

# Château Canon 2017

CSPC# 814289

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

77% Merlot, 23% 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.

**Winemakers**

Nicolas Audebert. Thomas Duclot consultant.

**Vintage**

Sandwiched between a pair of excellent vintages, 2017 has always been in danger of becoming an overlooked crop. It will be remembered unfavorably for the great frost that devastated many vineyards. The first such frost since 1991, the 2017 wave was at least a little more selective. While it ravaged the less auspicious terroirs, it left the best plots on the plateau of Pomerol, the high ground in St Emilion and the vineyards closest to the Gironde unscathed. Apart from this freakish weather in April, the growing season wasn't that remarkable. The water table was high after spring and early summer rains, then there was a prolonged drought, but the vines were not tested with excessive heat, and there was sufficient moisture in the soils to sustain photosynthesis. So, for those who survived the frost, 2017 was a relatively straightforward year.

**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. 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 the Merlot from 4-21 September and the Cabernet Franc from 22-27 September at 42hl/ha.

**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**

Canon 2017 takes us on a sensory journey of crisp fruit and aromas of garrigue scrubland. It starts with an explosion of fruit, blackcurrants, blueberries and cherries, that then gives way to a spring-like freshness. The nose reveals notes of broom and rosemary, like a walk through a field of flowers and a forest of eucalyptus. On the palate, we find a whole raft of delicate, smooth flavours. The rich, detailed texture stretches out like Ariadne's thread, leading to a mineral, chalky finish, typical of the wines from the limestone plateau.



**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** 6,000 cases made

**Cellaring** Drink 2022-2038

**Score/Awards** **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020

**Review Only** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2018

**96+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020

**94-96 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018

**95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020

**94-95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018

**95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2020

**93-95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018

**17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2019

**16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2018

**17 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018

**95 points** - Decanter.com - March 2020

**94 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018

**94- points** - Decanter.com - April 2018

**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018

**89-91 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018

**16.5+ points** - Farr Vintner - April 2018

**90-93 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018

**95 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020

**92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2018

**97 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2020

**93-96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018

**97 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020

**94-97 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018

**17.5+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018

**92 points** - Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants - April 2018

**Reviews** *"A subtle savory note leads the way, backed by ample cassis, plum and black cherry fruit aromas and flavors. Tobacco and dark earth details fill in on the finish, which shows solid cut and drive. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2022 through 2038"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"A very pretty, slightly high-pitched version, featuring sleek cherry, cassis and damson plum fruit racing through, picking up light savory and mineral notes. The minerality blooms through the finish, with a floral gilding adding a sparkly effect on the long, unencumbered finish."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Canon bursts from the glass with expressive notions of baked black cherries, kirsch, plum preserves and black raspberries plus hints of red roses, Ceylon tea, black olives and fertile loam. Medium-bodied, the palate is wonderfully elegant and refined, with a soft, finely grained texture and seamless freshness, finishing long and mineral laced. The blend is 77% Merlot and 23% Cabernet Franc, and it was aged for 18 months in French oak, 50% new."*  
LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The deep purple-black colored 2017 Canon offers-up intense notes of crushed blackberries, black cherries and warm cassis with touches of fertile loam, yeast extract, beef drippings and iron ore plus a waft of garrigue. Medium to full-bodied with great freshness and firm, rounded tannins, it's very earthy in the mouth, finishing long and mineral laced. A very serious wine, it is also fun, bright and vivacious and should age impressively. All the 2017 blends have been finished and the wines have been aging in barrel since February 2018. "2017 was a special year, in most people's minds a tough year because of the frost, but in between that parenthesis of the frost and rain, it was a great year," commented winemaker/technical director Nicolas Audebert. "There was no blockage in the vines (vine shutdown), compared to 2015 and 2016. We started harvest on September 4 and finished on September 22. We like volume with no feeling of volume, which is what you get in 2017."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

- Reviews** *“Extremely perfumed with blackcurrants, flowers, gunmetal, gunpowder and blackberries. Full-bodied, tight and reserved. The tannins are so tightly knit and just run through the center. Needs at least three or four years to open. A blend of 77% merlot and 23% cabernet franc. Better after 2023.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “This is very focused and fresh with limestone and crushed-stone character. Medium to full body, integrated tannins and a salty finish. Shows lots of minerality already. Umami licorice undertones.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Dark and dense, this is a massive wine. Big tannins are paralleled by concentrated blackberry fruits to give a wine that is both juicy and impressively rich. Structure and power are likely to be tamed as the wine ages. Drink from 2024.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “93–95. Barrel Sample. Rich and densely concentrated, this wine has a generous character. It is not hugely structured, but does have great black fruits and a warm, rounded character, so it will develop relatively quickly. Drink from 2022.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Pretty dark crimson. Lightly toasty nose with some floral notes – pretty! Not forced but with some rigour. There’s a little note of sweet oak here but it should dissipate. Good balance. A more serious, complete 2017 than many.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Pale to mid crimson with an evolving rim. Neat, appetising. Very nicely put together. Dry finish. No under ripeness. Just a lovely, early maturing claret. Bravo! One of the best 2017s? 17/20 points.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Deep crimson. Sweet dark plums and a touch of vanilla. Lovely pure black fruit that sings, if quietly for now. Silky and elegant. Refined and just slides over the palate to a very long finish. Subtle beauty. Drink 2022-2032”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “Another successful year for Canon; not as voluptuous as in 2016 or 2015, but it has a wonderful salinity and a crisp, fresh curl to the fruit. They aim for crystalline flavours, vibrant fruit and a sense of forward motion, and for me it has that again this year. The flavours of blueberries, blackberries and soft, smoky almonds are drawn out through the palate, and by the time it has finished you are ready to go again. It has an austerity that is overridden by the juice, not quite overriding the vintage, but it’s a delicious wine that again showcases the beauty of limestone. 50% new oak. Thomas Duclot is consultant here, and it really is a great year for the estates that he works with. Drinking Window 2025 – 2040”*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Canon remains pretty austere at this stage with the Cabernet Franc dominating. It’s not as immediately seductive as some years, but you can feel the bedding down of the tannins, restraining the elegance and floral minerality but not hiding it completely. Sit with it in the glass and you start to feel a wine that rises above the vintage. This is one of the very few where you feel that in 10 years’ time it will clearly be better than it is today, most do not have that grace and confidence. I love the juicy finish here. 50% new oak. Drinking Window 2025 – 2040”*  
- Decanter.com
- “Another successful year for Canon; not as voluptuous as in 2016 or 2015, but it has a wonderful salinity and a crisp, fresh curl to the fruit. They aim for crystalline flavours, vibrant fruit and a sense of forward motion, and for me it has that again this year. The flavours of blueberries, blackberries and soft, smoky almonds are drawn out through the palate, and by the time it has finished you are ready to go again. It has an austerity that is overridden by the juice, not quite overriding the vintage, but it’s a delicious wine that again showcases the beauty of limestone. 50% new oak. Thomas Duclot is consultant here, and it really is a great year for the estates that he works with.”*  
- Decanter.com

## Reviews

*“With a dark red-purple color, the wine is supple and sleek. The fruit is ambrosial. There is vigor and length. The finish lingers along the tiers of ripe dark and red fruits and glycerin. Formulated from a blend of 73% Merlot and 27% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 14% alcohol.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“Warm and spicy oak aromas, sweet red fruit. Juicy and fresh, but just lacking a little something fleshy in the mid palate. Rounded tannins and acidity. Fresh finish. Barrel Sample: 89-91”*

- TA, [timatkin.com](http://timatkin.com)

*“No frost here on the plateau of Saint Emilion so the yield was a healthy 42 hl/ha. The encepagement this year will be 77% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Franc with 18 months in 56% new oak. The harvest took place from September 4th to 21st. A deep ruby colour, with enticing black plum and morello cherry supported by subtle fresh vanilla and a light smokiness. Most impressive on the palate is the cashmere texture from impossibly refined and supple tannins. The fruit glides over this velvet support, with glistening ripe cherries and fresh blackcurrants. Acidity cuts through the ripe fruits and adds a savouriness to the sweet smoke from measured use of new oak. Elegant, poised and precise, with a lingering finish.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The nose is sweet with brooding black fruits the palate has the fleshy richness of ripe black cherries and cassis. Bramble underpins and balances slightly lighter at the back with ripe sweet black fruits giving richness and depth on the finish. 2024-33”*

- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2017 Canon was bottled on 15 May 2019. This needs time to settle in the glass, the oak rather vocal at this early stage and overshadowing the blackberry and briary aromas. It only takes a couple of minutes for this Saint-Émilion to settle and reveal more limestone-infused fruit that really shows its terroir. The palate is very well defined with crunchy black fruit. I appreciate the chalky texture and freshness of this Canon, almost brittle, with blackberry and brine-like notes on the finish. Whilst not up there with the superlative 2016, the follow-up is still very fine. Note that over multiple tasting this Canon improved between September and December. Drink 2022-2045”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2017 Canon was picked 4 to 21 September and 22 to 27 September for the Merlot and Cabernet Franc at 42hl/ha and matured in 56% new oak. There is 14.0° alcohol this year and the pH comes in at 3.66. This takes a little time to open, eventually revealing blackberry, briary, crushed stone and light iris scents. The palate is medium bodied with very fine tannins and good backbone. Strangely, it reminds me a little of modern-day Figeac, that Cabernet component smaller here but very expressive with touches of graphite and flint towards the linear but beguilingly fresh finish. I like the manner in which the limestone shines through the wine here, something noticeable in recent vintages. Whilst not the sensational 2015 or 2016, it is a damn fine Saint-Émilion that will settle at the top of my banded score. Drink 2022-2045.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“Nicolas Audebert and his team have done it again. The 2017 Canon is shaping up to be one of the wines of the vintage. Rich and vertical in construction, the 2017 possesses off-the-charts richness and intensity in all of its dimensions. In the glass, the 2017 is sumptuous and layered, with superb detail and tons of sheer pedigree. In 20 years, readers will have a fabulous time tasting the 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 together and debating their respective merits. Dark plum fruit, striking Franc aromatics and the clean, focused energy of Saint-Émilion's limestone plateau make for a ravishing, exquisite wine of the highest level. In a word: breathtaking. 2027 – 2057”*

- AG, Vinous

*“A rich, explosive wine, the 2017 Canon exudes class from the very first taste. Huge aromatics resonate through to the palate, where the wine is deep, fleshy and beautifully layered. Effortless and gracious, Canon is a wine of real pedigree. I don't think the 2017 will reach the dizzying heights of the 2015 or 2016, but it will be interesting to see how close it gets.”*

- AG, Vinous

**Reviews** *“Showing spectacularly, the 2017 Chateau Canon checks in as a final blend of 77% Merlot and 23% Cabernet Franc that’s from one of the most exceptional terroirs in the appellation. Hitting 14% alcohol (the pH is 3.66), it reveals a ruby/purple hue as well as gorgeously sweet raspberries and cassis-like fruit interwoven with notes of spring flowers, rose petal, white chocolate, and spice. While it doesn’t have the massive opulence of the 2015 and 2016, it’s more classically styled as well flawlessly balanced, with a terrific sense of minerality, ultra-fine tannins, and a brilliant finish. Give bottles 5-7 years in the cellar, and it will evolve gracefully for 30-40 years. Hats off to Nicolas Audebert as well as the team of Thomas Duclos for one of the wines of the vintage!”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“One of the gems in the vintage is the 2017 Château Canon, which checks in at 73% Merlot and 18% Cabernet Franc. Sensational notes of black cherries, blueberries, liquid violets, awesome graphite, and scorched earth-like minerality all give way to a medium to full-bodied, concentrated, incredibly pure, yet masculine beauty that has building tannin, beautiful purity of fruit, and a great finish. It's not going to match the 2015 on sheer size and scale, but it's a sensational wine. It's going to need 3-4 years of bottle age to be drinkable and will keep for two decades or more. Tasted twice.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Lovely and relaxed on the nose, with oak and fruit in harmony, this is a good wine, but it is slightly spoilt by a green edge on the finish and overly austere tannins. I would like it to be so much more refreshing and silky but the attack of dryness and grainy tannins rather shuts it all down. Given the reputation of this Château I am confident that it will even out, but this will always be a wine with a bitter edge.”*  
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

*“No frost. Some lovely plummy and black currant flavours on the nose. Smooth entry. The mouth feel is intriguing, tiny tannins, lots of weight and power, uplifting acidity that adds tension. The flavour is slightly muted but you can see where this wine is going. Hints of toasty oak, mineral stone and dark fruit. Showing all the right signs at this stage.”*  
- Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants

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