
Château Canon 2016

CSPC# 814289

750mlx6

14.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

74% Merlot, 26% 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 southwest 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.

Winemakers

Nicolas Audebert

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 vignerons 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 producers reported spending 4 weeks picking their fruit. And why not as conditions were perfect with warm sunny weather and an extended growing season.

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 soil. 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

Harvest

picked from 22 September until 10 October at 45 hectoliters per hectare.



Vinification/ 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	This has a glorious nose, focused fruit and is all in lacy delicacy, subtle, graceful, and pure with raspberry and earthy notes - it is just a magnificent balance of freshness, acidity, and fruit. The fruit is also darker and deeper in expression, and not quite so open, but the class and elegance here is extremely striking and it really is one of the top wines of the vintage.
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	6,667 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2055
Score/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>95-98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>98+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>97-99 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>98 points/Editor's Choice - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2018</p> <p>18.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>98 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>98 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>17.5+ points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>92-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This delivers a pretty serious ball of fruit, with a mix of raspberry, blueberry and black currant flavors providing range, while sweet tobacco notes and chalky minerality impart texture and detail. There's a fresh savory echo on the finish. Much less reliant on toast than most of its peers. Best from 2022 through 2037. 6,667 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Vivacious and integrated already, with plum, raspberry and cassis notes matched by a bright floral hint and a flash of rooibos tea. Refined minerality through the finish. Ample depth, but it is defined by its purity and drive. Score range: 95-98"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"2016 Canon is medium to deep garnet-purple in color, and—WOW—it opens with the most stunning perfume of violets, red roses and kirsch, giving way to a core of black cherry preserves, chocolate box, licorice, warm plums and Chinese five spice plus an earthy waft of underbrush. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is completely filled with expressive, perfumed black berry layers accented by lively red fruits and exotic spices, supported by impressively fine-grained tannins and fantastic tension, finishing very long with jaw-dropping energy. Tasted three times, I had one opportunity to taste the 2015 and 2016 Canon side by side. While I love the bold, rich, seductive nature of the 2015, this 2016 kicks it up a notch in terms of polish, precision, depth and persistence. Most notably, the superbly ripe, exquisitely fine-grained tannins on this 2016 bring to the table a whole other level of sophistication. Bravo!"</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2016 Canon makes it a double slam-dunk for head winemaker Nicolas Audebert and his team, as it is the second of two ethereal wines that will put the estate right at the top of the Saint Emilion tree. This year is a blend of 74% Merlot and 26% Cabernet Franc picked from 22 September until 10 October at 45 hectoliters per hectare. It delivers 14.02% alcohol and an IPT of 65. Matured in 65% new oak, it has a compelling bouquet with intense black cherry and blueberry fruit, a tincture of oyster shell, all with exquisite definition. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannin, and again, there is stunning, almost ineffable precision. It is attired in a seamless texture with real density yet weightlessness on the finish. The persistence on the aftertaste is extraordinary. I composed this entire tasting note after spitting out the wine, but I can still feel my mouth tingling now. The 2015 was magnificent, but could this 2016 surpass that? "The 2016 is more Canon in style, more classic," commented Nicolas, and he could be right, although intuition tells me that the 2015 might be a hair's breadth better. I would not refuse either if they were opened before me."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"Complex aromas of blackberries, iodine, oyster shell and wet earth. Ever so perfumed. Full-bodied, yet reserved and tight with very silky tannins that are energized and minerally. Takes off at the end. The freshness lifts it."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Very intense aromas already of pure berry, mineral and spice. Full body yet refined and tight with gorgeous linear and refined character. Beautiful and classic beauty."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This wine is impressive both from its structure and its fruit, one of the stars of the vintage in Saint-Émilion. It has great weight, concentration as well as style and aging potential. The ripe fruit shines through the structure, promising an elegant maturity. Drink from 2025."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"A powerful, concentrated and super ripe wine, this is major. The wine's juicy black-plum fruit balances its dark tannins and density. You can sense the impressive future for this structured wine. (RV)"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright crimson, and rather floral and haunting on the nose. Very polished and distinctive. Rather brave to go out on a limb like this and make an almost Burgundian wine. Masses of pleasure and refreshing opulence. Real peacock's tail on the end. Super-clean."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Mid concentration of crimson. Rather reticent but sophisticated nose. Not powerful but nicely judged. Dry finish and no excess sweetness. Very long. Pretty impressive. Subtle and appetising."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Lively dark crimson. Very smart and complex on the nose - distinctively different. Really focused and rich but not sweet. Real lift and drive. So complete! Opulent on the nose but nothing remotely simple and sweet. Throbs with excitement."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"This vintage delivers a beautiful, classic style of Canon that is right at the top of what St-Émilion can offer. Compact and dense without being hard, it is finely structured both in terms of the texture of the cassis and blackberry fruits and in the shape of the tannins. It demonstrates a clear minerality and a feather-brushing of violet notes. This is less obviously sexy than 2015 but is a wine that offers a masterclass in what limestone terroir can convey - salinity, succulence, hints of austerity and reserves of power. I re-tasted it a few times, and the main take away of what to expect is layers of flavour and huge persistency. The details of how they worked the vintage are an added bonus to understanding how they achieved this result. When it started getting hot and dry, they left all green cover on the vines, and did no green harvesting except tidying up in September. The result was loading the vines to avoid over-concentration. 72% Merlot and 28% Cabernet Franc, with the final blend aged in 70% new oak. 3.6pH. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050"

- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews

"The second vintage for Nicolas Audebert is another home-run! With a deep attention-grabbing color, the nose offers its blend of black cherry, plum, licorice, flowers, salt and stone, with just a bit of coaxing. Fresh, bright, ripe red fruits are all over the place, giving you a sexy, sensual, sweet, fruit filled finish."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Crisp, fresh, vibrant, lively red fruits freshly picked flowers and stone are the first things you notice. On the palate, the wine is full bodied, silky, concentrated and precise, with lift and energy in the finish. This will be age worthy and require 15 years or so before offering its ample charms."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Inkjet black purple in color, you have depth, length and concentration. There is a waterfall of flawlessly ripe fruit and a quarry of crushed rocks with licorice and flowers. This is a wealthy wine, infused with lushness, opulence, density and intensity. The finish lingers, owing to the layers of ripe fruit and glycerin. The wine was made from a blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14.2% alcohol with a pH of 3.6."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"A real terroir wine that I prefer to the 2015 is how maître de chai, Stéphane Bonnasse, describes his majestic 2016. You'd expect a wine owned by Chanel to be perfumed and that's the case here on this scented, refined, beautifully balanced cuvée, showing refined oak, velvety tannins and flavours and texture that are as close as St Emilion gets to great Burgundy. 2024-36"

- TA, timatkin.com

"The nose here is all about purity. Cherries, plums, light vanilla and spice with a little incense. The palate is silky and extremely refined - the precision of the fine-grained, ripe, yet persistent tannins is second to none and should give both approachability and ageability to the wine. Sweet and savoury in equal measure, the cherries, savoury spices, smoke and cedar are all layered wonderfully through to a creamy, yet floral and lifted finish. Another fantastic performance from this Chateau that is the very definition of the fresh and harmonious style of St Emilion that has become rare in the race for extraction and power over balance."

- Farr Vintners

"The nose has fragrant charm spring violets; the palate has a balance of fresh fruits bramble and richer sweeter cassis and black cherry. The tannins are ripe silky integrated the back palate has depth rich fruit the finish is lighter with fresh fruit long and stylish. 2025-38"

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2016 Canon has the unenviable task of following the astonishing 2015, and it does a damn good job, even if it doesn't reach the same ethereal heights. There is a pleasing strictness and poise on the nose; this is less immediate than the 2015, yet intellectual, a Canon that expresses its terroir rather than tons of fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, a fine bead of acidity, a smooth texture and a slightly savory but persistent finish, which feels a little plusher than the 2015, implying that this might drink a little earlier. But there is unquestionably immense breeding locked into this rejuvenated Saint-Émilion, which is now firmly ensconced among the top-flight Right Banks. Drink 2021-2050"

- NM, Vinous

"The 2016 Canon is a wine of pure sophistication and polish. A rush of red cherry, plum, mint, rose petal and blood orange gives the 2016 its sexy, racy personality. Underlying veins of minerality and salinity provide finesse and persistence. In 2016, Canon is pure class. It doesn't reach the stratospheric level of the 2015, but that is too much to ask in a vintage that presented significant challenges in the vineyard. Tasted four times."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2016 Château Canon is another beautiful wine from this estate, made in a more streamlined, elegant style compared to the richer, sexier 2015. Gorgeous notes of blueberries, cassis, spring flowers, white truffle, and crushed rock nuances all come soaring from the glass and it has notable intensity as well as complexity. Medium to full-bodied, with vibrant acidity, ultra-fine tannins, and a straight, silky texture, I don't think it matches the 2015 on concentration, but it's perfectly balanced and has a texture to die for. It needs a good 4-5 years of bottle age (or more) and it's going to be long-lived. Tasted three times. 2023 - 2053."

- Jeb Dunnuck
