
Château Calon Ségur 2014

CSPC# 745418

750mlx12

13.8% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint Estèphe
Classification	Third classified Growth in 1855.
Website	http://www.calon-segur.fr/en/#menu-tome-ii-en
General Info	<p>3rd 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. Videtot, 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.</p>
Vineyards	The vineyard has 74 acres in total and it is surrounded partially by a stonewall and located in the northern town of St. Estephe.
Harvest	Hand picking. A first selection of grapes on the vine. Mechanical sorting of the grapes by vibration, followed by hand sorting.
Vinification	Temperature-controlled conical stainless-steel tanks. Maceration for 18 to 21 days.
Maturation	The wines are fermented for 3 weeks in enamel-lined steel vats and are then matured in oak barriques (30% new) for 18 months.
Tasting Notes	Notes of tobacco, spice box, cassis, cigar box and leaf, medium bodied, with a fresh, bright, crisp red and black fruit finish.
Cellaring	Drink 2021-2040
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017 92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015 92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017 91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015 96 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017 93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015 95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017 94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015 17++ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015 95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - February 2017 93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015 95-97+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015 93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015 16+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2015 89-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015 95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015 96+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017 93-96+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015 95-97 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p>

Scores/Awards **18 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
18.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
18.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
17.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"On the darker side of the spectrum, with dark currant, plum and blackberry fruit, inlaid with ample dried bay and tobacco notes. Pepper and charcoal details fill in the finish, adding range and energy. A touch sauvage in style, this will have fans for sure. Best from 2020 through 2030. 6,665 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This has a core of lightly steeped plum and blackberry, with alluring tobacco and charcoal notes lining the finish. Shows nice underlying acidity and seems likely to fill out steadily. This estate is back in form since the ownership change. Score range: 92-95"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2014 Calon Ségur has a much more reticent bouquet than either the 2014 Montrose or Cos d'Estournel. There is blackberry here, a hint of cassis and violets, fine purity but bolshie and withdrawn at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin, more red fruit than the Montrose with a smooth, quite silky Merlot-like, graphite finish. Tasted on two occasions in Bordeaux, the second bottle exuded more panache and joie-de-vivre, coming across a little more spicy with a longer aftertaste."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"The Château Calon-Ségur 2014 is a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, 19% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot cropped at 41hl/ha and aged in 100% new oak for what is intended to be 20 months. The alcohol comes in at 13.8%, which would have been higher if more Merlot had been retained. The first impression is one of the oak because coming straight after the Montrose '14 (élevage in 60% new oak) the wood element is more pronounced here. It is relatively opulent and high-toned compared to its Saint Estèphe counterparts, developing floral scents with time but never quite extricating itself from the winemaking. The palate is medium bodied with quite firm tannin that lend this more chewiness than either Montrose or Cos d'Estournel. There is a lot of backbone to this wine, well focused with a good line of acidity, but again, I believe a more moderate use of new oak would have allowed the terroir to be expressed in what is a terroir-driven vintage. It is an impressive, you could almost say ambitious Calon Ségur, though I am seeking more personality via the terroir to be articulated. Tasted three times with consistent notes."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"This is really powerful and sexy with a voluptuous style of ripe fruit, mushrooms and wet earth. Leafy. Full and seductive. Better after 2021 but already fantastic."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This has a wonderful density and a velvety texture with so much fruit and richness. Full body, fine tannins and wonderful length. Gorgeous."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a beautifully perfumed wine. With a high proportion of ripe Cabernet Franc, it is not only structured but has a fine dried fruit character that gives the wine a memorable richness. The wine is tight with its tannins, likely to age over decades. Drink from 2027."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"94–96. Barrel Sample. This wine is packed with black fruit notes as well as ample acidity. The texture is so sumptuous that the tannins are way in the background. The wine, serious and dense, has weight and richness without ever becoming too much."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Vibrant dark crimson. Very dense and not that communicative on the nose. But very impressive density, silky texture and refinement. Classic focused stuff with drive. Sufficiently ripe but not at all sweet. Long and truly St-Estèphe. Lots of energy here. Though it certainly isn't opulent! Lots of tannins and St-Estèphe stoniness on the end. Pretty drying end. Less charm than Capbern but lots more classicism. Just cuts off a little suddenly (perhaps because of those younger vines). 13.8% Drink 2024-2040 17+ "
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews *"Tight tannins, great quality, these are going to age beautifully, not generous right now, there is an austere tannic structure, charcoal and cassis all very close-knit. As it warms up in the glass you get the scent of wild roses, just a lovely floral edge. Calon is really starting to get the benefit of the replanting done 10 years ago started by the Gasquetons."*

-JA, Decanter.com

"Fans of the older, strict-style wine previously produced at this estate might be scratching their heads, but I loved it! It is a rich, dense, fat and well-dressed grande dame of a wine with layers of sweet, ripe, juicy black fruits, supple, polished tannins and outstanding concentration. The plum-filled finish is long and clean, fresh, round and sweet. Produced from a blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.8% alcohol with a pH of 3.70. Laurent Dufau has clearly upped the ante in the competition for the best wine in the appellation and the best is yet to come! 93-95 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deeply coloured; arterial at centre; legs; opaque; very seductive blackcurrant fruit; power but very evident refinement; very complete even at this stage; pure and focused; fruit compelling; natural and unadorned [even despite 100% new oak]; lovely flavour; beautiful Cabernet tones; perfumed fruit; layered and textured; simply fantastic effort in my book; caressing fruit and elegance despite the obvious power and concentration. Excellent length. [66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, 13.8% alc, TA 3.6, pH 3.70, IPT 78, 41hl/ha, 100% new oak]. Drink 2020-2035. Tasted at Calon Ségur 30 March 2015. 95-97+"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"By the very high standards of this château, which is often among my favourites, this is a slight disappointment, or rather was when I tasted it. The 100% new oak that has been used since 2009 on the grand vin seemed a little intrusive, adding tannin to a wine that is already pretty firm. Give it time."

- TA, timatkin.com

"This classic Chateau has one of the greatest terroirs of Bordeaux. Quality in the past has been good but a little variable. However, en primeur prices were always reasonable - especially so in comparison to those of traditional rivals and neighbours Cos d'Estournel and Montrose. The property has recently been sold to a French insurance company - Suravenir. A new manager, Laurent Dufau, is in place and there are big plans in place to modernise the wine-making facilities. 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, 19% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot with a yield of 41hl/ha. 100% new oak for 20 months. Deep ruby, with a purple hue. Toast and coffee on the nose with dark cherry fruit. Smooth cool entry, good concentration and silky tannins. Black pepper and spice with black fruits on the finish. Classic style thanks to the acidity, with cool ripeness, leaving a clean and fresh length on the wine."

- Farr Vintners

"The nose is firm the palate has depth brooding black fruits cassis and black cherry. Richer in the middle sweetness suppleness the richness of black cherry is backed by slightly fresher blackcurrant. There is the feel of balance and harmony the ripeness on the back palate giving way to fragrant freshness on the finish. 2027-40"

- Derek Smedley MW

"Intensely concentrated in this vintage with racy acid focus and dark fruits - cassis, dark plum and sweet spices. This is a great vintage for Calon-Segur with velvety firm tannins and a long finish."

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2014 Calon Ségur is a real show-stopper. Unusually ripe, powerful and seductive, the wine exudes class. Myriad shades of plum, sweet red cherry, pomegranate, spice and blood orange are all on display. Wildflowers, tobacco and host of more aromatic notes develop in the glass. Above all else, though, the 2014 is a wine of pure power and breadth. This is yet another fabulous showing for the 2014 Calon Ségur, a wine that vies for top honors in this vintage. Don't miss it. The blend is 67 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 19 % Merlot, 15 % Cabernet Franc and 2 % Petit Verdot. "

- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2014 Calon Ségur is silky, polished and exceptionally beautiful. Freshly cut flowers, mint, dark berries and sage are some of the notes that are pushed forward in a sweet, unctuous St. Estèphe endowed with tons of class and personality. Raspberry jam and crushed flowers add further shades of nuance. The 2014 captures a deeply intriguing blend of lifted aromatics, super-ripe, fruit, pulsating energy and polished tannins. Persistent and impeccably balanced throughout, the 2014 Calon Ségur is without question one of the wines of the vintage. The refined finish alone is striking. In 2014, the blend is 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Calon Ségur remains one of the few classified growths the average consumer can still afford to buy by the case. As such, it is likely to be one of the very best wines readers will find for the money. Don't miss it.”*

- AG, Vinous
