

Château Berliquet 2016

CSPC# 749536

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St Emilion

Classification

Grand Cru Classé

Website

<http://www.chateau-berliquet.com/>

General Info

The name of Berliquet is one of the oldest Saint-Emilion vineyard, this one is already on the cards Belleyme in 1768. Château Berliquet is located on the Magdelaine plateau, a few hundred meters from the village of Saint-Emilion.

This is one of the oldest estates in the region, and Berliquet is included on the famous map drawn by Belleyme (an engineer working for King Louis XV) in 1768. In 1829, Berliquet was considered one of Saint Emilion's five grands crus. The estate currently belongs to SCEA Château Berliquet, managed by Patrick and Jérôme de Lesquen.

The classification of 1986 allowed the castle Berliquet to find the place it held among the great wines of Saint Emilion. The year 1996 marked a turning point in the life of the castle Berliquet. With the support of Patrick Valette, Patrick De Lesquen and his team do their utmost to establish the reputation of the castle Berliquet.

The castle Berliquet listens to determine the optimum time for harvest. Thus, the castle Berliquet puts all his skills to bring you the best of its soil.

Chateau Berliquet was sold to luxury goods empire Chanel Group in October 2017. Chanel, which is owned by the Wertheimer family, also owns Château's Canon and Rauzan-Ségla in Bordeaux, as well as St. Supéry Estate Vineyards and Winery in Napa Valley.

Winemaker

Nicolas Thienpont and Stephane Derenoncourt consult.

Vintage

2016 St. Emilion did not get off to a good start. Frankly, the initial part of the growing season started off wet, and cloudy. The massive amount of water in the vineyards and cooler temperatures set things back. Vignerons already knew 2016 Saint Emilion would be a late vintage. Bacchus must love Bordeaux because at the beginning of June, the rain stopped, the sun came out and the flowering took place during one of the few breaks in the rain. At least now, growers had a glimmer of hope. The quantity was going to be there, but would the quality come as well? The official start of summer changed everything. The rains were gone and sunny, warm summer days with the all-important shift to cold, nighttime temperatures arrived. Now, growers needed to decide how much, or even if they should deleaf. The vigneron that were careful not to remove too many leaves, for fear of too much sun made the right choice. Indian summer conditions continued. But as the summer wore on, the extreme dryness of the 2016 Saint Emilion vintage began to have an effect on the vineyards. Young vines shut down or died. The older vines were in danger of shutting down their growth cycle as well, to avoid starvation. But September 13 and September 14 brought about 44mm of rain, the perfect amount of moisture was delivered to the thirsty vines, and at the exact, opportune moment! The continued cold nighttime temperatures kept everything in check and growers were able to wait as long as they wished, for the grapes to achieve full maturity. Another shot of rainfall took place the night of September 30, or the morning of October 1, (depending on your point of view) and it was off to the races! The 2016 St. Emilion harvest conditions could not have been better. Some growers reported 125 days of hang time. Other produces reported spending 4 weeks picking their fruit. And why not as conditions were perfect with warm sunny weather and an extended growing season.

Vineyards

The 9 hectares of vines face south by southwest and border on several Premiers Grands Crus Classés. Château Berliquet is divided into three parts: the plateau (25% of the total area under vine) with clay soil on a limestone subsoil, the slope (50%) with predominantly clay soil, and the pied de côte or "foot of the slop" (25%), with a



Vineyards	high percentage of brown clay. Grape varieties consist of Merlot (70%), Cabernet Franc (25%), and Cabernet Sauvignon (5%). The average age of the vines is about 30 years.
Harvest	Hand harvested in small crates, picked between
Maturation	Since the takeover by Patrick Valette, winemaking has continued to progress. The length of macerated berries 20 to 30 days, the fermentation is conducted in small tanks under controlled temperature between 28 ° C and 30 ° C, followed by malolactic fermentation in French oak barrels. The wine is in monolithic limestone quarries located in the vineyard for about fifteen months in new barrels and 90%.
Tasting Notes	Dark, intense, beautiful color. Intense, fine, fruity and ripe nose. Delicious mouth, fleshy body, with a lot of sparkle in the flavor. Elongated and particularly pleasant profile. Long, tasty finish, with a touch of tenderness. Blend: 75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc.
Serve with	Perfect for cellaring; yet showing very well right now. Open this bottle at home and witness how the flavors evolve and mature over the course of an evening or bring a bottle to your favorite restaurant to savor with a charred steak or short ribs braised in a red wine sauce.
Production	3,333 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2034
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2019</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>16.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>88-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>92 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Direct, with a beam of plum and cherry paste flavors, wrapped in black licorice notes. Light fruitcake details score the finish. Fresh acidity provides some lift at the end. Drink now through 2027. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 3,333 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Enticing, with plum cake and raspberry preserve flavors that sport a lush edge, while anise and melted licorice fill in. Almost too easy in feel, but there's sneaky buried minerality and an echo of spice fueling the finish. Score range: 92-95"</i></p> <p>- JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2016 Berliquet (blended of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc) is a little mute to begin, opening out to expressive kirsch, black plums and black cherry compote scents plus nuances of unsmoked cigars and dried herbs. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has fantastic intensity and energy, with a firm frame of ripe, grainy tannins and a lively lift to the mineral-laced finish."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Berliquet, 25% Cabernet Franc and 75% Merlot, is the third vintage that has seen more emphasis on Cabernet Franc. It has an attractive bouquet with black cherries, a touch of crème de cassis and incense aromas, quite generous and pretty. The oak is nicely integrated here. The palate is medium bodied with succulent ripe tannin that exert a gentle but insistent grip in the mouth. There is a lovely saline seam in the mouth with a little chalkiness coming through on the aftertaste. This is a strong follow-up to the 2015 Berliquet, and the substance suggests that it will age well in bottle."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *“Love the combination of dark berries, sweet tobacco and wet earth here. Full-bodied, juicy and chewy with lots of tannins, solid fruit concentration and a medium finish. A blend of 75 per cent merlot and 25 per cent cabernet franc. Try in 2023.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is a really powerful red with fantastic density and richness. Silky and chewy tannins. Lots of chalky, crushed limestone character. Impressive. Let’s see what is better: the 2016 or 2015.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“91–93. Barrel Sample. Packed with spice, blackberry and black plum, this is generous, yet balanced by refined acidity and dense tannins that will give it a chance to age over the medium term. It is an apt and attractive reflection of the vintage.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Made by Nicolas Thienpont. Sweet and fragrant. Then some savoury notes. Really quite interesting! Good combo of freshness and ripeness. Doesn’t stand out from the crowd but at least it’s not distinctive for a bad reason.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“A great wine this year, showing the real quality of the vintage. Juicy black fruits and a well-controlled extraction combined with good acidity. Nicolas Thienpont and Stephane Derenoncourt consul”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Lilies and juicy plum scents are followed by a lushly textured, polished, sweet, fresh earthy mix of dark red pit fruits. The freshness and fruit really linger. It is going to be fun to compare the 2015 and 2016 Berliquet -- both strong years. I lean to the latter year, but I cannot decide which vintage is better. This wine was made from blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14.3% alcohol with a pH of 3.5.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2016 Berliquet is plump, juicy Saint-Émilien that will drink well with minimal cellaring. Black cherry, plum, chocolate, spice and new leather are all pushed forward. The natural richness and concentration of the vintage comes through in the wine's intense ripeness and tannin profile. It will be interesting to see if the 2016 softens over time. Today, the tannins are a bit coarse and rough around the edges. The blend is 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc. The relatively high percentage of Franc might explain the wine's showing today. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“From a site near Canon, just down from Beau-Séjour Bécot, the 2016 Château Berliquet is a plump, rounded, medium-bodied Saint-Emilion with classic red and black cherry fruits, hints of leafy herbs and earth, and a charming, balanced feel that’s very much in the style of the 2016 vintage. A blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc, brought up in 50% new oak, it will put a smile on your face any time over the coming 10-15 years.”

- Jeb Dunnuck
