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# Château Calon Ségur 2020

CSPC# 888347

750mlx6

13.8% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Estèphe
<b>Classification</b>	Third classified Growth in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.calon-segur.fr/en/#menu-tome-ii-en">http://www.calon-segur.fr/en/#menu-tome-ii-en</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Laurent Duffau
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>Considering the health crisis and the very contrasting weather conditions, 2020 will be remembered as a considerably challenging year; human intervention was crucial for this vintage.</p> <p>In 2020, a relatively mild winter was followed by one of the warmest springs since the beginning of the 20th century. Heavy rainfall from May to June led to high mildew pressure from the beginning of the season through to flowering. Encouraged throughout the cycle by temperatures above seasonal norms, the vegetative period remained 3 weeks ahead of schedule until full flowering on May 22nd. We then observed a fewer number of clusters, counting only four clusters per vine instead of the usual six.</p> <p>An exceptionally dry start to the summer was marked by two heat waves at the end of July and mid-August, generating fears of water stress, quickly moderated by rain at the end of August as well as the water-regulating capacity of the deep clay of our terroir. Veraison was early with the first coloured berries appearing on July 29th. It then continued unevenly due to drought and high temperatures.</p> <p>Despite the health situation and some rain towards the end of the harvest, picking took place in good conditions and was completed on September 30th.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	The vineyard has 74 acres in total, and it is surrounded partially by a stonewall and located in the northern town of St. Estèphe.
<b>Harvest</b>	The 2020 Calon Ségur was picked from 24-30 September at 33hl/ha. Hand picking. A first selection of grapes on the vine. Mechanical sorting of the grapes by vibration, followed by hand sorting.
<b>Vinification</b>	Temperature-controlled conical stainless-steel tanks. Maceration for 18 to 21 days.
<b>Maturation</b>	The wines are fermented for 3 weeks in enamel-lined steel vats and are then matured in oak barriques (100% new) for 20 months.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The Grand Vin of Calon Ségur mirrors its terroir. It is rare, authentic and stirs the soul. In the most natural way, it reveals both great delicacy and outstanding intensity. All the magic of Calon is in this balance. The wine is aged in new oak barrels for 20 months, the tannins of the oak integrating harmoniously over time with the tannins of the grapes. The style is brought by a Cabernet Sauvignon which expresses its finesse without

<b>Tasting Notes</b>	arrogance. Elegance is to be found everywhere, in the purity of the wine's flavors, in the delicacy of its texture, while its depth and length are also superb. The wine's extraordinary ability to age many years in bottle is another feature of the estate. The 1947, 1953 and 1982 vintages, by way of example, still display astonishing signs of youth.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Calon Segur is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Calon Segur is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, stewed, and grilled dishes.
<b>Production</b>	Around 80,000 bottles.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2027-2055
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p><b>95-97+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2023</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2023</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021</p> <p><b>98-99 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - July 2021</p> <p><b>96-97 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - July 2021</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This is among the more backward wines of the vintage, showing a slightly burly mix of chestnut, warm paving stone, bay leaf, and burnished leather notes amid a densely packed core of black currant and bitter plum reduction. Really riveted, with a warm cast iron spine and a mouthwatering savory edge driving the finish. Lovely character in this wine. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. Best from 2026 through 2040."</i></p> <p><i>- JM, Wine Spectator</i></p> <p><i>"The 2020 Calon-Ségur is a brilliant wine from an estate in the ascendant. Wafting from the glass with aromas of cassis, red berries, fresh mint, pencil shavings, violets and rose petals, it's medium to full-bodied, deep, and layered, with a vibrant core of fruit, powdery structuring tannins and a long, perfumed finish. Integrated and harmonious, this pure, concentrated, and dynamic wine is one of the finest vintages that Vincent Millet and his team have produced to date.</i></p> <p><i>Calon-Ségur is in the midst of a renaissance. A true "clos," this walled 55-hectare vineyard, the first to be cultivated in Saint-Estèphe, was long planted at a low density of 6,000 vines per hectare. When the cahier des charges (appellation rules) for Saint-Estèphe changed in the recent past, mandating a higher minimum density, the Gasqueton family had already begun replanting at 8,000 vines per hectare. Now estate director Vincent Millet is replanting at 10,000 vines per hectare, and each individual vine has been geo-referenced so that treatments and amendments can be adapted on a vine-by-vine basis within each parcel: the latest in high-tech precision viticulture! The varietal breakdown is changing too, with Cabernet Sauvignon on the increase, currently amounting to around 60% of the estate's holdings and with a target of around 75%. In addition to clones, a massal selection, from parcels near the small chapel just to the east of the château, is</i></p>

**Reviews** *underway. Winemaking, too, has been revolutionized: in an entirely new cellar and winery, the grapes are rapidly chilled by passage through a cold tunnel and undergo a three-day cold soak, before a co-inoculated 18- to 21-day maceration with micro-oxygenation. Maturation follows, in new barrels, for 20 months with a traditional racking every three. If all this sounds very detail-oriented, it's because Millet, who boasts a PhD in wine microbiology and spent several years at Château Margaux, is an extremely serious, forward-thinking estate director, and I have no doubt that he is going to unleash all of Calon-Ségur's latent potential."*  
- WK, Wine Advocate

*"The 2020 Calon-Ségur is a blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. It is aging in 100% new French oak barrels for an anticipated 18 to 20 months. The alcohol is 13.8%. Displaying a deep purple-black color, it straight away springs up with bright scents of freshly picked black raspberries, kirsch, and blackberries, needing considerable swirling to reveal a vast array of nuances—rose oil, cardamom, iron ore, graphite, lavender, and aniseed. The medium-bodied palate has a solid structure of firm, ripe, grainy tannins and plenty of freshness supporting the tightly wound red and black fruit layers, accented by lots of mineral and floral sparks, finishing with impressive length and depth. Beautiful, beautiful wine!"*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2020 Calon Segur has a deep garnet-purple color. It comes bounding out of the glass with crème de cassis, blueberry pie, and kirsch notes, followed by hints of garrigue, cedar chest, and forest floor. Full-bodied, the palate has a rock-solid structure of firm, grainy tannins and bright acidity supporting the generous, muscular fruit, finishing long with lots of minerally sparks."*  
- LPB, Wine Independent

*"Blueberries, blackberries, spearmint, currants, and sweet spices on the nose. Mocha and walnuts, too. Lots of flavor here, with a medium to full body and muscular yet velvety tannins that melt seamlessly into the wine. Long, polished, and delicious already. Keeps going. Better from 2025."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Tobacco and tea aromas with currants and wet earth. Full-bodied and chewy with blackcurrant flavor. Tannins build on the finish with lots of structure and intensity. Quite muscular."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This wine has a touch of spice to go with its powerful black currant flavors. It is concentrated, and the 78% Cabernet Sauvignon gives great structure and power. The wine has immense aging potential. Drink from 2028."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"The powerful tannins of this wine cannot mask the beautiful fruits and acidity. Rather the tannins enhance them, giving structure to the wine's fine blackberry fruitiness that leaves a refreshing character at the end. With this structure the wine will take its time and will need to age for many years."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. Cask sample. Classically structured and Cabernet-driven without the opulence of 2018 or the finesse of 2019. Pure and precise on the nose with cassis notes prevalent. Crunchy fruit on the palate with powdery tannins that build and drive to a dry finish. Verticality as in 2019. Perhaps a little chew but clean and saline on the finish. (JL) 13.8%. Drink 2030 – 2050."*  
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

*"A return to form in my eyes for Calon Ségur after the atypical 2018, rippling with elegance, balance, and savory blue fruits of Cabernet, with rose and peony flowers. Concentrated, chiselled and juicy, this has clear personality and equals the great, classically balanced vintages of Calon like 2016. A yield of 33hl/ha, 3.85pH, 100% new oak."*  
- JA, Decanter.com

## Reviews

*“Even visually this stands apart with its inky, glass-staining ruby colour. Rich and powerful but restrained, this is a brilliant Calon Ségur, more old school than the past few vintages in that there is tight cassis, eucalyptus, and mint leaf restraint, but still utterly luscious black cherry and damson fruits, concentrated, supple and chiselled tannins with a touch of crème de cassis and incense. Exceptionally impressive. 47% of overall production, 33hl/h yield, 100% new oak, 3.85ph. Vincent Millet director as well as technical director.”*  
- JA, janeanson.com

*“Powerful, rich, deep, long, and packed with layers of dark, red, and black fruits, Asian spice, boysenberry, black currants, cedar, licorice, cocoa, tobacco leaf, lead pencil, and a refreshing hint of mint in the nose. The wine offers intensity, depth of flavor, power, ripe tannins, vibrance, blackberry, and a currant lingering finish with nuances of spice, chocolate, and creme de cassis on the back end. Give it a few years in the cellar and enjoy it for up to 3 decades after that. Drink from 2026-2055.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“If you are not familiar with everything going on with Calon Segur these days, you need to taste this wine. Deeply colored, without hesitation the wine shoots from the glass with Asian spice, boysenberry, black currants, cedar, cigar box, tobacco leaf, lead pencil and forest leaf. Full-bodied, concentrated, powerful and rich, yet it is also balanced, refined, and intense. There is purity in the fruits, freshness, and symmetry, ending with seamless waves of perfectly ripe, creme de cassis. Let this rest for at least a decade and enjoy for 3 or more decades after that. The wine blends 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. 13.8% ABV.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2020 Calon-Ségur is allowed to open for over 90 minutes, unfurling in the glass with blackberry and bilberry scents, cedar, and floral scents (almost identical to how it showed in barrel.) It just oozes pedigree. The palate is medium-bodied with svelte tannins and quite plush red fruit. It is very well balanced without the backbone and depth of say, Montrose or Cos d'Estournel. It has gained a bit of heft on the finish during its élevage. However, it fans out in assured fashion. This should drink beautifully for 25 to 30 years.”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“The 2020 Calon Ségur was picked from 24-30 September at 33hl/ha and after a 3-day cold soak at 10°C it underwent a 18-21 cuvaison. Matured entirely in new oak, it is backward on the nose, well defined, but broody and requires coaxing from the glass. It eventually reveals blackberry, cedar, wild mint, and pressed iris petal aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins, a little angular on the entry, good acidity. The second half, though, feels just a little brutish at the moment, granular and grippy on the saline, briny finish. I appreciate the way in which the DNA of this estate comes through, though the 2019 showed far more finesse and panache. It may end up at the top of my banded score if it can pull together more clarity and complexity.”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“The 2020 Calon Ségur is a powerhouse. A blast of dark cherry fruit, menthol, tar, licorice, and gravel infuse the 2020 with remarkable depth. Sumptuous and full-bodied, the 2020 shows all the richness and textural depth of the year. The tannins are imposing, but there's a good deal of fruit too. This is an especially opulent Grand Vin, in line with vintages like 2018 stylistically, but with 1% less alcohol.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The 2020 Calon Ségur is a dark, brooding wine that is going to need a number of years to become approachable. Black fruit, gravel, smoke, chocolate, leather, and licorice give the 2020 its distinctly virile feel. In two separate tastings, the 2020 has come across as quite potent and forbidding. This sample is more convincing than a sample I tasted this past spring, but I still don't see Calon-Segur as having reached the level that has become customary over the last few vintages.”*  
- AG, Vinous

**Reviews**

*"The 2020 Château Calon Ségur is pure gold and another masterpiece from this estate. Harvested all in September and pulled from their 48 hectares of vines, the blend is 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Petit Verdot that spent 20 months all in new French oak, and it hit 13.2% natural alcohol. My notes started and ended with "wow," and this riveting Saint-Estèphe offers a heavenly bouquet of red and black currants, truffly earth, iron, espresso, and tobacco leaf. With incredible purity of fruit, full-bodied richness, and ultra-fine tannins, it's a deep, pure, layered 2020 that deserves at least 7-8 years of bottle age and will cruise for 40-50 years in cold cellars. Hats off to the team at Calon Ségur."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"The flagship 2020 Château Calon Ségur is also brilliant and certainly brings up the intensity, depth, and richness, although it's nowhere near the exotic, almost over-the-top style of the 2018. Gorgeous crème de cassis, tobacco, roasted coffee beans, lead pencil, and sappy herbs all define this beauty, which is full-bodied, beautifully balanced, and has incredible purity of fruit."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Deep ruby, opaque core, purple reflections. Inviting dark berry fruit, ripe plum, nougat, fine complex wood spices with a whisper of candied orange zest. Juicy, elegant, fine ripe cherry fruit, ripe tannins, juicy fruitiness to the finish, already harmonious, has good length and pleasant freshness. Very safe ageing potential."*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*"On the nose it is elegant, aromatic and offers power, depth as well as complexity, density (in elegance). It reveals notes of fleshy / pulpy blackberry, blackcurrant and more slightly strawberry associated with touches of violet, fine hints of blueberry, blue plum as well as hints of exotic spices, toasted, nutmeg and a very fine touch of bourbon vanilla bean. On the palate is fruity, fresh, mineral, racy, balanced and offers a nice definition, richness (lightness), elegance, a certain tension, a little creaminess but with an airy side, an airy character despite its power, density and a melodious side / carried in its freshness. This wine expresses notes of fleshy / pulpy blackberry, fleshy small black fruits associated with strawberry, serious minerals / saline as well as hints of toast, chocolate, caramelization as well as hints. vanilla, blue fruit and fine hints of small nuts. A nice texture of tannins which are powerful, massive but polished. A nice persistence."*

- Vert de Vin

*"(78% CS, 12% M, 9% CF, 1% PV; 33hl/ha; 13.8% ABV; 20% new). A very "refined" nose, subtly gravelly, almost smoky, and notably persistent; rich, full, concentrated wine, fresh in acidity, very firm in very fine tannins; freshly sweet-cored to taste, discreet, refined, long, complex, and graceful with great length of flavor, no sense at all of excess, with a lovely generosity of presence, fresh for its fairly large scale, particularly elegant and poised. Super-fine-textured in tannin and with great fragrant scent on its very long finish. A wonderfully complete Calon, of tremendous finesse, probably even finer than its 2019. 2030–55+."*

- MS, The World of Fine Wine

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