

Château Calon Ségur 1995

CSPC# 745418

750mlx12

12.5% alc./bol.

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. Videtol, 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

A late harvest at Calon Segur has resulted in extremely ripe, powerful fruit with a dense, backward structure. Chocolate and cassis flavours continue to evolve in this slow developing classic, which will require at least another 3-5 years cellaring.

Cellaring

Drink 2005-2035

Scores/Awards

95 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007
96 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - January 31, 1998
92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #115 - February 1998
92 points - Robert Parker, Bordeaux Book 3rd Edition - January 1998
90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #104 - April 1996
95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2009
95-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2001
91 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 1998
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only)
16 points - Decanter.com - September 2, 2003
16 points - Decanter.com - December 1, 1999
16 points - Decanter.com - June 1, 1999
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - October 5, 2010
87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews

"Incredible nose of crushed berries, flowers, spices and nuts. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long, long finish. Powerful and solid. Builds on the palate. Give it time. --'95/'96 Bordeaux retrospective. Best after 2009."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Greatest Calon-Segur ever made. An absolutely amazing red, this third-growth Bordeaux is remarkable for its layers of berry, violets and perfume. It's full-bodied and very velvety on the palate, with masses of character and an ultralong finish. Best after 2004."
- JS, Wine Spectator



Reviews

"As I have said many times since I first tasted this wine, the 1995 Calon-Segur is one of the great sleepers of the vintage (I bought the wine as a future for a mere \$250 a case). The wine has closed down completely since bottling, but it is a sensational effort that may ultimately merit an even higher score. The wine is opaque purple colored. With coaxing, the tight aromatics reveal some weedy cassis intertwined with truffles, chocolate, and beef blood-like aromas. On the palate, there is an element of sur-maturite (1995 was an extremely late harvest at Calon-Segur), fabulous density and purity, and a boatload of tannin. This deep, broodingly backward, classic Bordeaux will require a decade of cellaring. Anticipated maturity: 2005-2035.

Proprietor Madame Gasqueton (one of The Wine Advocate's heroines of 1997) has produced two unqualified back to back successes. Kudos to Calon-Segur, as both the 1995 and 1996 wines have a strong buy recommendation from me, but only for readers who have the patience to wait them out."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"One of the finest Calon-Segurs in years, the 1995 may prove superior to the 1988 and 1982. This dense black/purple-colored, rich, full-bodied, super-ripe claret reveals plenty of fat and power. A big, nearly massive wine for Calon-Segur, it is one of the sleepers of the vintage. Anticipated maturity: 2005-2030. Last tasted 1/97"

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 1995 may be the most impressive Calon-Segur since 1988. The deep, healthy dark ruby/purple color is followed by a nose without any of the kinky, earthy, musty barrel smells that often afflict Calon-Segur. Although backward, the wine reveals terrific purity, full body, low acidity, layers of concentrated fruit, and a fleshy, pure style. This big-boned, impressively endowed wine will need 5-7 years of cellaring, after which it will keep for 20+ years. This estate has a tendency to produce wines that tighten up and go into a shell, but I am looking forward to retasting this top-notch effort in 6-8 months. A noteworthy effort, Calon-Segur's 1995 will represent an excellent value given the mixed feelings the wine trade has about this estate."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"This has a very backward nose with an almost animal-like intensity. The Cabernet Sauvignon is dominant with cedar, smoke and sous-bois characteristics coming through. Superb definition with a little more "attack" than the 1996 (which is not dissimilar in style.) The palate is extremely backward, almost chunky and tannic, much more primal than the '96 with blackberry, briary, bilberry complemented by hawthorn and leather. Very well balanced towards the charming finish which is developing an enthralling sense of harmony and effortless. A wine that put Mdm. Gasqueton on the map and still with so much to give in future years. Drink 2015-2040.

- NM, Wine Journal

"Good deep red-ruby color. Black cherry, leather, olive and a hint of crystallized berries; fresher on the nose than the '97. Sweet, firmly structured and very nicely balanced, with strong but integrated acidity and very good flavor definition. Tannins are ripe and fine."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Spicy oak and tart plum fruit. A wine of class and character. 5-10 years."

- Decanter.com

"Bready, meaty, masculine nose. Dominant tannins; long."

- Decanter.com

"Very deep red; big fleshy oaky nose, impressive fruit; rich, concentrated, tight, rather high acidity and thus a hint of astringency, not completely in balance; quite good length."

- Decanter.com

"1995 Calon Segur offered cassis, earth, spice and tobacco aromas. Full bodied, powerful and tannic in style. For a wine from a vintage that is slowly earning the sobriquet of a modern-day version of 1975, the wine was already approachable. Still young, this robust, masculine style of St. Estephe will improve over the next several years."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
