

Château Saint Pierre 2011

CSPC# 749556

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St Julien

Website

www.domaines-henri-martin.com

General Info

Chateau St Pierre is an estate that dates back to sixteenth century and gained its name when in 1767 the vineyard came into the possession of Baron de Saint-Pierre. Classified as a fourth growth in the 1855 classification, in 1922 the estate was separated from the chateau when vineyards were acquired by Belgian wine merchants. Château Saint-Pierre is the smallest and least well-known of the St-Julien crus and is now producing wine in accordance with its 4ème Cru Classé status. Saint-Pierre can trace its history back to 1693 and its vineyards, located behind the village of St-Julien-Beychevelle, have always been rather fragmented. In 1982 the property was bought by Henri Martin, who also owns Château Gloria. Today it is run by his daughter Françoise and her husband Jean-Louis Triaud.

Saint-Pierre's style is powerful and tannic with considerable depth of fruit and concentration on the palate. It remains underpriced compared to its more illustrious St-Julien neighbours.

Vintage

Winter 2010-2011: This year again, winter was dry, one of the driest in the decade. The winter chill was indeed present from December to February... for the benefit of our ecosystem.

Spring 2010-2011: The sharp rise in temperature in March resulted in an early budding of the vines at the beginning of April. Then, Bordeaux enjoyed a quite exceptional spring from April to June, with a severe drought and historically high temperatures. We thus experienced 40 days with maximum temperatures exceeding 25°C and a heat wave (with temperatures of 37 to 39°C i.e. +/- 100°F) on the 26th and 27th of June.

At first, the spring conditions

- promoted a precocious growth cycle (budding, flowering, fruit setting)
- limited the vegetative expression of the vines in favour of the fruits.

In summer, however, we returned to more traditional Atlantic conditions with a few wet and cool days between the 14th July and the 15th August. Ultimately, rains, throughout, the cycle remained within the seasonal average for Bordeaux.

An important fact: if, at the outset of summer, the vegetal cycle was three weeks ahead in comparison with 2010, the mediocre weather conditions at midsummer slowed down the process and erased much of the precocity acquired in the spring. This extension of the cycle was an undeniable qualitative element.

Vineyards

17 hectares on Garonne gravel planted with 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc.

Harvest

Hand harvesting

Maturation

Traditional winemaking followed by 14 months age in barrel, 60% new.

Tasting Notes

A very dark hue. A perfumed character, with bright fruit, but there is lift as well as density here. The bright character continues on the palate which has a very gentle and harmonious beginning with plenty of svelte substance and a rich mid palate which is where the backdrop of velvety tannins can be perceived. A lovely wine, with purity and potential.

Cellaring

Drink 2014-2026

Scores

90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014

89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

87+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014

90-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012

89-90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012



Scores/Awards **89 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2014
91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012
88-91 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012
16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012
17 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012
92 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 16, 2014
92-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 13, 2012
90-92+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012
92 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2012
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012
17 points - Max Lalondrelle, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2012
16.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2012
88 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
91 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - May 10, 2012
17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
15.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

"Offers a good, sappy core of dark plum, blackberry and fig, layered with brambly tannins and smoldering charcoal accents. Mouthwatering acidity lends the finish cut and length, while the dark fruit plays out through the finish. Best from 2017 through 2026."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"This has a nice briary frame, with a core of blackberry coulis, plum eau-de-vie and sweet tobacco. Solid, juicy finish. Score range: 89-92"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The dense, deep ruby/purple-colored 2011 Saint-Pierre is a more masculine wine in this light to mid-weight vintage. It reveals serious structure, tannin and meat, but whether or not it all comes together over the next 4-5 years is a legitimate question. With good purity and chewiness, it is a fuller, riper, bigger style, but it is not yet knit fully. There is plenty of potential, but only time will tell. Forget it for 3-4 years, and keep your fingers crossed."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"This 2011 boasts a dense ruby/purple color as well as copious notes of creme de cassis, incense, lead pencil shavings and perhaps a hint of truffles. Medium to full-bodied with surprising density, impressive purity, decent acidity and serious length, this St.-Julien should easily last for two decades or more.

While the 2011 Saint-Pierre will not make anyone forget the 2009 or 2010, it is an outstanding effort. Yields were somewhat higher than at other estates (42 hectoliters per hectare), and the final blend includes a whopping 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc that came in at 13% natural alcohol. Proprietor Jean-Louis Triaud has been on a qualitative tear with this estate as well as with his much larger property, Gloria."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The Saint Pierre is a blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. It has a wonderful bouquet that equals the 2009 and 2010 with superb delineation and focus, surfeit with exuberant red fruit. The palate is medium bodied with mineral rich raspberry and strawberry fruit struck through with graphite and tobacco. Very poised on the finish, this is a very impressive Saint Julien. Tasted April 2012."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Shows aromas and flavors of blueberries and minerals. Medium to full body, with polished tannins and a mineraly aftertaste. Reminds me of the 2004."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"There is probably too much wood here, both on the smell and the palate. It gives the wine weight but takes away the fruit. Powerful and dense, it needs a long aging. Drink from 2017."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *"91-93. Barrel sample. Ripe and spicy, with delicious open fruit, this wine is rounded yet has a straight line of pure acidity. It has a light touch while showing depth of flavor for the future."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Medium-deep purple-ruby. Inexpressive nose hints at blackcurrant, flint and sweet pipe tobacco. Clean and fresh in the mouth, with sneaky concentration to the pure cassis and mineral flavors. Finishes with coffee and dark chocolate nuances and a hint of blueberry syrup. Impressive but youthfully brooding wine, in need of plenty of time to show all it's got."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Inky core, dark cherry rim. Refined dark fruit and graphite nose. Moreish and fresh and alive on the palate, fully structured and still balanced by the juicy fruit in the middle. Just a bit dry on the finish."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Very good floral but firm fruit-- a very good expression of Saint-Julien from a château that is on top form."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Like his other property, Château Gloria, Jean-Louis Tiraud's St Pierre has overachieved in 2011, producing a wine with even more guts and stuffing than normal. Dense black fruits, nicely framed tannins, fresh acidity and good concentration distinguish the wine. If the price is reasonable, this is a wine for lovers of age-worthy claret. 10+ years."

- TA, timatkin.com

"Soft, open, cherry and black plum, with white pepper. Elegance, with a gentle working of the tannins, feel this is low temperature, gentle remontage, really trying to do the best with the vintage. Not a blockbuster, not aiming for it. Friendly, like Casper. Feel affection for this wine. 92"

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"The nose pops with licorice, smoke, black licorice, coffee bean and mocha. Soft, round, forward and very nice for this difficult vintage, the wine ends with dark, fresh, black cherries."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Espresso, caramel, vanilla, blackberry jam and earthy scents with deep color and a plush, fresh, sweet, soft and ripe black cherry finish are found in this wine. 92-93 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Mid depth; attractive blackcurrant fruit; some pencil and really rather full [one of the best St Juliens on the day]; clean blackcurrant fruit on the palate; very clean and pure. Complete. Good length. Drink 2018-2028. 90+ UGC Oct '13 [Earlier note] Deep and saturated look; tight to the rim; wonderfully full nose with lots of blackcurrants, sweet lift and purity with layers; very good nose; palate sweet and ripe with loads of blackcurrants; some chew and angularity at the back and this feels a dense and structured effort. Tannin a little firm but loads of fruit here, good length and extract. Tasted twice at UGC. 90-92+ Apr '12 UGC primeur tasting"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc. 60% new oak. This is one of the most improved Estates in all of Bordeaux, Now making a Saint Julien of top quality. The last few vintages have been of real super-second quality and have matched or beaten the big names in blind tastings. Big, bold black fruit here. An opulent nose is followed by a blockbuster palate full of spicy cassis richness and classic structure. Impressive concentration and fine balance. Another Saint Pierre that matches the top names of the appellation."

- Farr Vintners

Reviews

"This is an old-style, classic St Julien built to last, with masses of structure and potential. The 65% Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend accounts for its firm, curranty aroma as well as the crisp, fresh acidity on the palate. There is a real sense of density to the core of the wine, a lovely persistence on the finish and considerable class overall.

Once again, this château punches well above its weight. This is no longer the hidden gem of St Julien as the five previous vintages have propelled this wine to the forefront of the appellation. For me it is up there with Léoville-Barton and Gruaud-Larose and very often outperforms them. Black jammy fruits abound on the nose, with some sweetness and intensity. Lovely, intense black berries coat the palate with lots of focus and intensity. A very generous yet very well-balanced wine and a very long finish."

- ML, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

"Rounded flavours with juicy, plummy fruit and firm tannins. Well made wine given the vintage conditions this year. Nice firm backbone, fresh flavours and fairly long length. This wine shows good aging potential of at least a decade. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young"

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"EN PRIMEUR - Deep garnet-red. A mix of ripe red fruits, blackcurrant, camphor and graphite on the nose. Powerful, stocky palate recalling cherries in brandy. The tannins display a slightly vegetal tone."

- en.gilbertgaillard.com
