

# Château La Cabanne 2015

CSPC# 801711

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

## Appellation

Pomerol

## Classification

Grand Vin de Bordeaux

## Website

<http://www.ugcb.net/en/chateau-la-cabanne>

## General Info

Chateau La Cabanne takes its name from the tiny sector where the property is located, La Cabane. The estate is one of the older properties in the appellation, as it dates back to the mid 1700's. During the early 1900's, the property was purchased by the Audy family, who were negociants and vineyard owners in Pomerol with Clos du Clocher.

Chateau La Cabanne was sold to the Estager family in 1952. The Estager family was already well known in Bordeaux due to their active business as negociants in Libourne since 1912. Francois Estager manages everything that goes on with the estate today.

Much of Chateau La Cabanne is new. Although, renovations took place sadly, because circumstances forced them to. A huge fire destroyed much of their property in 2010. The tragic fire also destroyed the entire 2008 vintage, which was still in vat at the time.

## Vintage

While the 2014 vintage was saved by some late summer sunshine, in 2015 it was rain that vines desperately needed as a drought that had delivered half the normal rainfall ended in mid-August. A uniform flowering had led to a good fruit set and healthy bunches, but as temperatures soared in June and July the grapes stopped growing and skins thickened prematurely, leading to widespread anxiety. Significant rainfall then fell in August which helped to reinvigorate the vines and the sun returned until 12<sup>th</sup> September. That was the day that 'shuffled the pack' as Bill Blatch put it, as there was torrential rain in certain places that affected the potential of the harvest quality for those that received it. The rain fell heaviest in the Northern Medoc, the area that has more clay soils planted with Merlot than in the gravelly southern Medoc which Cabernet Sauvignon prefers. Margaux and Saint-Julien, Graves and most of the Right Bank escaped excessive rainfall. The rain came at a tricky moment for the earlier ripening Merlot, with humidity threatening botrytis rot. Some chateaux had to pick early as a result, while those unaffected went on to enjoy sunny days and cool nights for most days until the harvest was completed in mid-October. Those cooler temperatures helped to retain acidity as the vines reached full maturity.

## Vineyards

The 8.84 hectare vineyard of Chateau La Cabanne is planted to 94% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc. The terroir is clay with gravel soils. The vineyard of Chateau La Cabanne is in a great location, not far from Chateau Trotanoy and Chateau Clinet. On average, the vines are 30 years of age. The vineyard can be divided into 9 separate parcels, with their oldest parcel of vines being close to 40 years of age. Their best vines are placed just behind the chateau, where they have blue clay in the soil. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 6,500 vines per hectare

## Vinification

The wine of Chateau La Cabanne is vinified in 8 traditional, temperature controlled, small, conical shaped, stainless steel vats that vary in size from 70 hectoliters to 80 hectoliters.

Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. The wine is aged in 60% new, French oak barrels for close to 15 months before bottling. Chateau La Cabanne produces close to 2,500 cases per year.

## Tasting Notes

Rich purple garnet, close in the middle, purple shimmer outside. Deep bouquet, fine earthy notes interspersed with summer truffles, showing ripe plums in the second batch. Fleeshy on the palate, rich extract, sustainable finish. So, varies between classic and modern. A big La Cabanne!



<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau La Cabanne is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted braised and grilled dishes. mushrooms and pasta.
<b>Production</b>	3,000 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2018-2023
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>89 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - December 2017</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2018</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - April 2016</p> <p><b>16.5+ points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>88 points</b> - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016 (score only)</p> <p><b>85 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Warm and inviting in feel, with dark plum and blackberry confiture notes inlaid with subtle anise, singed alder and incense accents. Offers a broad and fleshy finish, but with a perfumy hint as well. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2018 through 2023. 3,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2015 La Cabanne is a blend of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. Proprietor François Estager told me that this was the first vintage were he has not used any sulfur (one of a few that are moving in that direction). Tasted on three occasions, the nose is offers brambly black fruit mixed with wild hedgerow and cold stone, certainly more sophisticated than recent vintages, with impressive purity. The palate is built upon fine grain tannin, well-judged acidity, and is nicely proportioned with the fruit, given lift by the new oak on the finish. I suspect that the aromatics were just having an off day; given the performance of the palate and knowing how fine this Pomerol can be, it should turn into a delicious, perhaps relatively approachable Pomerol that will give a couple decades of pleasure."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A dense and rich red with ripe fruit and plenty of muscles. Full body, round and juicy tannins and a flavorful finish. Enjoy the berry, orange peel and cedar undertones in the wine. Best ever? Needs at least four or five years to come together."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"A rich and round red with lots of dried fruits, spice and dark chocolate aromas and flavors. Full body, flavorful and rich. Classic styled red. Best ever from here?"</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc. Mid cherry red. The Merlot dominance is giving a slightly meaty note alongside the cedary dark fruit. Pretty dry and chewy on the palate, more severe than some. A bit abrupt on the finish but the juicy fruit is starting to escape. (JH)"</i></p> <p>- JH, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"Very dark, then rich and furry and sweet. Very sweet and charming. Intense and jewelley. Very seductive!"</i></p> <p>- JR, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"Rich and full with more purity and precision this year. Touch of opulence and firmness on the finish."</i></p> <p>- JL, Decanter.com</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<i>"Much better from bottle than it was in barrel, which is always a good thing. Right? Medium/full bodied, with</i>

*soft, elegant textures and a beautiful purity to the plums and cherries, that are perfectly blended with all the wet earth, thyme and cocoa you could ask for. The finish is soft, fresh and filled with ripe fruits."*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"A bowl of sun-ripened, hand-polished plums adorned with spice and cherry notes, this wine exhibits earthy complexities, soft tannins and freshness, making this the best vintage of La Cabanne I have ever tasted."*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"Mid depth; attractive fruit; clean; nice ripeness and good fruit qualities; easy and full on the palate with sweetness; not overworked in style and retains a sense of purity. Delicious. Best La Cabanne for years. [95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 14.8%]. Tasted UGCB 6/4/16. Drink 2022-2028. 90-92+"*

*- JW, winewordsandvideotapes.com*

*"Quite disappointing red given the favorable weather conditions. The toasty cedar notes dominate the palate and the tannins are quite dry in the finish. Perhaps better with 3-4 years of bottle age."*

*- JCL, asianpalate.com*

*"Made from 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, the 2015 Château La Cabanne offers lots of toasty oak and chocolate notes, as well as medium to full-bodied richness and depth on the palate. This charming, supple and nicely textured 2015 is already approachable yet will keep for 15+ years."*

*- Jeb Dunnuck*

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