-bodied and opulent, it possesses abundant tannin, but it is well-concealed by the wealth of fruit, glycerin, and intensity. This large-scaled effort should be tremendous upon release later this year.

To proprietress Madame Gasqueton's credit, she has implemented a stricter selection, malolactic in barrel for 50% of the harvest, and earlier bottling. As longtime Bordeaux aficionados know, this is one of the finest vineyards of Bordeaux, and is undeniably capable of first-growth quality. The 2000 is an amazing effort! Given this estate's history of closing down for considerable time after bottling, despite how precocious the wine shows from barrel, look for it to be at its best between 2010-2040."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at Kettners in London just after the August riots, the millennial Calon-Segur is a great wine that has a 30-40-year lifespan. That bouquet is still so bloomin' broody and takes a while to open, eventually and reluctantly offering crisp red-berried fruits interlaced with graphite and sous-bois. The palate is medium bodied with a firm tannic structure and very good balanced with a fan of truffle and a touch of espresso towards the masculine finish. Nice grip and persistency here. Excellent. Tasted August 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"A deep garnet core with deep brick rim. The nose is broody at first, pure, with baked black cherries, dark chocolate, cedar, graphite, a touch of singed leather, a note of hung game developing with time. Good definition, the Cabernet Franc seeming to make an impression on the bouquet that has more minerality than recent vintages. The palate is medium-bodied, very good weight and excellent balance. Fine tannins, velvety in texture with touches of dark chocolate coming through again (almost something lactic towards the finish.) Very harmonious, still overtly backward with a broodiness that it is reluctant to shake off. The Merlot component lends a sense of corpulence right on the finish that belies the firm structure underneath. Excellent, but needs some serious bottle age. Drink 2015-2035+ Tasted November 2008."

- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews *“The best Calon Segur I have tasted. An opulent, almost heady, mineral-rich, black cherry nose. Very smooth with fabulous integration on the palate, great breeding with a supple mouth feel. More elegance than power at the moment but there are layers of ripe black fruits waiting to burst forth over the years. A fabulous wine, so much so that I immediately brought myself a case. Tasted July 2001.”*

- NM, Wine Journal

“This is a solid, huge wine, with rich but very dry tannins. With its dense, almost black color, and its sense of brooding power, it promises long aging. It will never be in the opulent Bordeaux camp, despite its prominent new wood flavors, but will probably outlive all but a handful top wines.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Full red-ruby. Musky aromas of tart red berries, smoke and meat, with a light medicinal nuance. Suave on entry, then rather tightly wound, even a bit youthfully dry. Fairly rich wine, but the redcurrant, smoke and spice flavors are presently dominated by solid underlying structure. Finishes firmly tannic, with sneaky persistence.”

- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Deep medium ruby. Pure, complex aromas of cassis, raspberry, cherry, bitter chocolate, game and brown spices. Round, sweet and lush, with good density and depth of flavor. A rather gentle style of St. Estephe. Finishes with dusty, fine, nicely buffered tannins and very good length. Should be the best vintage for this chateau since the '96. 88-91 points”

- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Dark and healthy colour. Savoury nose with velvety full meaty development. Round and fully mature with fine sandy tannins on the finish. Not complete but a rewarding drink already. Quite strong Cabernet influence. Sweet.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Iron, mineral, cassis and spice nose. Fine, classic style, great breed; cassis, focused, lacks some flesh, but racy and lifted. Drink from 2010.”

- SS, Decanter.com

“This showed a spice, mineral tobacco and earthy nose. But the pleasure stopped there. This full-bodied wine was filled with mouth drying tannins along with its brawny, masculine, old school personality.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
