

# Château Saint-Pierre 2017

CSPC# 831119

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety** 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc  
**Appellation** St Julien  
**Classification** 4<sup>th</sup> Grand Cru Classé  
**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<sup>ème</sup> 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 Triaud

## Sustainability

The owners are concerned about caring for the environment and have been awarded a level 3 High Environmental Value certification (HEV 3) and the ISO 14001 certification.

## Vintage

Saint Julien is perhaps the second most consistent appellation in the 2017 vintage. The wines have character, soft tannins, complexity and early approachability, which is a winning combination.

2017 St. Julien wines are quite good. As you would expect, Cabernet Sauvignon is the king of the vintage and takes over the preponderance of the blends. This is a good thing because that led to a vintage character with freshness, silky tannins, length and a focus on purity of fruit. The freshness is not overwhelming, but it is a present part of the wines character and style. Most of the 2017 St. Julien wines are going to drink well young, which is good thing, as you can enjoy them while waiting for the 2016 and 2015 wines to come around.

## Vineyards

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

## Harvest

Hand harvesting from 18 September until around 3 October

## 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.

## Production

6,708 cases made

## Cellaring

Drink 2022-2038

**94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020

**91-94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018

**95 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020

**91-93 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018

**93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020

**92-93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018

**89 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2020

**90-92 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018



**Scores/Awards** **16 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018  
**95 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018  
**94 points** - Decanter.com - April 2018  
**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018  
**15.5 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**91-93 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018  
**15+ points** - Farr Vintner - April 2018  
**87-90 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020  
**92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018  
**95 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020  
**92-95 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018  
**94 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020  
**93-95 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018  
**17.5+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018

**Reviews** *"Warm and seductive in feel, with a cashmere texture to the range of steeped plum, blackberry and black currant fruit flavors. A well-buried alder note runs underneath, while flashes of tobacco and incense swirl around. The smoldering finish is long and rich in detail. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2022 through 2038. 6,708 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Focused, showing red and black currant preserve flavors driving along, with a racy graphite streak. Fresh acidity keeps it all moving through the anise-tinged finish. Should be delightful when released. Barrel Sample: 91-94"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Saint-Pierre offers up warm cassis, redcurrant jelly, baked black berries and Black Forest cake with earth, herbs and meaty hints. Medium-bodied, it has a great core of muscular fruit with a firm and grainy frame and is solidly built, finishing long and layered. The blend is 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc, and it was aged in French oak for 14 months, 50% new. About 50% of the total production went into this grand vin, with 80,500 bottles produced."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The deep garnet-purple colored 2017 Saint-Pierre is a little reticent, giving glimpses at warm cassis, baked plums, tobacco and pencil shavings notes with a touch of forest floor. Medium-bodied with a muscular core of sustained black fruit, it has a grainy frame and plenty of freshness, finishing with impressive length. The blend is currently 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Attractive, ripe red and dark berries here with spicy oak. Nicely played. The palate has deep, fleshy blueberries and rich plums and a wealth of supple, pliable tannin. Drink or hold."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"This is more layered and impressive than Gloria this year. Full and focused with structure and length."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"This is a smoky wine, showing considerable wood. Black fruits are a little diminished by the wine's structure and toastiness. It has a stalky aftertaste."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"90-92. Barrel Sample. The wine is light and juicy, balanced between its fresh fruity character and bright acidity. Suggesting it will age quickly. Drink from 2022."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

## Reviews

*“Mid crimson. Dark fruit and a little smoky/cherry on the nose along with some sweetness of oak. Dark and savoury on the palate, the tannins fine and already very supple, as if extraction had been light. Just slightly hard on the finish. Drink 2024-2032”*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“Cloves, black pepper, damson, oak swirl and vanilla bean, definitely a more complex and confident nose than many - and the profusion of aromatics adds layers to the wine but doesn't overpower. As the wine opens in the glass, you get attractive raspberry and cassis notes, and an uplift or crushed mint freshness held together with fine tannins. Far from a blockbuster year in St-Julien but this is one of the best; impressive En Primeur and moving up a notch at this point.”*

- JA, Decanter.com

*“They have done a great job this year of not dipping far below the quality of the last few vintages. The only indications really are in the texture and the more savoury-edged register of the fruit. The tannins are a touch more pulled in on the finish, closing things off just slightly too early. Overall, this is a clear success, with punch, personality, juice, fine tannic hold, and notes of bilberry fruits, charcoal and cedar smoke. Very good quality. Drinking Window 2026 - 2040”*

- Decanter.com

*“Very deep inky colour. Deep, spicy and coffee-ish aromas of earth and roasted kernel. Black fruit underneath. Very profound and deep flavours – serious traditional style. Rich black fruit, savoury meaty touches from oak, and big tannins. Rounded warm finish. Barrel Sample: 91-93”*

- TA, timatkin.com

*“Dark in color, the wine is plush, ripe, fresh and loaded with sweet, blackberry fruits, espresso and earthy notes. The wine is medium/full bodied, soft and round, with an almost bright, fruitiness in the finish. The wine was produced from 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“This is 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc. Aged in 50% new oak. Smoky cedar on the nose with an exotic, damson note that is enticing. The palate shows more traditional cassis, but the oak is exotic and powerful, with the high toast offering lots of sweet vanilla and bonfire notes. Traditionally proportioned fruit lingers on the finish, but the oak makes this more for the hedonists.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“Both nose and palate have a mix of sweet black fruit quite supple and fleshy in the middle. The tannins are firm mid structure but the fruit at the back is sweet the finish has lots of toasty oak. Drink 2025-2033.”*

- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2017 Saint-Pierre was cropped 47hl/ha and matured in 50% new oak. It has a very intense bouquet with black cherries, blueberry and violet aromas, quite Margaux like in style. This is floral and inviting, wonderful delineation and focus. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins, a fine bead of acidity and harmony, building nicely with a plush and caressing finish. What a superb Saint-Pierre that will give 20+ years of drinking pleasure. Drink 2023-2042.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2017 Saint-Pierre came from a sample taken from a new barrel although the final blend will include half that amount. It was cropped at 46hl/ha from 18 September until around 3 October in a second wave of picking. It has quite an introverted bouquet with broody dark berry fruit, tobacco and graphite, almost Pauillac-like in style. It probably just needs to evolve a little more cohesion. The palate is medium bodied with grippy, slightly abrasive tannin but a fine line of acidity. There is firmness and density to this Saint-Pierre, weighty in the mouth but I find that it is missing some finesse towards the finish. Like the Gloria, it may well improve during its barrel maturation. A second sample encountered at the end of my tastings was even better and showed immense brightness and energy.”*

- NM, Vinous

**Reviews** *“Just as it was from barrel, the 2017 Saint-Pierre is arrestingly beautiful. Black cherry, plum, graphite, spice, new leather, licorice and smoke infuse the 2017 with tons of character. Readers will find a bold, unctuous Saint-Julien bursting at the seams with personality. As always, Saint-Pierre is a dark, brooding Saint-Julien that shows the more virile side of the appellation off to great effect.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“One of the real gems of the vintage, the 2017 Saint-Pierre is powerful, deep and quite concentrated. Despite its obvious richness, the 2017 has more than enough supporting structure to back it up. Gravel, smoke, tobacco, leather, licorice and spice lead into the potent finish in a muscular, tannic Saint-Julien built for the cellar. This is an outrageously beautiful wine. Barrel Sample: 92-95”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“From an estate owned by the same family as Chateau Gloria, the inky hued 2017 Chateau Saint-Pierre (Saint-Julien) is a big, full-bodied, impressive 2017 that has subtle oak as well as lots of cassis, white flowers, burning embers, and charcoal aromas. I love its texture, it has ripe tannins, and it’s just a balanced, complete Saint-Julien that will evolve for 20-25 years. This cuvee is 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc, aged in 50% new oak.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“I was able to taste the 2017 Château Saint-Pierre on two separate occasions and this is an undeniably strong effort from this estate as well as for the vintage. A current rough blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc aging in 50% new oak, which accounts for 60% of the production, this inky purple beauty offers up loads of crème de cassis, black raspberry, tobacco leaf, and graphite. While this cuvée can be a touch rustic, it’s all elegance and purity in 2017 and has medium to full-bodied richness, perfectly integrated acidity and ripe, sweet tannin. It’s a beautiful, concentrated wine that’s going to need short-term cellaring and keep for two decades or more. Barrel Sample: 93-95”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Very succulent and attractive on the nose, there is the trademark torrent of oak but, as always, it is very well managed, and it adds spice and cinnamon notes to the lush fruit. The tannins are not dry, just tense and firm and this shuts down the back palate, but it is very easy to see that this is a successful wine. You just have to remember it is on the oaky side of the fence.”*  
- MJ, [matthewjukes.com](http://matthewjukes.com)

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