

Château Capbern 2014

CSPC# 790268

750mlx12

14.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot

Appellation

St.-Estèphe

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

Website

<http://www.calon-segur.fr/en/#wines-2>

General Info

The start of the first age of the modern era for Chateau Capbern Gasqueton begins when the Left Bank vineyards were purchased by Georges Gasqueton in 1894. The estate took its name from two of its more famous owners, the Gasqueton and Capbern families. The Gasqueton family managed the estate until 2012. Most recently, the figurehead of Chateau Capbern Gasqueton was the interestingly charming, albeit, quite eccentric Madame Denise Gasqueton. Madame Gasqueton managed the property while marching to the beat of her own drummer until she passed away at the age of 87 in late September 2011.

The following year, the second and current modern era for the chateau began July 2012 when Chateau Capbern Gasqueton and Chateau Calon were sold to the large French Insurance company, Suravenir Insurance. Jean-Pierre Moueix, the owner of Petrus and the massive negociant company Duclot, took a minority stake in Chateau Calon Segur and Chateau Capbern Gasqueton. Starting with the 2013 vintage, they dropped the second part of their name and began selling their wine under the simpler name of just Chateau Capbern.

Since the new owners took over Chateau Capbern Gasqueton, they started a serious program of improving the wine making at Chateau Capbern. While the owners began a complete renovation of the wine making facilities at Calon Segur, that was not the case with Capbern Gasqueton, because the estate renovated their wine making facilities in 2011. One of the first moves the new owners made was to hire Laurent Daffau, who quickly turned things around. In 2014, Chateau Capbern Gasqueton produced the best wine in the history of the estate!

Château Calon Ségur is also owner at Saint-Estèphe of Château Capbern.

Vineyards

The 37-hectare vineyard and chateau of Capbern is located just behind the Church of Saint Etienne in the village of Saint Estephe. The vineyard is planted to 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot. The terroir is a mix of gravel and clay soils. On average, the vines are close to 30 years of age. The Medoc vineyards are located in two different areas with slightly different terroirs. One part of the vineyard is situated not far from Calon Segur. The other section is closer to the Gironde river.

Harvest

Hand picking. A first selection of grapes on the vine. Mechanical sorting of the grapes by vibration, followed by hand sorting.

Temperature-controlled conical stainless-steel tanks. Maceration for 18 to 21 days.

Maturation

18 months, 60% new barrels. Fining with egg white.

Tasting Notes

Here is a superb-value Saint-Estèphe, under the same ownership as Ch Calon-Ségur. The wine was blended from a higher proportion than usual – 78% – Cabernet Sauvignon, with 19% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. Careful vat selection took place, giving a wine of rich purple colour, with fresh, open, fully ripened aromas. The palate is well-structured, with gentle, dense fruitiness and beautifully integrating, tender tannins. Modestly priced, this will make delicious drinking from 2020 and for a further 4-8 years.

Production

5,000 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2018-2025

Serve with

Chateau Capbern Gasqueton is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted braised and grilled dishes.

Chateau Capbern Gasqueton is also good when served with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, pasta and cheese.



Decanting Chateau Capbern Gasqueton is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Young vintages can be decanted for 1-2 hours. This allows the wine to soften and open its perfume. Older vintages might need very little decanting, just enough to remove the sediment.

Scores/Awards **90 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017
90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015
90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017
89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015
92 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017
93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017
90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015
90 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - June 2015
89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
91-93+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2015
89 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015
92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
15.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"A fresh, pure style, with an unadorned beam of cassis acting as the main component, while light white pepper, lilac and iron hints fill in the background. Racy finish. Best from 2018 through 2024. 5,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Pure and direct, with a textbook beam of cassis and bitter cherry notes, laced with lilac and iron hints. The racy, unencumbered finish lets the mineral edge shine. Lots of improvement here recently. This may be the best value play in the vintage. Score range: 90-93"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2014 Capbern (the now non-appended name for what was formerly Capbern-Gasqueton) has a clean and pure bouquet, very Pauillac in style with graphite-tinged black fruit. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, quite mineral in the mouth, great tension with a touch of piquancy on the finish. There is plenty of energy here and a very long aftertaste. Tasted twice with consistent notes, this comes highly recommended notwithstanding its value-for-money."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"The Château Capbern 2014 (note the new un-appended name that will be introduced with the 2013 vintage) is a blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. There is appreciable volume on the nose, quite floral with incense developing with time. The palate is smooth and velvety on the entry with sweet tannin. There is a dash of white pepper towards the second half of this well-structured, quite sophisticated Saint Estèphe that sports a long, peppery, slightly earthy, masculine finish. Give this four or five years in bottle to allow those tannins to soften."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"A self-confident, modern St.-Estèphe with a lot of ripe black fruits and not too much new oak. It's quite bold and generous, but cool and fresh on the finish. Love the spice! Drink in a year or two, but this will age"
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Packed with the dark tannins and structure of Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine, produced by the team of Calon Ségur is intense, concentrated and dark. It has a firm structure, solid and with a luscious aftertaste. The acidity of the year just shows at the end. Drink from 2026"
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"90-92. Barrel Sample. The new, shortened name for what was Capbern Gasqueton indicates a new, plum-driven direction for this estate. The wine is solid with enormous fruit and great acidity."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *"Renamed from 2013 - they've dropped the Gasqueton! 'Not too easy to pronounce.' 78% Cabernets, 19% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot. 41 hl/ha, 18 months in 60% new oak. Very floral nose and round and juicy. Punchy and fun. Lots of fruit and very fine tannins...17/20 Points"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Really fine florality, fragrance, length and grip from 78% Cabernet Sauvignon â " more airy than earthy and beautifully expressive."
- SS, Decanter.com

"From the smoky fruits and softness in the tannins to the allure of the finish, there's much to like about this polished, medium-bodied delight. Ripe and dark, this wine reached 14.2% alcohol. 88-91 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep colour; very saturated look; colour tight to the rim; lots of ripe fruit here; real joy; black fruits; some cherry but nicely fresh; composed too; pretty and voluptuous even; lovely fruit tones continue on the palate; plenty of extract and ripe fruit tones; perfumed and caressing; great palate really; concentrated and glossy. Great effort. Drink 2019-2030. [78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 14.2% alc, TA 3.50, pH 3.80, IPT 76, 41hl/ha yield, 60% new oak]. Tasted at Calon Ségur 30 March 2015. 91-93+"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"A well-made wine from a modest Saint-Estephe property with lifted acidity and firm tannins. The palate offers dark berries, cedar and spices with a lovely fruit profile. Tannins are firm and supple with rounded texture and good balance."
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2014 Capbern is bold, ripe and quite juicy. Although not especially subtle, the 2014 possesses striking aromatic nuance, power and intensity. Dried cherry, licorice, herbs, tobacco and mint add attractive aromatic top notes, but it is the wine's juiciness that stands out most. This is a strong showing. The 2014 offers plenty of near- and medium-term appeal, but also has enough structure to drink well for at least a number of years. (AG)"
- AG, Vinous

"A delicious, mouth filling St. Estephe, the 2014 Capbern captures the personality of the year in the northern Medoc in spades. Hints of smoke, tobacco, licorice, mocha and earthiness wrap around a core of dark fruit in an exuberant wine." (Barrel Score 90-92)"
- AG, Vinous
