

Château Canon 2014

CSPC# 801686

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

72% Merlot, 28% 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.

Vintage

The winter of 2013/2014 was characterized by its dampness and very gentle temperatures, with the lowest number of days of frost (under 10) in the last decade. As a result, bud break was about two weeks earlier than average. The "green tip" stage was observed around 2 April. However, a drop in temperatures in mid-April and then again in mid-May, resulted in the growth cycle losing its advance. Rain over the spring period was slightly above average, resulting in a significant threat of fungal diseases (mainly mildew and botrytis). Flowering began very slowly in late May. The Merlot vines were in full bloom around 9 June; fortunately, a rise in temperatures enabled an acceleration of the end of the flowering period.

The summer of 2014 was characterized by regular rain, with frequent thunderstorms until the end of August. Temperatures remained generally moderate, except for a few days in the second half of July, which saw peaks of above 35°C. August was relatively cool, with temperatures 1 to 2 degrees below average. The *véraison* (when the grapes change colour) began in mid-July and was spread over more than a month (the Merlot had fully changed colour by 14/08). The real summer did not start until the last week of August, with a very welcome period of high pressure that continued until the harvests, enabling the grapes to reach perfect ripeness and offer the much hoped-for quality that the vintage had promised. No hint of water stress appeared until September and the foliage did not stop growing until relatively late.

The superb late summer brought a significant rise in temperatures and an increased difference between day and night-time temperatures. The quality of the vintage greatly benefited from this magical period between late August and October.

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 barrel. The wine is aged for 18 months in 70% new, French oak barrels, and 30% 1 yr-old barrels.
Tasting Notes	“The 2014 Château Canon gets my vote as the "wine of the vintage." I have followed this château for four decades and watched it transform from "pretty good" to excellent. The 2014 is outstanding. The wine offers a sophisticated and alluring aroma of black fruit, mineral, chalk, and forest floor. Packed and well-built on the palate, this is taking Saint-Émilion to another level. I tasted this wine amongst nearly 100 others, and it was still able to stand out amongst a group of superb bottles. (Tasted: January 27, 2017, San Francisco, CA)” – <i>Wilfred Wong, Wine.com</i>
Serve with	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.
Production	6,665 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2032
Score/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017</p> <p>90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - March 2017</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2015</p> <p>89-91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2015</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2018</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2018</p> <p>18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2017</p> <p>15.5 points - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - October 2016</p> <p>16.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015</p> <p>92 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2015</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 5, 2017</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 27, 2015</p> <p>92-94+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2015</p> <p>17+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2015</p> <p>90-94 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015</p> <p>91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015</p> <p>94+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin Vinous - March 2018</p> <p>92+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>17 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“A fresh, pure style, with lots of floral and black tea notes out front, followed by a tightly focused beam of red currant, plum and raspberry coulis flavors. The finish sports a mouthwatering chalky spine and lovely perfume that should develop more with time. For fans of minerality. Best from 2022 through 2032. 6,665 cases made.”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“Ripe but brightly defined, with damson plum, violet and bitter cherry notes, backed by a lively sanguine hint. The racy finish shows some flashy aspects, giving this good range. Score range: 90-93”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p>

Reviews

"The 2014 Canon has a very well-defined, precise bouquet with ebullient raspberry and wild strawberry scents infused with minerals. The aromatics here are utterly captivating. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin and very well-judged acidity. There is tension and poise to this Saint Emilion, gently fanning out with a delicate spicy finish that lingers long in the mouth. Though surely destined to be over-shadowed by the extraordinary 2015, this Canon deserves a berth in your cellar."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The Château Canon 2014 is a blend of 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc, the estate moving towards the latter in terms of its new plantings, which will possibly see 40% in 15- or 20-years' time. It was picked from 22 September until 6 October for the Merlot and three days later for the Cabernet Franc, matured in around 80% new oak. It has a glorious bouquet with great purity and delineation: raspberry, wild strawberry and small red cherries, very pure and harmonious. The palate is medium-bodied with sensual ripe, filigree tannin, just the right amount of salinity, precise and mineral-rich towards the exquisite, pure and "classic" finish. This is outstanding for the vintage – a sublime Château Canon that might dare rank alongside the 2009 and 2010. If this represents the valedictory Canon from John Kolasa, then what a way to bow out. "

- NM, Wine Advocate

"Intense aromas of minerals, chalk, bright cherries and stones. Full-bodied, tight and silky; very linear. Like a straight shot. Give it three to four years to soften. Vibrant is the word."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A wonderful Canon with fabulous finesse and class. Full-bodied yet refined and polished. It touches your senses. Shows Right Bank made excellent wines in 2014!"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"89–91. Barrel Sample. This wine is bright and fresh, showing only the lightest of tannins and crisp, zingy acidity. Red currants cut right through the palate giving it levity and suggesting that the wine will develop quickly."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"72% Merlot, 28% Cabernet Franc. Still quite blue but less intense colour than the 2015. Mild, muted nose without real insistence. Mild mannered. Everything in the right place and just a little sinewy."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Tasted blind. Splits the difference between all these styles: composed and mouth-filling. A bit forward but satisfying. Ripe but not heavy. Meaty. Well done! Long."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"If anything, slightly paler mid crimson than the Croix Canon 2014! Very classy nose that's already beautifully integrated. Very polished. Though there is no shortage of tannin underneath. So very, very different from most of its peers in the appellation. Long."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Closed nose, sweet oak palate, dry and fine-grained tannin. Slight greenness to the fruit. Has a sense of under ripeness overall - the flavours seem curtailed - especially compared with neighbouring properties from the same vintage. (RH)

- RH, JancisRobinson.com

"Mid to deep crimson. Full, opulent nose. Sweet start and then a little pinched on the end – there isn't the broad sweep of fruit on the palate that was suggested by the nose. Correct but very introvert. One of the more youthful St-Émilions."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews *“Predominantly Merlot from the plateau. Continues in a classical, elegant mould. Pure and fragrant. Refined tannins and texture. Lovely freshness and length. Structured for ageing but guided by the philosophy of drinkability. Drink: 2022-2034”*

- JL, Decanter.com

“On the fresh, bright, mineral driven side of the style range, with a floral, crushed rock, fennel and cherry core of fruit and spice. Give this at least 5-7 years to come together.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Black cherry, licorice, tobacco, crushed stone and wet earth on the nose, this wine has a fresh, silky, soft, sweet, red berry center, finishing with freshness and lively, ripe cherries. Blended with 72% Merlot with 28% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 14% alcohol with a pH of 3.7 and is aging in 70% new, French oak barrels.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Mid depth; healthy looking; earthy purple at edge; purity; ripe fruit; deeper; some spicy notes from the oak and the fruit; blackcurrant and plum tones come through on the palate; perfume/floral qualities; nice clean pure fruit on the entry; just how I like it; elegance and harmony; not gritty or chewy; complete; nice finish; spicy on the end; trace of alcohol on the finish. [72% Merlot, 28% Cabernet Franc, 14% alc, 70% new oak]. Tasted at Canon 3 April 2015. Drink 2022-2030+ 92-94+”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“There has been huge investment here recently in the vineyard (which is planted 75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc) and chai by owners Chanel. The Chateau itself is now enjoying a substantial make-over. This is a great property that made fabulous wines in the past but dipped in form during the 1990's. It is now right back up there as one of the very best of all the Saint Emilion Chateaux. Canon is an increasingly rare example of a traditional Saint Emilion from a great terroir - situated at the heart of the plateau - that is being made to be enjoyed with food rather than score points at blind tastings. It was often under-estimated in the past by Robert Parker in favour of the "blockbuster" neighbours. The wines here always display elegance and class which is not something that can be said about some of the more manufactured "modern" efforts in Saint Emilion. 72% Merlot, 28% Cabernet Franc, with a yield of 36hl/ha. 18 months in 70% new oak. Medium-deep ruby. Lovely purity on the nose. Very floral, with delicate cherry fruit. Very precise. Silky texture and lovely balance with poise and elegance. A delicious fleshy red fruit character with smooth and silky tannins with refreshing acidity and definition. Velvety finish with red cherry, plum and sweet vanilla. Very nicely done.”

- Farr Vintners

“Perfumed and fragrant the nose has charm, the black fruits overlaid with violets. The fruit is sweet the mid palate has depth richness cassis and blackberry. Fresher at the back a lovely balance bright with well-handled tannins the finish slightly richer the fruit sweet. 2022-36”

- Derek Smedley MW

“Subtle plum and dark berry fruit with a hint of spices. Not very complex, quite forward and harmonious. The flavors are layered and gentle with polished tannins. Approachable young - enjoy in 5 years.”

“The 2014 Canon is delicate, polished and restrained, with striking aromatic presence, silky tannins and exceptional length, all of which reinforce an impression of total finesse. Not an obvious wine, the 2014 will need time to fully come together and perhaps flesh out a little more. Even so, it is quite pretty and expressive in the early going. This is the last vintage overseen by John Kolasa, who, among other things, laid a foundation at Canon that sets the property up brilliantly for the future. Tasted three times.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2014 Canon is impeccable. Silky tannins convey an impression of total finesse as this round, creamy St.-Emilion shows off its considerable charms. Sweet floral and spice notes add lift to the red cherry and red currant flavors. The 2014 possesses marvelous energy and drive, yet those elements are channeled into a polished, totally harmonious wine.”

- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2014 Canon has an intense bouquet with blackberry, raspberry, briary and light tobacco scents, gradually gaining more precision with aeration yet remaining classic in style. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, a fine bead of acidity, harmonious and poised with a structured yet precise finish that is pure class. Perhaps you might argue that it lacks some charm at this early stage but at the same time, I am fascinated to see how it will age. Tasted blind at the annual Southwold tasting.”*
- NM, Vinous

“While a step back from the 2015, the 2014 Château Canon is still a strong effort that shows the hallmark elegance of the 2014 vintage. Black raspberries, cherries, exotic spices and lots of floral notes emerge from this medium to full-bodied, extraordinarily elegant, seamless Saint-Emilion that shines for its complexity and nuance more than for power and richness. Drink this beauty anytime over the coming 15-20 years.”
- Jeb Dunnuck
