

Château Canon 2020

CSPC# 801686

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

68% Merlot, 32% 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. Thomas Duclos consultant.

Vintage

Winter: exceptionally mild

Spring: very rainy

Summer: very hot from July onwards

Autumn: the rain returned as of the Solstice

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

Merlot: 4 to 21 September; Cabernet Franc: 18 September to 23 September

A yield of 40hl/ha.

Vinification/

Maturation

Separate vinification, vatting using gravity, into conical shaped stainless-steel vats with a double walled system for temperature control. Malolactic: 1/3 in new barrels and 2/3 in stainless steel vats. The wine is aged for 18 months in 50% new, French oak barrels.

Tasting Notes

This wine opens up with earthy, slightly peaty notes before giving way to aromas of cedar. A few swirls in the glass release an explosion of fruity aromas and reveal a fluid, ethereal and almost weightless nose, a sign of its remarkable complexity. The splendour of the vintage truly comes into its own on the palate with its rich attack and juicy, creamy overtones yet without the slightest hint of heaviness. Quite the contrary, this richness actually elongates the palate with notes of ripe fruit, raspberries and morello cherries. It also has this long, precise salinity to it which structures the finish. A lively, mineral touch from the limestone plateau adds the finishing touches and brings the wine's freshness back to the forefront

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.

Cellaring

Drink 2030-2065

Scores/Awards

94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2023

100 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023

98-100 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021

99 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2023

98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - December 2022

98-99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021

17.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021



Score/Awards **99 points** - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023
98-100 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021
100 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - December 2022
98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023
98-100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021
94-97 points - Farr Vintners - May 2021
97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023
96-98 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021
100 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023
97+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023
97 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023
94-96 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021
96-97 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021
93-94 points - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021
19.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021

Reviews *"Suavely rendered, this glides along with a cashmere feel, letting gently steeped black currant and black cherry fruit unfurl slowly, while hints of alder, sweet tobacco and warm earth appear in the background. A subtle smoldering edge enhances the finish. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2024 through 2037."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The brilliant 2020 Canon looks set to surpass both the 2019 and 2016 as this estate's finest wine since the post-war period, though like many of the best 2020s, it will require more patience than its 2019 counterpart. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of cherries and raspberries mingled with notions of exotic spices and iris, it's medium to full-bodied, deep, and concentrated, with vibrant acids and beautifully polished, chalky tannins. Pure and precise, it concludes with a long, mouthwatering finish. This beautifully constructed wine communicates the essence of this superb limestone terroir, and it will be worth a special effort to track down and cellar. In the last few years, this sleeping giant has well and truly reawakened, and the 2020 vintage represents the finest Canon produced since the early 1960s. Extensive replanting between 1996 and 2003, overseen by Audebert's predecessor, John Kolasa, saw some 50% of the estate's 22 hectares replaced. The fact that these vines are now arriving at full maturity surely goes some way to accounting for Canon's contemporary renaissance. Now, the team is working on restructuring the rest, combining massal selections and clones. Viticulture is thoughtful, with cover crops across the estate, and the terroir itself is relatively homogeneous: solid limestone covered by some 0.25 to 0.7 meters of clay, with a more or less uniform exposition on Saint-Émilion's plateau. There's also one small parcel in the town itself and another by Berliquet. Today, the vineyard is planted with about 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, and there are no plans to radically alter that. Winemaking privileges finesse over power, though a certain richness and texture can be taken for granted with a site like this, and maturation is in 50% new oak (mostly from Taransaud, Demptos, Sylvain and Quintessence). Today, the focus is on increasing precision and refinement, rather than revolution. And well it might be, for why change a winning team?"
- WK, Wine Advocate

"Deep garnet-purple colored, it bursts from the glass with vivacious notes of Morello cherries, redcurrant jelly, wild blueberries, and black raspberries, plus hints of powdered cinnamon, clove oil, star anise and dusty red soil. The medium to full-bodied palate is an exercise in grace, delivering exquisitely ripe, finely pixilated tannins and bold freshness to support the tight-knit black, red, and blue fruit layers, finishing long with loads of exotic spices and mineral sparks. An exhilarating triumph!

"To be honest, we didn't manage anything. That terroir at Canon is insane," said Technical Director Nicolas Audebert. "It is incredible how it is always the terroir that brings back that freshness. We harvested a little earlier this year. And during the heat, we tried to protect the berries, with techniques I was using in South America to protect the bunches. But in the end, it is the typicity of that limestone that comes through. It is the backbone of the wine. This terroir also comes in earlier—the grapes just motor through. If we had waited 10 more days, it would be completely different. The wine has no excess—this is very important for us. We are not being extreme one way or the other. We look for ripeness and freshness. With the limestone, the vine never stops. The roots take the freshness and can handle these extremes. It is worth remembering that Canon has a southwest exposure, giving that little bit of extra ripeness. Also, I need to mention our work effort. We worked right through August. You know, usually everyone in France takes their holidays in August. Now, our team takes their holidays in July. We cannot wait around in August. Picking date completely makes what you are."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

Reviews

“Deep purple-black colored, it leaps with gregarious notions of red currant jelly, fresh, crunchy plums, and wild blueberries, leading to suggestions of cedar chest, violets, clove oil, and licorice with a waft of truffles. The full-bodied palate is chock-full of vibrant black and red berry layers, supported by super-plush tannins and fantastic tension, finishing long and energetic. Gorgeous!

- LPB, Wine Independent

“Black cherries, fresh herbs, lemon rind, and violets on the nose. Crushed stone, too. Medium to full body with super fine tannins that run the length of the wine. It goes on for minutes. A great wine. Try after 2027, but already thoroughly gorgeous. A classical Canon.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Wow. This is really exceptional with super density of fruit that remains clear and agile. Blackberries, currants, violets, and spice, as well as some chalk and salt. It really goes on for minutes. Best of the trilogy?”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“A classy, open, expressive, and radiant Canon in 2020. Less plush than I was expecting on the palate, this is linear, focused and refined with a core of juicy red fruits, raspberries, strawberries, and cherries. High acidity gives the life force and sense of joy while still remaining structured and forward. Definitely not as big, or weighty as some in St-Emilion, this is more sophisticated with well-integrated, very fine tannins and good use of oak. It's not trying too hard, elegant, and charming as Canon does so well with freshness and a wide, expansive finish. Clarity and intensity. Brilliant.”

- GH, Decanter.com

“This is intense, structured, and concentrated yet with an abundance of violet and peony notes that curl up through the tannins, combining halfway through the palate with blueberry, raspberry, tobacco, gun smoke and sculpted, precise pulses of chalk minerality. There is just so much to talk about with this wine, but the overall impression is of dozens of carefully crafted elements that steal up on you. It's hard not to be convinced by its success - and as ever with Canon you are in no doubt as to how well it will age. Gorgeous. Could go up after tasting in bottle, a potential 100 points. 98-100. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Stunning, grab-a-friend, insanely good wine. The structure and tannic grip manage to be both barely there and tightly controlling, giving form and space for the raspberry, blueberry, and pomegranate fruits to crowd in the palate, followed by oyster shell salinity, pumice stone scrape and eclectic points of mandarin peel and lemon grass. Finished with pure no messing about juiciness.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“A stunning textural experience with its silky, velvet drenched profiled. Aromatically, you find flowers, black, red and blue fruits, licorice, and crushed rocks in the perfume. On the palate, the wine is all about its polished silk profile, which is the perfect backdrop for all of its layers of sensuous fruits, freshness and purity, finishing with a touch of salt on the backend. The seamless finish delivers length going on for over 50 seconds. Drink from 2025-2060.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Aromatically, this is off the hook with flowers, black, red, and blue fruits, licorice, black raspberry, forest leaf, wild cherries and crushed rocks. With polished silk and velvet textures, the wine balances weight, depth, energy, and concentration. The layers of perfectly ripe, sweet, fresh, red, and black fruits keep on coming. On the palate the wine is both concentrated and weightless, making this is far too easy to drink. The seamless finish delivers length and purity that goes on for more than 60 seconds. This is as good as the famous 2015, and by the time it is in bottle, it could be even better. The wine blends 68% Merlot with 32% Cabernet Franc. 14.5% ABV pH 3.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep ruby colour. Expansive and richly aromatic, with high tones of violets and plums giving way to milk chocolate, cream and swollen red cherries. The palate bursts through with great intensity but airy freshness. This is a vibrant, chalky, and fleet-footed style. The silky, supremely refined tannins offer a cashmere texture that

Reviews *allows the core of red fruit to shine through. Floral accents pair superbly with toasted spices on the complex and long finish. An excellent 2020.*

- Farr Vintners

"The 2020 Canon, bottled in May 2022, has an exquisite bouquet that stops you in your tracks. Breathtaking delineation and focus, taut and linear, yet with ample fruit, this unabashedly exudes its propitious terroir. The palate is delectably creamy on the entry with fine salinity, vibrant and tensile, with a very persistent finish. This Canon ranks amongst the finest overseen by the team in recent years. Chapeau. Tasted twice with consistent notes. Drink 2026-2065."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2020 Canon nailed it this year, the best since the benchmark 2015/2016 vintages. It has one of those bouquets that stops the clock thanks to its breathtaking delineation and focus, fragrant black cherries, bilberry, shucked oyster shell and crushed rock aromas. It is cool, calm, and collected. The palate possesses exquisite definition, armed with simply crystalline red fruit matched with a perfect silver bead of acidity. There is tangible tension from the start, and it fans out gloriously toward the pixelated finish. This brilliant Canon should offer 20–30 years of drinking pleasure, probably more. Chapeau! 2026 - 2055."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2020 Canon is a wine of mind-blowing purity and nuance. It has been nothing less than thrilling on the three occasions I have tasted it so far. Intensely saline and chalky, the 2020 possesses spellbinding finesse and nuance. Red-toned fruit, crushed rocks, white pepper, rose petal and mint all come alive in the glass, buttressed by clean saline notes that extend the mid-palate into the finish. There is simply nothing like the great Canon. And the 2020 is unquestionably a great Canon."

- AG, Vinous

"Another brilliant Saint-Emilion, the 2020 Château Canon actually reminds me of the 2019 with its pure, elegant, yet concentrated profile. It reveals a deep ruby hue as well as classic upper plateau notes of perfumed red and black fruits (black raspberries, darker cherries), wildflowers, graphite, and chalky minerality. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, it has a seamless, elegant mouthfeel, perfectly integrated tannins and acidity, and flawless overall balance. As with the 2019, it's not the blockbuster style of the 2015, but it's lively, elegant, and pure class. It needs 7-8 years of bottle age to hit maturity and will have 2-3 decades of overall longevity. 97+"

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Dark ruby, purple reflections, broadening rim. Red wild berries, a hint of liquorice, fine tobacco nuances and tangerine zest, mineral touch. Juicy, red cherries, delicately salty, integrated ripe tannins, tight-knit, lemony nuances, elegant and refined, good ageing potential."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"On the nose it is well built, in finesse and offers a certain delicacy, a racy power (in finesse), depth as well as a nice finesse of the texture, a multi-layer side, a certain subtlety, and a fine flurry side. It reveals the notes of blackcurrant, wild blackberry, small note of small fruits associated with hints of raspberry, pulpy redcurrant, a fine touch of bright violet plum as well as hints of violet, cherry flower, exotic spices, fine hints of pepper, lilac and a subtle hint of clover. On the palate, it is fruity elegant, delicate, nicely built, all in finesse and offers a subtlety, a nice acidulous frame, racy texture (limestone), a certain richness controlled, a sense of detail, a small pulpy of the fruit and a nice texture of limestone. The wine expresses notes of juicy/pulpy, juicy raspberry, small notes of blackcurrant associated with touches of small red fruits as well as hints of crunchy berries, fresh lily, iris, a subtle hint of tonka bean, a very discreet hint of toasted, mocha and a subtle hint of coffee. Good length. The tannins are precise, elegant, and well built."

- Vert de Vin

"(68% M, 32% CF; 40hl/ha; 14.5% ABV; 50% new). Soft black-cherry ripe to smell; rich and powerful, vital, and fine in tannin; deep and rich and long and close-grained, clearly from a hot year and, as regularly recently, always with a touch of alcohol warmth, but an elegant, graceful, sweet-cored, fleshy wine, with an absolutely effortless tannin texture and great length to finish. The Right Bank year's ample proportions, but with the plateau's limestone grace and restraint. 2028–48+."

- MS, The World of Fine Wine
