

# Château Capbern 2021

CSPC# 102692

750mlx12

12.8% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

**Appellation**

St.-Estèphe

**Classification**

Cru Bourgeois

**Website**

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

**Sustainability**

HVE-level 3 (Haute Valeur Environnementale) certification. 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.

**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.

**Winemaker**

Vincent Millet. Consulting oenologist: Eric Boissenot

**Vintage**

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.

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.

**Vineyards**

The 37-hectare vineyard and chateau of Capbern is located just behind the Church of Saint Etienne in the village of Saint Estèphe. 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.

**Winemaking**

Temperature-controlled conical stainless-steel tanks. Maceration for 18 to 21 days. Aged 18 months, 60% new barrels. Fining with egg white.



<b>Winemaker's Notes</b>	<p>From the same team as Calon-Segur, Capbern in 2021 shows a lot of classic St-Estèphe character with a stoniness to the palate and tannins, and a core of ripe black, brambly fruit. It has more aromatic notes as well of blueberry and a lot of earthy, graphite character. Always great value.</p> <p>Vincent Millet describes his winemaking this year as minimalist with very gentle extraction and no pumping over. The wine starts softly with round, sweet aromas of plums, wood smoke and cassis. On the palate the wine opens up to reveal an almost minty core of freshness and a graphite, mineral structure. The clay soil tempered the hot summer temperatures and as a result the acidity was the highest in the last three years. This vein of acidity runs through the wine and drives the freshness on to a very sapid, lively finish. This is a very attractive, good value wine.</p>
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>The 2021 is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot at 12.8% alcohol. Offering cool Cabernet aromas of flowers, crunchy hedgerow fruit and gravel, this is fragrant, poised and with an easy sense of balance. Lots of red fruits, plums, and fine stones on the palate, culminating in a precise focused finish with well-mannered tannins. Juicy and bright.</p>
<b>Serve with</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Production</b>	<p>6,500 cases made.</p>
<b>Cellaring</b>	<p>Drink 2024-2040</p>
<b>Decanting</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>89 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2024  <b>90 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024  <b>89-91 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022  <b>84-86 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022  <b>91-92 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022  <b>91 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022  <b>87 points</b> - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - May 2022  <b>91 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024  <b>89-91 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022  <b>89 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024  <b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022  <b>90-92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022  <b>91-94 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022  <b>17 points</b> - Matthew Jukes - August 2022  <b>92 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022  <b>90 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022  <b>90-91 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desselave (score only) - May 2022</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>'Leads with damson plum fruit, while fresh chalky minerality and savory notes sparkle underneath. Forms a singed cedar backdrop on the finish as the fruit and minerality work together. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2030. 6,500 cases made.'</i>  - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Bottled in May 2023, two months before its big brother Calon-Ségur, the 2021 Capbern has turned out very nicely, offering up aromas of dark berries, plums and licorice mingled with subtle hints of lilac, mint and spices. Medium to full-bodied, plush, and polished, it's seamless and fleshy, with sweet tannins and good length on the finish."</i>  - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Offering up aromas of dark berries, plums, spices, rose petals and loamy soil, the 2021 Capbern is a medium to full-bodied, lively, and charming wine with beautifully refined tannins and an impressively penetrating finish. It's a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot that attained 12.8% alcohol."</i>  - WK, Wine Advocate</p>

## Reviews

*"The 2021 Capbern is composed of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, and 2% Petit Verdot. Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, it comes tumbling out with notes of kirsch, redcurrants, and black raspberries with hints of tobacco. Light-bodied, the palate delivers crunchy red fruits with soft tannins and a crisp backbone, finishing on an herbal note. Yields came in at 36 hl/ha."*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

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- LPB, Wine Independent

*"A medium-bodied, firm and very fresh red with crunchy black-fruit and bark character. Tight, fine tannins. Mineral and tea-like quality. 70% cabernet sauvignon, 28% merlot and 2% petit verdot."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Gorgeous eucalyptus freshness on the nose alongside fragranced blackcurrant notes. high-toned fruit, nicely balanced between sour and sweet but with the edges and real definition that comes across as a touch austere partly also as the acidity is so high and to the fore. Lightly framed and juicy with great overall freshness and lift. It's also quite direct, there's no expansion at this point, just straight and taught but well defined and I love the gravel terroir coming through. Drinking Window: 2024 – 2040."*

- GH, Decanter.com

*"Attractive red fruits, cranberry, redcurrant, and raspberry with an attractive zip but skirting full ripeness. Highest Cabernet levels to date, and it comes across not so much in flavour but in tannic depth, and raspberry leaf aromatics. No frost here, 36hl/h yield."*

- JA, janeanson.com

*"A tiny hint of espresso, flowers, Indian spices, and bright, red fruits in the nose open the wine. Medium-bodied, soft, vibrant, and crisp, the red fruits have sweetness, lift, energy, and a tint of spice, with a sprig of refreshing mint that comes in at the end of the finish. This will drink well young. Drink from 2025-2038."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Flowers, spicy red berries, and savory underbrush notes open the wine. Medium-bodied, soft, vibrant, and crisp, with hints of spice and olives to accompany the red currants in the finish, this will drink well young. The wine is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, 12.8% ABV. Drink from 2024-2038."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The 2021 Capbern, bottled in May 2023, has a clean and precise nose that unfolds with slightly more red fruit than I observed en primeur. The oak here is nicely integrated with a background scent of black olive. The palate is well-balanced with a soft entry. This is clearly going to be one of the more approachable recent vintages from this Saint-Estèphe estate. Today it possesses fine, light tannins and modest weight, revealing more black fruit mixed with cedar and black pepper toward the finish. Quite understated, drink this over the next 15 to 20 years."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2021 Capbern was cropped at 36hL/ha with a 20-day cuvaison and matured in 60% new oak for a planned 18 months. It has an attractive, fragrant bouquet of vivacious black and blue fruit, a lovely pencil box element emanating from the Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, respectable weight and acidity and a saline finish. Not the most complex Saint-Estèphe you will find, but commendable for the vintage and thoroughly enjoyable."*

- NM, Vinous

**Reviews** *“The 2021 Capbern is absolutely gorgeous. The aromatics alone are so alluring. A whole range of Cabernet inflections leads into a core of bright red toned fruit. Dried herbs, mint, tobacco, cedar, crushed flowers, and red berry fruit grace this exquisite, vibrant Saint-Estèphe. Bright acids perk up the finish. En primeur samples were taken from new barrels only, but the final wine is projected to have 60% new oak. Drink 2029-2041.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The 2021 Château Capbern is rock-solid, with wonderful cassis and an assortment of both red and blue fruits, supported by plenty of floral nuances. It's elegant and has considerable finesse, ripe tannins, and terrific purity. It shows the more charming, mid-weight style of the vintage, yet it's a solid wine that will deliver the goods.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Impressive from the start and incredibly fresh and clean on the nose and palate, this is, once again, a mesmerising performance from this quiet little property with its modest and yet starry owners. With a heightened rainfall in June, the Merlot was under a lot of pressure, and they lost about 20% of the crop. Having said this, both Cabernets came in around 40 hl/ha, which was encouraging. Good sunny conditions at the beginning of October gave this wine its fleshiness and silkiness. They started harvesting Cabernet Franc on the 4th of October, and the finest Cabernet Sauvignon came in between the 12th and 14th. This is the key to the volume of flavour and the purity, and winemaker Vincent Millet feels like this vintage is not dissimilar in flavour profile to 2016, which also had high levels of Cabernet. Still, unlike 2016, 2021 has a remarkable immediacy and lust for life. It is refreshing, and I don't doubt that it will be ready to go on release!”*  
- Matthew Jukes

*“Intense garnet, shades of purple and ochre at the rim. Fine red berry nuances, inlaid with cherry fruit and a touch of orange zest. Juicy, elegant, fresh acidity, well-integrated tannins, lively, lemony-mineral finish; a balanced food companion.”*  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

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