
Château Canon 2005

CSPC# 785919

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

First Growth B. Premier Grand Cru Classe B.

Website

<http://www.chateaucanon.com/>

General Info

Chateau Canon is a highly esteemed wine production estate in the Saint Emilion appellation of Bordeaux, France. Originally referred to as Clos St-Martin, this top Bordeaux fine wine is ranked among the Premier Grand Crus Classe B, as designated by the classification of Saint Emilion wine.

Chateau Canon, located in the south west of Saint Emilion, is a neighbor to other renowned wine estates like Chateau Magdelaine, Chateau La Gaffeliere and Chateau Ausone. The vineyard surface measures around 21.5 hectares, with a grape selection of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc.

Since the early 20th century, Chateau Canon has been rated as one of the best Saint Emilion wines; in total, around 7,500 – 9,000 cases are produced each year, of both the first wine Chateau Canon as well as the second wine Clos de Canon.

Vineyards

Chateau Canon owns 34 hectares of vines. 24 of those hectares are used to produce Chateau Canon. The vineyard of Chateau Canon is located in the heart of the St. Emilion, on the top of the limestone plateau. The terroir is clay and limestone soils. Their best parcels are close to the chateau, near the cemetery and in front of the chateau, with views of the St. Emilion village. The vineyard of Chateau Canon is planted to 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. This shows a marked increase in the amount of Cabernet Franc in the vines. There has been a slow, on-going program to add more Cabernet Franc to the vineyard, which took over 15 years. And it is still ongoing! The vineyard is planted to a vine density that ranges from 5,500 to 6,500 vines per hectare. The newer plantings are all at the higher levels of density

Maturation

To produce the wine of Chateau Canon, fermentation takes place in temperatures ranging from 28 – 32 degrees Celsius in double walled, temperature controlled, stainless steel vats. Chateau Canon uses 24 vats ranging in size from 56 hectoliters to 98 hectoliters. This range of vat sizes allows the estate to vinify the wines on a parcel by parcel basis. Malolactic fermentation takes place in a combination of stainless-steel vats and French oak barrels. The wine is aged for an average of 18 months in 50% new, French oak barrels.

There is a second wine, Croix Canon. Starting with the 2012 vintage, the previous name for the second wine, Clos Canon was changed to Croix Canon. On average, the annual production of Chateau Canon now hovers at close to 6,000 cases per vintage. The production can vary up, or down, depending on the quality of the vintage.

Tasting Notes

Surely the best Canon made under the direction of John Kolassa. The wine shows a very beautiful color and an intense nose, fruity, fine, fresh and pure. Very structured on the palate, as well as very seductive too

Serve with

Chateau Canon is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Young vintages can be decanted for 2-3 hours. This allows the wine to soften and open its perfume. Older vintages might need very little decanting, just enough to remove the sediment. Chateau Canon is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Canon is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta.

Production

4,200 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2045



Score/Awards **94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008
88-91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2006
93+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #219 - June 28, 2015
90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 29, 2008
90-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 23, 2006
96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - February 15, 2015
95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 30, 2013
96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 30, 2009
96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - December 31, 1999
94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - December 31, 1999
90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate in China - March 20, 2010
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com (score only)
93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2008
90 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - August 2008
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2015
17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2009
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2006
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 14, 2016
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 28, 2015
90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 20, 2008
18.5 points - Michael Bettane, Decanter.com - April 2006
16.5 points - Farr Vintner - April 2006
19 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
2 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2009

Reviews *"Shows coffee, light toasty oak and milk chocolate. Full-bodied, with layered tannins and a woody, ripe fruit aftertaste. Rich, chewy and very powerful. Impressive. Gets better and better. Best after 2014. 4,200 cases made."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Blackberry, cherry and light toasted oak on the nose. Full, silky and pretty. Very balanced. So refined. Score range: 89-91"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"A strong effort from Château Canon, the 2005 offers a saturated ruby/purple color followed by beautiful floral notes intermixed with black raspberry, black cherry, and some crushed rock. Medium to full-bodied, with extraordinary elegance and precision, this stunner is showing better now than it was early in its life. This wine is set for another three decades of longevity."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"With a saturated deep ruby color, but less intense than some other St.-Emilions, this is probably the best Canon in a number of years. It is still made in a relatively austere, tannic style, but strong black cherry and loamy soil notes intermixed with some licorice and background subtle oak lead to a rich, elegant, stylish effort that is closed and in need of cellaring. Give this wine, which clearly reveals the minerality of this top-notch vineyard, at least 7-8 years of bottle age and drink it over the following 20-25 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"This is the finest Canon produced under the Chanel ownership and John Kolasa's administration. A striking minerality interwoven with black currant and flower aromas jump from the glass of this medium to full-bodied, dense, freakishly elegant effort. Possessing beautiful structure, good acidity, yet remarkable intensity as well as precision, this deep purple-colored 2005 will undoubtedly close down after bottling. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2025."

- RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews *“The Château Canon 2005 has a more complex nose than the Clos Fourtet tasted alongside. It is tightly wound at first with black cherries and dried violet petals, terracotta tiles and brown spices. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannins and very well-judged acidity. This is very harmonious in the mouth, nicely structured with great precision and persistence. There is a sense of reserve here, but it has a compelling complexity that will surely be enhanced with bottle age. It’s wines like these that remind you why this has such as devoted following that includes yours truly among its number.”*

- NM, Wine Journal

“This is a beautiful Canon! Extraordinarily pure and refined on the nose with bright black cherries and redcurrant fruit, superb minerality and clarity that is life affirming. The palate is medium bodied with a svelte entry, fine tannins and pure dark, almost broody fruit. This Canon remains in a closed, adolescent stage and will need several years in bottle. Tasted December 2012.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“Tasted single blind at Southwold. One of the great 2005 Saint Emilion wines. It has a supremely well-defined nose with black cherries, boysenberry and plum on the nose - nicely integrated oak and a touch of cold steel. Ethereal purity. The palate is ripe plummy on the entry, wonderful balance and purity, succulent and showy on the finish but not overbearing with notes of blueberry, violets and plum. Good length and poise. Sensuous and velvety smooth. Diving. Drink 2010-2025+ Tasted January 2009.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“A lucid ruby hue. There is still a lot of vanillary new oak on the nose, but it has incredible purity and focus: ripe blackberry, a touch of hedgerow and minerals but you can tell this is closing down. The palate is rich and compelling, full-bodied with a sensuous texture, a nubile young Saint Emilion. Pure red-berried fruits, a touch of orange-peel and a sorbet like sweetness on the finish that was so common in the best Burgundy 2005’s. A truly magnificent wine with immense potential. Drink 2015-2045. Tasted September 2007.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“The nose is quite muted at first. Then with aeration and wonderful fresh, vigorous nose of brambly black fruits, hawthorn and creme de cassis emerges with superb delineation. The palate has firm tannins balanced with sprightly ripe black fruits (blackberry leaf) with admirable acidity and crispness on the finish. Very long length. Very sophisticated and one of the best Canon's in a long time. Tasted April 2006.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc. Medium-deep garnet. Intense aromas of warm plums and blackberries plus pronounced spiciness - cinnamon, allspice and cardamom. Mocha. A faint (pleasant) whiff of VA. Medium to high acid, really nice concentration, medium+ level of fine tannins, long finish.”

- LPB, Wine Advocate in Asia

“Freshness and richness combine in this wine. There's a eucalyptus freshness that goes with the intense acidity. But alongside this is the dark, dense blackberry fruit that layers with the hints of wood. Keep this for six years before tasting, and then for many more.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Full ruby-red. Sexy, high-toned nose shows a very sweet maraschino cherry quality. Then juicy and energetic, with a vinosity that almost comes as a shock following the nose. The subtle flavors of currant, graphite and minerals linger nicely.”

- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Mid crimson. Sweet and perfumed. Savoury, edgy but informed more by vineyard than by winemaking tricks. Solid expressive stuff. 14% Drink 2020-2035”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews *“Relatively pale. Savoury (I thought perhaps it was Magdelaine). Racy and transparent and very different from most of these wines. Muscular and fine boned. No excess of flesh certainly! Lively finish. Very polished”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Dark purple with a pale rim. Thick, ripe aromas. Black cherry fruit - rather simple fruit gum flavours, then pretty fierce tannins on the finish. Dry fade on the finish. Not especially lively, though hedonistic in terms of intensity of fruit. Drink 2016-26”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Very ripe grapes evident on the nose, excellent body, velvety texture, intense flavour, nothing heavy or over-extracted, but for the moment not as individual as some other first growths. Classic, and for the moment understated. Drink from 2015.”
- MB, Decanter.com

“Young, fresh, vibrant and developing better than expected, the floral, earth, sweet cherry, licorice, crushed rock and spice characteristics are starting to really shine. Soft, silky, but on the crisp, fresh side, give this wine another 5 years for further development and softening.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“From 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, the wine is starting to show some lightening in the color. Truffle, cherry blossoms, tobacco and forest scents are already peeking through the cloak of sleep. Elegant and refined on the palate, the wine is soft, round and shows fresh red fruits, spice and stone in the finish. Still young, this will be even better in 10 years.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“With their 05, they announced they want to begin producing wines like they did in 82 and 89. Elegant, silky, good levels of richness and a slightly tannic spine with a good touch of minerals make this wine interesting to taste.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“There has been huge investment here recently in the vineyard (80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc) and chai by owners Chanel. This is a great property that dipped in form in the 90’s but is now right back up there under the management of John Kolasa of Rauzan Segla (formerly of Château Latour). An increasingly rare example of a traditional Saint Emilion from a great terroir that is being made to be enjoyed with food rather than score points at blind tastings. The opposite of Pavie! This is a beautiful St Emilion with impeccable balance and the finest wine we have tasted here since 1982. Crème de cassis and vanilla ice cream on the nose. On the palate there is lovely, ripe red cherry flesh with roasted spiciness and good underlying weight all controlled by a well-balanced fresh vein of acidity. RECOMMENDED.”
- Farr Vintners
