
Château Calon-Ségur 2021

CSPC# 888347

750mlx6

12.9% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 7% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint Estèphe
Classification	Third classified Growth in 1855.
Website	http://www.calon-segur.fr/en/#menu-tome-ii-en
Sustainability	<p>HVE-level 3 (Haute Valeur Environnementale) certification.</p> <p>The owners of the château have taken steps to minimize their environmental impact and protect natural resources. The estate practices sustainable agriculture using environmentally friendly growing methods. They use only natural fertilizers and avoid the use of chemicals whenever possible.</p>
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. Vidélot, 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>
Winemaker	Vincent Millet. Consulting oenologist: Eric Boissenot
Vintage	<p>After a rainy winter, even with close to 600 mm of rain, 2021 Saint Estèphe still began the year with 15% less moisture than they experienced in 2020. After a warm, and sunny February, conditions changed rapidly in April with frost conditions on April 7 and 8. Vineyards not situated close to the water, or on the slopes experienced crop loss. After a rapid but uneven flowering, the summer was relatively cool, and wet, which brought about risks of mildew. Things improved in mid-August which aided in vigneron were much happier at the potential of the vintage.</p> <p>Thanks to the more precise leaves thinning, Calon Ségur was thus fortunate to avoid downy mildew; hence, the healthy bunches of grapes allowed growers to delay the harvest with confidence. This is the secret behind why Calon Ségur is able to shine in the vintage of 2021.</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. Estèphe.
Harvest	Hand picking. A first selection of grapes on the vine. Mechanical sorting of the grapes by vibration, followed by hand sorting. The harvest took place September 28, finishing October 13.
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	Medium-deep crimson. Intense dark berry, blackcurrant elderberry dark chocolate aromas. Blackberry, malt, nutmeg vanilla notes and fine grainy al dente tannins. Finishes firm with bittersweet notes. Very impressive concentration and mineral length – a sleeping beauty. 81% cabernet sauvignon, 11% cabernet franc, 7% merlot, 1% petit verdot. 20 months in 100% new French oak barriques.

Serve with	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.
Production	7,800 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2027-2051
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2024</p> <p>93 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>95-96 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>90-92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2024</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>94-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>19 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“A step ahead of the pack in this vintage, this offers a hint of polish to fleshier-than-most cassis and plum puree flavors. Solidly built, with a well-buried chalky spine, plus tangy acidity. Lilac, bay and black tea notes add range on the finish. Shows the vintage’s taut character, but this has more depth and better proportion than most of its colleagues. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2025 through 2037. 7,800 cases made.</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“Revisited in bottle, the 2021 Calon-Ségur opens in the glass with aromas of dark berries mingled with aromas of violets, pencil shavings, lilac, Indian spices, cigar wrapper and grilled meats. Medium to full-bodied, dense, and suave, with powdery tannins, lively acids, and a penetratingly sapid and discreetly carnal finish, it appears to have lost a touch of aromatic precision during élevage, but it remains a compelling Calon-Ségur.”</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“A brilliant effort that will delight Médoc purists, the 2021 Calon-Ségur wafts from the glass with aromas of rose petals, wild berries, plums, Indian spices, woodsmoke and pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, velvety, and seamless, it's deep and lively, with beautifully ripe tannins and an exquisitely balanced profile. In spirit, this blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 7% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot is reminiscent of the 1996 vintage, though the 2021 won't go through such an extended period of hibernation and will attain a much higher peak of quality. It attained 12.9% alcohol without any chaptalization, saignée or osmosis. Tasted twice. 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 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</i></p>

Reviews *is going to unleash all of Calon-Ségur's latent potential."*
- WK, Wine Advocate

"The 2021 Calon Segur is deep garnet-purple in color. It sashays out with vibrant notes of wild blueberries, raspberry coulis, and cassis followed by hints of bay leaves, camphor, and cedar. Light-bodied, the palate is delicately styled with loads of zip lifting the finely packed fruit, finishing long and fragrant. The blend is 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 7% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot."
- LPB, Wine Independent

"A juicy and caressingly astringent red with currant, berry, and cedar aromas with citrus undertones. Medium body. Firm and silky with a delicious finish. A little tight at the end. Two or three years will open it up."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Polished and perfumed already, with very fine, powdery tannins. So silky. Bright red and black berries here with sandalwood and orange-zest notes. Medium-bodied. Refined. 81% cabernet sauvignon, 11% cabernet franc, 7% merlot and 1% petit verdot."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A fine Calon Ségur this year with 92% Cabernet, the highest in the blend since the 2009 vintage. This is rich and dark with a spiced nose full of black chocolate and black pepper edged by soft floral notes. Graceful and refined on the palate bursting with freshness and such integrated tannins. Smooth but on the mineral edge so you get that hint of austerity/salinity together with the acidity giving this some sharpness and high definition. It's got concentration and depth but at the moment it's so linear and detailed in its precision that it's coming across very straight and taut. Tannins have some grip, and this has a nice weight on the mid-palate leading into a long finish. I adore the sweet salty tang at the end. I'm looking forward to tasting this in bottle. 1% Petit Verdot completes the blend. 3.65pH. No chaptalization. A yield of 36hl/ha. 20 months ageing, 100% new oak barrels."
- GH, Decanter.com

"This is delicious, refined, poised, one of the wines of the vintage. Has the signature of 2021 in terms of cool and savoury fruits, with graphite and gun smoke aromatics. A cool climate Calon, very different from the style of wines you have found here in the trio of 2018-2019-2020, but it is successful, and a fine example of the savoury, sculpted wines that were possible within the conditions of the year. Understated power, juicy finish, old school elegance. You can begin drinking at around 6 or 7 years but will age. On questioning, there were a few reasons for their success - they deleafed on both sides at the end of June for the first time since director Vincent Millet arrived at Calon in 2006 to aerate the grapes, and together with the dry August were able to get some natural concentration. Harvest September 28 until October 14, 100% new oak. 43% 1st wine, 36hl/h yield. Potential up score when in bottle."
- JA, janeanson.com

"This is an elegant, energetic, vibrant, lifted, almost high-toned, refined vintage here. The fruit expresses purity, lift, and refinement, meshed with classicism. The perfume intrigues you to know more with its flowers, tobacco leaf, cherries, spicy currants, espresso, and orange profile. The medium-bodied wine is forward and should be approachable with just a few years of aging, which is a good thing, as this is already quite charming. The finish delivers a nice, spicy, minty, uplifted endnote. The wine was produced from 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 7% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot. Drink from 2026-2055."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Dark garnet in color, tobacco leaf, spicy currants, dried flowers, and blackberries are found on the nose. Medium-bodied, fresh, vibrant, and lifted, the fruit is on the elegant, classic side with good sweetness and should be relatively precocious. The finish delivers a nice, spicy, minty, uplifted endnote. The wine was produced from 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 7% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot, 12.9% ABV, 3.65 pH. The harvest took place September 28, finishing October 13. Drink from 2025-2047."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Tasting the 2021 Calon Ségur out of barrel, I opined that there was a gulf in quality between it and the Le Marquis, and that remains the case since it was bottled in mid-July. This has an absolutely exquisite, beautifully defined bouquet that possesses an almost Burgundy-like purity. Blackberry, raspberry coulis, and hints of crushed strawberry blossom in the glass, very focused with seamlessly integrated new oak that is impossible to tell is completely new. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, modest weight, and a very smooth texture—perhaps not quite as enthralling as the aromatics, though it is pure and, atypically for this Saint-Estèphe, quite sensual in style. Maybe it is missing just a touch of complexity on the finish, but otherwise, this is a very capable wine that should age with grace over the next 25 to 30 years.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2021 Calon Ségur was cropped at 36hL/ha and aged entirely in new oak for a planned 20 months. This year, the gap between the Grand Vin and the Marquis is blatantly obvious, to the extent that they are practically different wines, which is how Vincent Millet and his team treat them. The Cabernet is firmly in the driving seat here, with detailed, graphite-infused black fruit and a background florality that comes through with aeration. The medium-bodied palate displays very fine tannins, superb acidity (pH 3.65) and impressive harmony. This has exemplary build in the mouth, fine weight on the finish and a persistent aftertaste. An outstanding Calon-Ségur, elevated by the risks taken in de-leafing in June and waiting to pick. Bravo.”

- NM, Vinous

“A Saint-Estèphe of stature and vertical intensity, the 2021 Calon Ségur dazzles from the very first taste. Spice, menthol, licorice, black cherry, mint, and espresso are some of the many notes that build with a bit of coaxing. The 2021 clocks in at a modest 12.9% alcohol, yet it possesses tremendous density and textural resonance. What a wine! Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2021 Calon Ségur is a gorgeous wine that is going to need a number of years to fully come into its own. Aromatic, punchy and croquant, as the French say, the 2021 is a vibrant, mid-weight Calon that will delight readers who enjoy classically built claret. Don't look for the size or opulence of recent vintages. The 2021 is a cool, classy Saint-Estèphe to savor for years and decades to come. I loved it.”

- AG, Vinous

“The Grand Vin 2021 Château Calon Ségur is one heck of a winner in the vintage and is 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Merlot and Petit Verdot. Hitting 12.9% alcohol, its deep purple hue is followed by a gorgeous bouquet of cassis, violets, ripe darker raspberries, and spring flowers. It's elegant and has a great mid-palate, ultra-fine tannins, and a great finish. It's unquestionably one of the gems from the Médoc and will round into form with 3-5 years of bottle age and, I suspect, be long-lived.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“This wine tells the story of the vintage on the Left Bank in one sniff. You will note that Calon included 92% Cabernets in 2021, and this means that it has managed to triumph with pinpoint accurate cassis fruit notes, a slender, silky chassis and extraordinary freshness. Calon picked the Cabernets and the Petit Verdot from 4th until 13th October, and this long hang time and the lovely sunny conditions meant that this is a fully ripe wine but with an enviably trim alcohol level and amazing aromas. Winemaker Vincent Millet told me they are planting more Cabernet Franc to boost their wines in vintages when Merlot falls short of the mark. With a textbook ‘Cabernets’ perfume and amazing linear accuracy, this is a chiseled Calon with alluring silkiness and not a trace of excess flesh or weight. I imagine it will drink well after seven or eight years, and, no doubt by then, Cabernet Franc will be adding its violet tones to the Cabernet Sauvignon blackcurrant core. Truly medium-weight and refreshingly crisp, this perfectly reflects the property and its prime position in Saint-Estèphe. It is also one of the purest expressions I have ever tasted of this estate.”

- Matthew Jukes

“Dark ruby, purple reflections, subtle ochre on the rim. Fine savoury nose with black fruit, hints of tobacco nuances and black cherries and a touch of spice. Taut, red berries and cherries on the palate with light fruit sweetness, integrated tannins, lively acidity, and subtle nougat touches on the finish.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine
