

Château Carbonnieux 2018

CSPC# 832573

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pessac-Léognan
Classification	Grand Cru Classé
Website	https://carbonnieux.com/our-wines/?lang=en
Sustainability	Environmentally friendly farming for sustainable agriculture (Member of the 1st ISO 14001 certified Bordeaux EMS Association), HVE 3 certificated (High Environmental Value at level 3) / 1 organic control plot.
General Info	<p>Chateau Carbonnieux has a long and extensive history in the Bordeaux wine appellation. In fact, it is one of the oldest estates in the entire Bordeaux wine region with a history dating back to the 12th century! The original chateau was first constructed during the years when the 100-year war was taking place. This is easily noticed when looking at the unique design that includes a myriad of historical features from the time period.</p> <p>Jumping ahead to the modern era for Chateau Carbonnieux, after World War 2 ended, Chateau Carbonnieux was in poor condition. By that time, only 29 hectares of vines were remaining. The original chateau had been uninhabited since the First World War and was also in bad shape.</p> <p>The wine making equipment was in even worse condition. After the Perrin family, headed by Marc Perrin, purchased the property, they renovated the entire estate and replanted a large portion of the vineyard. The cellars were renovated in 1990. Today, Chateau Carbonnieux is managed by his two sons Eric Perrin and Philibert Perrin.</p> <p>Chateau Carbonnieux has nice neighbors. In fact, they are situated close to Chateau Haut Bailly and Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte. The gravel based, Pessac Leognan vineyard of Chateau Carbonnieux is planted to red and white grapes. Interestingly, Chateau Carbonnieux is one of the few Bordeaux vineyards that continue maintaining plantings of all 5 red Bordeaux wine varieties.</p>
Sustainability	Plot management with environmental-friendly farming
Winemaker	Romain Racher.
Vintage	The beginning of 2018 was difficult: a hailstorm on part of the vineyard and heavy rain did not help the flowering. We knew as early as June that the quantities of all the grape varieties would be small. Then, an exceptional summer followed, bathed in endless sun right up to the end of the harvest... The delicious grapes of all varieties arrived at the vats at the peak of ripeness and with an exemplary health quality. The berries were homogenous, dense, with a fine colour and a thick skin. The sun king did a supreme job by giving us magnificent grapes, but it was impossible to give us back what the Spring rain had stolen from us. However in spite of the limited quantity, 2018 will be a very great vintage for Carbonnieux!
Vineyards	<p>Chateau Carbonnieux is planted for the red wine, 47 hectares are planted to 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 2% Malbec, about .5% Petit Verdot and .5% Carmenère. This makes Chateau Carbonnieux one of the few Bordeaux vineyards with plantings of all 6 allowable grape varieties. The Carmenère grapes are a new addition to their vineyard. On average, the vines for the red wine grapes are 32 years of age. 43 hectares are reserved for the white wine grape varieties.</p> <p>You can easily divide the vineyard into 3 main sections that is on one large gravel hill. The terroir is gravel, sand, limestone, and clay soils. The large vineyard can be further sub divided into 119 different parcels. There are gravel slopes with elevation that rise to 50 meters at their peak.</p>



Harvest	Hand picking only. Berry selection while picking and twice on sorting tables. Merlot from 17/09 to 25/09. Cabernet Franc on 26/09. Petit Verdot on 26/09 and Cabernet Sauvignon from 28/09 to 06/10
Vinification/ Maturation	Fermenting in temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats (3-4 weeks) with pumping-over. Ageing in oak barrels - 15 to 18 months (35-40 % new oak)
Tasting Notes	This 2018 red is characterized by a beautiful deep purple colour. On the nose the wine releases an aromatic bouquet of ripe fruit tinged with a slightly smoky sensation. The tannic structure on the palate is rich, long, and soft with a smooth fleshy texture all perfectly balanced. The finish extends and produces the characteristics of a great vintage promising good ageing potential.
Serve with	The red wine of Chateau Carbonnieux is best served with all types of classic meat dishes or stewed meat, swordfish, tuna fish, cheese, chocolate desserts.
Production	150,000 bottles made.
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2038
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021</p> <p>93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - March 2021</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - March 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>90 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>92-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p>17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p> <p>94-95 points - Vertdevin.com - April 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Tightly drawn, with a cloak of alder and juniper over the core of steeped plum and black currant flavors. Lots of tar, bramble, loam, and sweet bay accents score the finish, which sports heft and muscle. Superb showing. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. 12,500 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A dense, dark red, with fig, blackberry and black currant reduction notes forming the core, layered liberally with tar, espresso and loam accents through the muscular finish."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2018 Carbonnieux gives up wonderfully pure scents of ripe black cherries, mulberries and cassis, plus suggestions of Ceylon tea, black olive and lavender with a pinch of ground cloves. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers loads of spicy black fruit flavors, supported by grainy tannins and plenty of freshness, finishing with a peppery kick."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Carbonnieux leaps from the glass with vibrant notes of baked blackberries, warm cassis, preserved plum and lavender with touches of Indian spices, forest floor and dried sage. Full-bodied, firm and grainy, the generous fruit has loads of bright, vibrant sparks plus a great line of freshness, finishing mineral tinged."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Blackberry, dried-violet, gravel, chocolate and iodine aromas. It's medium-to full-bodied with firm, creamy tannins. Chewy, flavorful finish. Try from 2024."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *“This structured, dense wine is packed with as much tannins as fruit at this stage. Balance is coming and this ripe wine, with its solid, dark texture and black-plum fruits, holds good promise. Drink from 2025.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “The velvet tannins and spicy, smoky character of this wine reveals both its ripeness and its fine structure. Dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is dense with black fruits that are lifted by attractive acidity.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “A more savoury Cabernet-dominant profile than with the Carbonnieux, with a hint of tomato leaf. This is good but a little austere. The slight bitterness on the finish seen during en primeur is a little more evident now after the ageing, and it certainly needs another five or so years to soften. 40% new oak.”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Right off the first nose you just want to sink right into this wine. It's a clear success in this vintage: delicious, with a great texture and a slight bitterness on the finish perfectly balanced by the sweet ripeness of the fruit. Thoroughly enjoyable.”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Campfire embers, cedar, tobacco leaf, spice and red pit fruits create the core of this medium-bodied, elegant, fresh wine. Soft and polished with a solid depth of flavor and a hint of oak in the elegant finish.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “It is easy to dig into the smoky black cherries wafting in the perfume but there is more than aromatics going on here. This medium-bodied affair has a plush palate, supple textures and a long, round, polished, elegant finish.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “The 2018 Carbonnieux has a very tight bouquet that only starts to reveal itself after 90 minutes, offering blackberry and bilberry fruit and a touch of cedar and mint; I just wish there was more intensity. The palate is better, with blackberry and cedar, and light graphite notes emerging with time. Good freshness here and satisfying weight toward the finish. All that is missing is a little finesse.”*
- NM, Vinous
- “I loved the 2018 Château Carbonnieux. This Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated Pessac sports a deep purple hue as well as ripe, sexy aromas and flavors of blackcurrants, chocolate, leafy tobacco, and earth. Beautifully textured, with silky tannins and outstanding balance, it's already drinking brilliantly yet has a solid 10-15 years of longevity ahead of it.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck
- “Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, subtle lightening of the edges. Delicate plums and liquorice, candied orange zest, a hint of figs, inviting bouquet. Juicy, red heart cherries, fresh texture, well-integrated tannins, mineral-salty finish, sticks, good aging potential. (2020-2040)”*
- Falstaff Magazine
- “The nose is fruity, elegant, mineral, racy and offers a fine freshness, a fine grain, a good definition, complexity and a “fresh gravels” side (terroir). It reveals notes of blackberry and small notes of strawberry, violet associated with slight touches of graphite as well as very slight hints of minted licorice, Cuban pepper, chocolate, and an imperceptible hint of nutmeg. The palate is elegant, well-balanced, racy, elegant and offers a beautiful freshness, a beautiful finesse of the grain, a mineral frame as well as silkiness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy cassis, blackberry and small notes wild red berries associated with small touches of violet, toasted, coffee, a touch of cocoa as well as discreet hints of iris, peony, and very discreet hints of tobacco (in the background). Tannins are elegant and mellow. There is a very discreet hint of varietal bitterness (pleasant!) and toasted bread on the finish / persistence.”*
- Vert de Vin