

Château Saint-Pierre 2018

CSPC# 831120

750mlx12

14.3% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot

Appellation

St Julien

Classification

4th 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^{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.

2018 also saw the inauguration of a new vertical wine press at **Chateau Saint-Pierre**.

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

2018 Saint Julien should win an award for the most consistent appellation of the 2018 Bordeaux vintage. From top to bottom, every wine was very good.

The 2018 vintage was perfect for St. Julien, once the rains ceased by late June. The winter and spring drenched the region. But picture-perfect weather, warm sunny and dry hit the region in July and with a few minor showers, which helped promote maturity to the vines, beautiful conditions continued through to the harvest, allowing growers to pick, when they found their desired level of maturity.

Being a small appellation, at only 910 hectares, much of the gravel terroir was able to work its magic, alleviating the excess water while retaining the right amount of moisture to nourish the vines when needed during the dry summer months.

The warm, sunny, days, dry conditions and cool nights were perfect for the region, allowing much of the harvest to reach the desired level of maturity that each estate wanted to achieve.

Vineyards

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

Harvest

The beautiful climatic conditions of the summer allowed the fruit to reach a perfect maturity and achieve a great aromatic concentration and level of anthocyanins. The harvest took place peacefully between September 20th and October 1st. The first wines showed exceptional quality, beautiful color, and an intense aromatic expression.

Maturation

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

Tasting Notes

Of all the St Julien properties, Saint-Pierre is the smallest, but in 2018 it has made a wine full of concentration and intensity. The palate is dominated by flavours of liquorice, blueberries, and blackcurrant, with a hint of cigar smoke. The tannins are well balanced, making it an attractive option for earlier drinking. It's moreish with a long finish.

Production

75,000 bottles made

Cellaring

Drink 2024-2038



Scores/Awards **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2021
92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2020
95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021
94-96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2021
93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019
92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2021
16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019
95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021
94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019
93 points - Farr Vintners - April 2019
95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021
94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019
95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2021
92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019
94+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2021
94-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019
17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019
97 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019
90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019
92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021
17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

Reviews *“Sports a beam of cassis, plum puree and blackberry sauce running through the middle while roasted applewood, violet and sweet tobacco notes run along the edges. Everything meets and then extends through the finish, with an echo of warm cast iron at the very end. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2024 through 2038.”*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

“Very fresh and pure, with plum and cassis notes that are vivid and focused. Light graphite and anise accents line the finish. Solid. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.”
 - JM, Wine Spectator

“Composed of 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot, the 2018 Saint-Pierre bursts from the glass with a glorious perfume of kirsch, blackcurrant pastilles, black raspberries and cedar chest with hints of red roses, pencil shavings and spice box. The medium to full-bodied palate coats the mouth with velvety tannins and beautifully knit freshness, supporting the generous black and red berry layers, finishing long, and perfumed. It needs a good four years for the oak to marry and the fruit to really hit its stride, then should drink a further 20+ years.”
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

“The deep garnet-purple colored 2018 Saint-Pierre displays shy scents of rose hip tea, dried mint, crushed rocks and lavender to begin, opening out to a growing core of warm blackcurrants, baked blackberries and Morello cherries plus wafts of garrigue and wild sage. Full-bodied and absolutely laden with black fruits and provocative mineral sparks, it has a firm texture of grainy tannins and plenty of freshness, finishing long and savory. Aging is anticipated to be for 14 months in 50% new and 50% second-fill barrels. The blend is currently 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot.”
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

“Aromas of blackberries, currants, dried earth, coffee and chocolate orange, as well as some crushed stone. It’s medium-bodied with firm, tight-grained tannins. Fresh with lingering citrus zest and bitter chocolate. Fine texture. Try from 2024.”
 - JS, Wine Spectator

Reviews *“A very tight and toned red with blueberry and blackcurrant aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, closed down and very long. Solid.”*
- JS, Wine Spectator

“This firm wine shows layers of tannins as well as the warm, rich black fruits typical of the vintage. Blackcurrant flavors along with the tannins give a dense wine with aging potential. Drink from 2026.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Deepest purple colour. Aromatic with dark red fruit and tea leaf, even a touch floral. Sadly, that fruit is rather overwhelmed by the oak on the palate, but the tannins are smooth if quite dense. Chewy finish. 13%. Drink 2025-2033”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“A St-Julien name that I can't recommend highly enough, Château Saint-Pierre 2018 is extremely architectural in feel, a beautiful, confident, masculine, muscled wine with vertical walls - although it's interesting to note it has slightly lower alcohol than some other St-Julien. It's intense in its black fruit and charcoal character, rippling with tannins. I am full of admiration for this impressive wine that demands your attention.”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Deep in color, the wine kicks off with flowers, smoky currants, spice, espresso and cigar box notes. From there, the richly textured dark red fruits provide layers of lusciously textured, fresh berries and toasty oak. Balanced, elegant and fresh, give this some time to fully come together and allow the oak to fully integrate. The wine was produced from 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

This wine is intense, deep, opulent, plush, and showy with ripe with sweet, blackberry fruits, espresso, and earthy notes. Soft, round, and fruity, the wine was produced from 77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc.
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep purple in colour, with an enticing, exotic nose of damson, cassis and toasty oak. The palate is creamy and moreish, with chalky tannins balancing out the ripe black fruit and toasty oak at the core. Peppery and fleshy through the mid palate, this is long and fine, with just the right level of exuberant ripe fruit. An excellent effort from Saint Pierre this year.”
- Farr Vintners

“The 2018 Saint-Pierre is even more intense than the Gloria on the nose, actually reminding me of the Léoville Poyferré that I tasted alongside. Copious black cherries, lavender, incense, and violet just storm from the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit laced with cedar and charcoal. Delivering wonderful delineation and focus and a disarming silky finish, this fulfills the promise that it showed from barrel. An outstanding Saint-Julien that should age well over the next 20–30 years. 2023 – 2045.”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 Saint-Pierre continues a purple patch for this estate that is finally revealing its true potential as one of the appellation's front-running estates. Now this has a cerebral and complex bouquet for the vintage with very nuanced blackberry and bilberry fruit, sous-bois, and light cedar aromas. The palate is built around its fine tannins that frame the blackberry and blueberry fruit; the acidity pitch perfect with a silky finish that caresses the senses. This is a marvelous Saint-Pierre that is going to give a lot of pleasure. 2023 – 2045.”
- NM, Vinous

Reviews

"The 2018 Saint-Pierre (Saint-Julien) is a powerful, muscular wine. Black cherry, gravel, dark spice, menthol, licorice and espresso add to an impression of brooding intensity. Saint-Pierre was so compelling from barrel. It is all that and more from bottle. The tannins are going to need a number of years to soften, but there is so much to look forward to here. Readers should expect a virile, imposing Saint-Julien."

- AG, Vinous

"A powerful, virile wine, the 2018 Saint-Pierre is also one of the highlights of the vintage. Black cherry, graphite, smoke, leather, menthol, violet, and spice meld together in a brooding, tannic Saint-Julien that is going to need a bit of time to truly come into its own. Saint-Pierre is muscular, massively tannic and forbidding, and yet there is a ton of fruit behind all of that structure. Cabernet Sauvignon features heavily in the blend, and that comes through in the wine's flavor profile and overall feel. Readers will have to be patient. I can't wait to taste it from bottle. The 2018 is 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot. Tasted four times."

- AG, Vinous

"With an almost Pauillac-like stature and structure, the 2018 Château Saint-Pierre (Saint-Julien) (77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot) offers a powerful bouquet of black currants, lead pencil, spicy oak, and chocolate and shows more earth and tobacco as it sits in the glass. Deeply hued, full-bodied, and concentrated, it has a stacked mid-palate, building tannins, and one heck of a great finish. It needs to be forgotten for 7-8 years and will keep for 2-3 decades."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Checking in as a blend of 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and 23% Merlot from very old vines and still aging in 50% new French oak, the 2018 Château Saint-Pierre reveals a saturated purple color to go with rich, full-bodied aromas and flavors of crème de cassis, graphite, and spicy oak. Rich, powerful, and concentrated, yet also with gorgeous purity and freshness, it's a serious, age-worthy wine that's going to need 7-8 years of bottle age but will be very long-lived."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"(77 Cabernet Sauvignon, 23 Merlot) | 50% new oak | 14.3% alc This is quite a tough Saint-Pierre and there is a lot of stuffing here, but it is also rather square and hard on the finish. The fruit seems very ripe and there is even a touch of dried skin notes here, making it a powerful creature, but not one with much elegance on board. In a world of exotic wines, this will find a home, but in a world of fine red Bordeaux, it might stick out a little too much as an atypical creation. I am hoping that it stays true to type and regains some balance in due course."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate rim lightening. Black berries, a hint of liquorice, tobacco underlaid precious wood spice, some nougat and Irish moss. Juicy, red heart cherries, fine fruit sweetness, delicate tannins, good freshness, a multifaceted food accompaniment. (2020 - 2035)."

- Falstaff
