

Château Saint Pierre 2015

CSPC# 831120

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

CSPC# 864617

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St Julien

Classification

4th Grand Cru Classe

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 4^{ème} 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.

Winemaker

Jean-Philippe Victor

Vintage

2015 St. Julien is the product of its being sandwiched between Pauillac to the north and Margaux to the south. Because of its location, the quirks of the geography and rain patterns in Bordeaux, the appellation received a little less rain than in other regions in the Medoc located to the north, but more moisture than the estates located in the Margaux appellation to the south. But the amount of moisture in the soil does not paint the full picture. You also need to understand that the summer was quite warm and dry. The vines experienced drought conditions for much of June continuing until late July. To illustrate that point, July 2015 was the 4th hottest July recorded in Bordeaux over the past 100 years! This produced small grapes with thick skins and a lot of tannin.

Because St. Julien is the smallest of the major Left Bank appellations, with just about 910 hectares of vines, harvest dates were relatively consistent for most vineyards. Growers began picking Merlot by September 21, finishing with their Cabernet Sauvignon between October 7 and October 9. You can read about the 2015 harvest and vintage in detail to give you a good idea on what took place during the growing season: [2015 Bordeaux Harvest Report](#)

2015 St. Julien wines are consistent. While many estates in Saint Julien produced good wine in 2015, as you will see, two estates made much better wine than their neighbors. Some of that is due to terroir, and of course part of their success is due to the work done in their cellars and vineyards. Still, that means that overall, there is a good sense of homogeneous quality found in 2015 Saint Julien wine.

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

With an annual production of great wine not exceeding 50 barrels, Château Saint-Pierre clearly displays its claim to be exceptional and to match the best classified growths. Deep garnet color. The nose offers expressive notes of blackcurrant, cooked black plums, mentholated, black olive, and tobacco. The mouth is full-bodied and well-structured with ripe tannins. The finish is long and tasty.



Serve with	Chateau Saint Pierre is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, stewed, and grilled dishes. Saint Pierre is also good when served with Asian dishes, hearty seafood or richly textured fish like tuna, mushrooms, pasta, and cheese.
Production	5,833 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2014-2026
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2018</p> <p>90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2016</p> <p>91+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim - February 2018</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2016</p> <p>92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2018</p> <p>17- points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2019</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - November 2017</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>16 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>87-89 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - July 2019</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Dark currant, blackberry and boysenberry reduction notes form the core, while a racy, charcoal-edged spine cuts through from start to finish. The long finish smolders with a warm cast iron accent. Well done. Best from 2022 through 2038."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A dark, strapping style, offering lots of tarry-edged grip around the blackberry and plum compote notes, with a pretty espresso hint through the finish. Lush overall, as the vintage's velvety tannins are here in spades. 5,833 cases made. Score range: 90 – 93"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Saint-Pierre is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc matured for 14 months in 50% new and 50% one-year-old barrels. Deep garnet-purple in color, it offers expressive blackberries, black currants and stewed black plums on the nose with suggestions of menthol, rare beef, black olives and tobacco. Medium-bodied and tautly structured with ripe, grainy tannins and a lively backbone with vibrant, muscular form, it finishes long and savory. 2019 – 2033."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Château Saint Pierre is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc cropped at 48 hl/ha between 21 September and 7 October, matured in 50% new oak. It has a tightly wound bouquet with blackberry, raspberry and cedar, just a touch of pencil shaving surfacing with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent tannin on the entry, quite tensile with a fine bead of acidity. This is not the most complex Saint-Pierre that I have encountered, although it possesses 2015's elegance and refinement. This will have more to give after bottling and may ultimately overtake Gloria. Tasted twice with consistent notes. Drink: 2020 - 2035."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Saint-Pierre offers more fruit on the nose than the Gruaud Larose with quite fabulous blackberry laced with pencil lead and tobacco. There is real joie de vivre and intensity here. The palate is medium-bodied with fine</i></p>

Reviews *but quite firm tannin, very well balanced and pure with a gentle but insistent, mineral-driven, quite sinewy finish that is an absolute treat. This comes highly recommended. Tasted twice both in London and Bordeaux at the property. Bravo. Anticipated maturity: 2022 - 2045."*

- NM, Wine Journal

"Vivid aromas with currants, mushrooms and dried flowers. Tar. Full-bodied, layered and polished. Show texture and richness. Juicy and lightly decadent. Drink in 2021.

- JS, James Suckling.com

"Linear and lively with pretty blueberry, blackberry character. Polished tannins. Fine finish."

- JS, James Suckling.com

"This wine has a very toasty style, with spice and wood tannins that give an extracted character with some bitterness. That contrasts with the fruit that is developing, and it seems that the wood will integrate over time. Drink from 2025."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Tasted blind. Deep crimson. Minerally top notes on a nose of ripe black fruit – but much more classical than anything on the right bank. Very interesting wine with sweet biscuity charm. Long and fresh. Drink 2023-2040."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Bright pinkish crimson. Very fragrant and lifted. A little sweet and then jagged. Not quite as refined as the Ch Gloria but a solid effort and very much a 2015. Inky finish. Drink 2024-2036."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Blackish crimson. Not the ripest on the nose. A little too austere? Ticks boxes rather the tugs at heart strings. A little low key. Drink 2024-2038."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Saint-Pierre is the smallest of the classed growths in St-Julien, with just 1 ha under vine, and parcels near Ducru-Beaucaillou and Beychevelle. Jean-Louis Triaud directs the property with a sure hand. Elegant blackcurrant aromas and a touch of dried herbs and tobacco. Initially plump and full-bodied, but robust tannins soon kick in and this gains weight on the mid-palate. Sturdy, chocolatey finish, and fine length. Drinking Window 2022 – 2036"

- SS, Decanter.com

"Like its stablemate, Château Gloria, St. Pierre has made a deliciously refined wine in 2015, combining succulent black fruits with filigree tannins and supporting acidity. The oak, even at this young age, feels like an integral part of the blend. Drink: 2024-32"

- TA, timatkin.com

"Full bodied, concentrated, round and refined, the wine kicks off with a nose packed with espresso, licorice, cassis, blackberry and floral notes. The fruit is fruit, sweet and ripe. The finish is all about its sweet, ripe, polished, core of fruit with its smoke and espresso undertones. I really like the energy, refinement and almost lush textures on the palate found here."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"2015 Saint-Pierre - Cassis, dark chocolate, licorice and floral notes create the perfume. Not as ripe as you'll find in other more exalted, previous, recent vintages, this closer to being elegant in style with freshness and a spicy, cherry and cassis finish. Produced from a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.7% alcohol with a pH of 3.72 and is now aging in 50% new, French oak barrels. The harvest took place from September 21 to October 7."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“This is one of the most improved Estates in all of Bordeaux. Now making a Saint Julien of top quality from 17 hectares of vines, planted with 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. The last few vintages have been of real super-second quality and have matched or beaten the big names in blind tastings. This is the first vintage to be made in the new winery. The 2015 blend is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon with 19% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc. Ageing in 50% new oak. Deep purple colour with a sweet aromatic smoke on the nose reminiscent of incense. The palate is thick and concentrated with firm but ripe tannins. Plenty of spice and menthol overlaying ripe cassis fruit. The finish is spicy, smooth and long.”

- Farr Vintners

“Bright and light the nose has a fragrant mix of bilberry and bramble the start of the palate has herbaceous freshness. There is a sweeter feel in the middle rich fruit with a fleshy ripeness giving depth on the finish.”

- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2015 Saint-Pierre has a scintillating nose of brilliantly defined black fruit with superb mineralité. You can feel the energy coming from this bouquet. The medium-bodied palate is precise and pixelated, displaying fine-grained tannin and wonderful balance, leading to an exquisite, detailed, almost Margaux-like finish. Utterly graceful. This impressed me so much just after bottling, far more than in barrel, and assessed blind against its peers, it represents a convincing argument that Saint-Pierre is becoming one of the go-to Saint-Julien crus. Tasted blind at the Southwold 2015 Bordeaux tasting.”

- NM, Vinous

“Saint-Pierre is quite possibly the most under the radar wine in Saint-Julien. The 2015 is fantastic. Rich, powerful and explosive, with tremendous depth and structure, the 2015 has so much to offer. Wild cherry, tobacco, leather, smoke and grilled herbs add shades of nuance, but it is the wine's intensity and pure pedigree that stand out most. The 2015 is decidedly powerful, but it is also quite vivid and exceptionally beautiful. The blend is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc. 2023 – 2030.”

- AG, Vinous

“One of the pleasant surprises of the vintage, the 2015 Saint-Pierre offers terrific depth and overall intensity. There is more than enough richness to match the virile tannins. Crème de cassis, game, mocha, lavender, mint and sweet spices are fused together in this deep, unctuous wine. This is an especially dense, extracted Saint-Julien but it shows good overall balance as well as potential. The blend is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times.”

- AG, Vinous

This 17-hectare estate has been rejuvenated by owner Jean-Louis Triaud and is certainly producing some of the top wines from the appellation today. I tasted the deep, inky-colored 2015 Château Saint-Pierre twice and it's reminiscent of the 2010, only with more elegance. In 2015 the wine is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc and it spent 14 months in 50% new and 50% once used barrels. Chocolate covered dark fruits, damp earth, tobacco leaf, and lead pencil shaving-like notes emerge from this huge, concentrated beauty that has building tannin and a huge mid-palate. It's an incredible wine that builds with time in the glass, has no hard edges and is going to 3-4 decades of life. Bravo! 2018 – 2058”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“With more obvious oak and tobacco on the nose this is a classic Saint-Pierre with armour and a helmet covering the more tender elements underneath. It's hard to see beneath this exterior and yet I sense very clean fruit with a cassis theme and some red flashes built into the core, too. Not a great Saint-Pierre, but a robust, upright wine with good grunt and also power.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
