
Château Canon 2015

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

2015 St. Emilion has it all going on. Frankly, I could sum this article up rather quickly by just saying, "2015 Saint Emilion Rocks!"

Across the board, 2015 St. Emilion was lucky. Vineyards in the cool clay soils that harvested late made stunning wines. But so, did the estates on the limestone plateau, in the gravel soils and properties on the more sandy terroir were also quite successful. That does not mean buyers do not need to be choosy. Some estates pushed the pedal to the metal a bit too far. There are overly extracted wines, and wines that are aging in too much new oak. But generally speaking, the level of quality here is homogenous. 2015 St. Emilion is the product of a hot, dry summer, with drought conditions. April was hot. June was hotter. July was scorching, and the lack of water exacerbated those conditions. What made this unique was that this level of heat is usually experienced later in the growing season. That was not the case with 2015. Fortunately, the rains in August arrived in the nick of time, providing enough nourishment to allow the growth cycle to continue.

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.

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 With some herb and spice notes overlaying a lush but not forced core this is a calm wine with some latent power and deep, dark depth. The oak is under control and the fruit is incredibly focused, resulting in a long-lived style which shuns the flamboyance of many and remains true to its terroir.

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 7,500 cases made.

Cellaring Drink 2020-2045

Score/Awards **97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018
94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017
94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016
96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018
100 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - March 2018
98-100 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2016
97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018
96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2015
17.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2016
100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018
99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017
98-100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
96-98 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016
17.5+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2016
92-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
100 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
96-98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
98+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017
93-95 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016
18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016
17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016
18.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016

Reviews *"A plush, inviting style, with warmed fig and plum sauce notes taking the lead, picking up swaths of cocoa, tobacco and roasted alder along the way. Features plenty of pumping bass, but if you pay attention, there's a laser of chalky minerality driving the finish. When the baby flesh drops away, this will sail in the cellar for some time. Best from 2022 through 2045. 7,500 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"An electric wine, with a racy beam of violet and cassis, featuring scintillating spice notes and a beautiful chalky thread on the long finish. As stunning as in the initial barrel tasting. The stylistic shift at this estate is in full swing with this vintage, and it's paying off big time. --Non-blind Canon vertical (December 2016). Score range: 94-97"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This delivers a pretty awesome display of blueberry, plum and raspberry fruit, both in its purity and depth, while the finish is carried by a very refined minerality. Large-scaled for sure, but seriously pure. Score range: 94-97"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Composed of 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc and aged for 18 months in 70% new and 30% one-year-old barrels, the 2015 Canon is boldly fruited with blackberry preserves, black cherry compote, fruitcake, mocha and plum preserves with suggestions of Indian spices, licorice and black olives. Full-bodied and packed with ripe, rich dried berries and exotic spice layers, it has a firm, slightly chewy structure and just enough freshness (the pH is 3.78), finishing long and savory. Give it another 2-3 years of cellaring to soften its edges and allow its flavor spectrum to fully emerge and drink it over the next 20 to 25+ years."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

Reviews *"The 2015 Canon was a benchmark wine that seemed to revitalize this historic estate. I was crossing my fingers that it would not disappoint in bottle and I am glad to say that it delivers the goods. It has a very intense*

bouquet (just as it showed out of barrel) with laser-like precision offering wild strawberry, raspberry preserve, wet limestone and hints of truffle. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, clean and fresh with pure black and red fruit whose every atom appears infused with minerals. The mouth is tingling long after the wine has exited, and your brain is thinking...when is the next sip coming? It is frankly heads and shoulders above almost every Saint Émilien this vintage, to reaffirm, a benchmark for this historic estate that will give pleasure to many over the coming years. Astonishing. Anticipated maturity: 2021 - 2050."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Canon is going to be a benchmark for this historic estate. A blend of 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc, it was cropped at 42 hl/ha between 14-25 September and 30 September until 2 October respectively. The alcohol level is an average 14.5% with a pH 3.78, matured for 18 months in 70% new barrels (except for one barrel of Cabernet Franc that they will bottle separately - just to see). Lucid in color, it has an intense bouquet that exudes extraordinary purity with scents of raspberry, wild strawberry, limestone and violets. It makes a huge impression. The palate is medium-bodied and multilayered with vivacious red and black fruit infused with minerals. The acidity lends the tension here from start to finish, but what this Canon possesses unlike the dozens of other vintages that I have tasted, is an overarching structure that will see it age in similar fashion to past classics such as the 1929, 1947 and 1964. It lingers very long in the mouth, the oak just surfacing a little on the aftertaste, although that will be subsumed with time. This estate has been in the ascendant in recent vintages under winemaker John Kolasa and now Nicolas Audebert, together with a benevolent growing season, has elevated Canon to a level that few could have predicted."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"Seductive. The nose draws you in deep: It's like staring into a well of pristine dark cherries, dark plums, blackberries and mulberries. All the oak is perfectly subsumed. The palate's flawless with immense depth and power and it's so balanced as to appear to float. Immaculate fresh dark-berry and plum flavors. Silky and deep, ribbon-like finish. Perfect. Best from 2022."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is the greatest red ever produced here, even better than the great wines of the 1950s and 1960s. Full body yet tight and reserved. Superbly refined tannins. Yet rich and flamboyant. Fruity yet salty and minerally. Electric finish. Stone and chalk undertones. A wonder of a young wine."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This estate, now performing on top form, has produced a rich, dense wine. Swathes of black fruits underline the generous structure and intensity. At first taste, the tannins are soft but that turns out to be an illusion. The tannins are just richly cushioned within the beautiful fruit. Drink from 2024"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"96-98. Barrel Sample. Made from beautiful Merlot that's spiced by a quarter of Cabernet Franc, this is a finely balanced wine. It has wonderful juicy fruit that is dark and structured. The wine has power along with style, showing good integration already rich and tense with tannins. This will develop into a very fine wine."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"72% Merlot, 28% Cabernet Franc. About 2/3 of the wine will go into the grand vin. 30% second-year barrels. 70% new.

Sample 1, from a new Taransaud barrique: Very dark crimson. Very complete and juicy on the nose. Very rich and glorious! Luscious and spicy. Deep and rich. Quite savoury and structured. Very fine and tight. Dry finish. Not as much fun to taste in isolation. Doubtless a useful ingredient. Slightly drying end.

Sample 2, from a new St Martin barrique: Very dark crimson. Very sweet and floral on the nose. Ripe and round. Lots to enjoy here! Real lift and very sophisticated. So long!

Sample 3: And finally, an official sample at the château: strong hint of iodine on the nose. Very luscious and supple at first and then with massive velvety tannins and almost dried-fruit sweetness and concentration. Bravo!

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

“Magnificent wine – the best ever under the Chanel regime. Beautifully fragrant with dark fruit, spice and floral notes. Plentiful but fine tannins provide a velvety texture and there’s great persistence on the finish. Elegant but with a powerful tannic frame and all the freshness of the limestone terroir.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Wow! No, make that a double wow, this tremendous wine has it all. That is, if you like silky, sensuous textures, layer after layer of deep, perfectly ripe, black and red fruits, a nose that blends just picked scents of flowers, cherries, tobacco, crushed rocks and wet earth aromatics. I am sticking with my initial descriptor here, this is the ultimate, intellectual, sex bomb. I am happy to have this stunner in my cellar.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Still on the right road to triple digit stardom, this debut vintage under the direction of Nicolas Audebert rocks! The wine is firming up a bit, adding more structure and nuances, while maintaining the wall of perfectly ripe fruit, sexy textures and polished tannins. Early buyers that took our advice on this one are sitting on liquid gold!”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The first vintage under the direction of Nicolas Audebert is a knockout! The color is dark and the nose complex. Its floral, stone, boysenberry and blackberry liqueur profile commands your attention. On the palate, this wine is dense, thick, concentrated and focused on layers of fat, sweet, velvet-wrapped fruits. There is an astonishing level of density coupled with length, minerality and purity of fruit in this wine. It’s made with such a high level of artisanship and style, it’s hard not to want to drink it right now! The best way to sum up this wine: it’s an intellectual, sex bomb! Angelina Jolie meets Madame Curie. Made from a blend of 73% Merlot and 27% Cabernet Franc.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Very healthy looking in the glass; deep and purple at edge; legs; mineral tones, some chalk and wet rocks; opens up in the glass aromatically; perfumed, ripe and full; lovely blackcurrant and black cherry tones; layered and enticing; real finesse; beautifully balanced on the palate with lots of matter and substance; length. Spellbinding Canon. [72% Merlot, 28% Cabernet Franc, 42hl/ha, 70% new oak; 14.5% alc]. Drink 2022-2040. 96-98+”

- 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 has recently enjoyed 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. New director Nicolas Audebert has come in from Krug via South America. The 2015 blend is 72% Merlot, 28% Cabernet Franc. Deep purple colour. Violets, blueberries and cherries on this incredibly lifted and aromatic notes. The palate is fresh with acidity but intense with incredibly vibrant blue and black fruits. The tannins are silky smooth and very refined, drawing out a graphite mineral edge which balances superbly with the sweet vanilla and lightly smoky notes from the new oak. This has a long and well-defined, elegant finish. A really superb wine again this year, which defines the balanced, lifted style of St Emilion that we love at Farr Vintners.”

- Farr Vintners

“Ripe fruit on the nose the start of the palate is sweet with depth of fruit in the middle. The velvety richness is balanced by bilberry and bramble freshness but it fills out at back opulent and rich, yet the finish has a mineral edge. 2022-35”

- Derek Smedley MW

“From the very beginning, the 2015 Canon has made an eloquent case for itself as one of the wines of the vintage. Multiple tastings from bottle only confirm what several early tastings hinted at: the 2015 Canon is simply extraordinary in every way. Sumptuous and exotic, with no hard edges and exceptional balance, the 2015 grabs hold of all the senses and never lets up. A rush of red fruit intermingled with floral notes, spice and smoke notes effortlessly runs up the wine’s vertical structure as the 2015 thrills with every twist and turn. The 2015 Canon is a rare wine that is both hedonistic and intellectual - well, maybe it is a bit more hedonistic-leaning. It doesn't matter. Don't miss it. This 2015 is masterpiece from General Manager Nicolas Audebert and his team at Canon. (AG”

- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2015 Canon is one of the undisputed stars of the vintage. An utterly mesmerizing wine, Canon has it all; alluring aromatics; towering structure, fabulous depth, and exceptional balance. The aromas and flavors are remarkably nuanced for such a big wine. Waves of graphite, exotic spices, smoke, herb, licorice, violets and crème de cassis appear at every angle as this utterly profound Saint-Émilion shows off its pedigree. So far, I have tasted the 2015 four times. It has never been anything less than sensational. Quite simply, Canon is one of the few truly must-have wines of 2015. It is every bit that memorable.”*
- AG, Vinous

“One of the wines of the vintage is the 2015 Château Canon which is 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc that spent 18 months in 70% new French oak. It offers a perfect example of the old saying “iron fist in a velvet glove” and boasts gorgeous notes of black cherries, framboise, spring flowers and exotic spices. All these lead to a full-bodied, ultra-pure, seamless 2015 that marries incredible richness and depth with a sense of purity, elegance, and weightlessness that needs to be tasted to be believed. This multi-dimensional, seamless 2015 needs forgotten for 4-5 years and will keep for three decades or more. Bravo! 98+”
- Jeb Dunnuck
