

Château Canon 2021

CSPC# 102690

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

71% Merlot, 29% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

First Growth B. Premier Grand Cru Classe B.

Website

<http://www.chateaucanon.com/>

Sustainability

After experimenting for several years, 2021 marks the first year of conversion towards organic farming. The estate aims to obtain the certificate in 2024.

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

The vineyard was not affected by frost or bad weather throughout the growing season. Despite weather conditions announced (probably too early) as very complicated, the grapes were able to reach their maturity, and the resulting wine is particularly accomplished. The yields of 40 hl/ha, despite the conversion to organic farming, testify to the quality and the particularly efficient restructuring of the vineyard by Nicolas Audebert and his teams.

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. 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: 16 Sept- 6 October. Cabernet Franc: 30 Sept-8 October. Yield: 40 hl/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

Crackling with flashes of vibrant red, Château Canon 2021 is an electrifying experience. Raspberry and strawberry hues leap from the glass, locked in a heady embrace. Then the colour dims to a deep cherry-red, tinged with a bittersweet < darkness. The body is firm, toned, dense but never overpowering. The mid-palate is a study in controlled tension and formal precision, enlivened by a radiant splash of orange blossom and a hint of sweetness more almond than honey. It is the kaleidoscopic complexity of the vintage which most impresses, an impudent invitation to explore and enjoy. Fruity, floral, herbaceous, smoky: equilibrium incarnate.

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

unknown

Cellaring

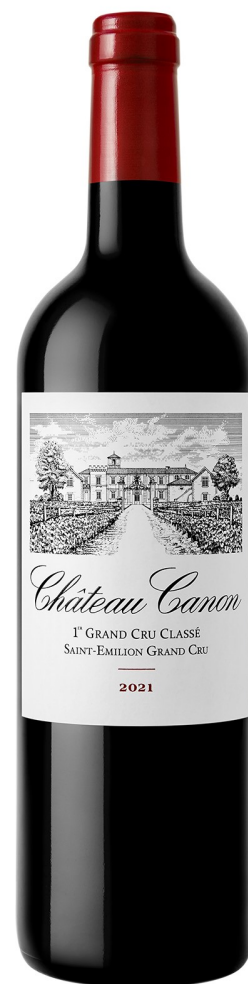
Drink 2028-2051

Score/Awards

91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2024

95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024

94-96 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022



Score/Awards **90-92 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022
97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2024
96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2022
17 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022
96 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022
96 points - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - May 2022
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024
94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022
93-96 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022
93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024
92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022
97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024
95-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022
93-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022
18.5 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022
95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022
94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022
95-96 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022
95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022

Reviews *"Fresh and open in feel, with loganberry and blackberry notes laced with mulling spice, black tea, and savory hints. Concludes with a potpourri echo. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2035."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2021 Canon opens in the glass with a pure bouquet of raspberries, cherries and plums mingled with pretty top notes of iris, licorice, mint and sweet spices. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and layered, it's fleshy and sensual, with a deep and seamless core of fruit framed by ultra-refined tannins, a bright spine of acidity and a long, mineral finish. With an impressively low finished pH of 3.37, it was taken out of barrel a month earlier than usual and saw no fining—as has been the case since 2010."
- WK, Wine Advocate

"A brilliant wine in the making, the 2021 Canon offers up aromas of cherries, wild berries, licorice, sweet soil tones, raw cocoa, Indian spices and rose petals. Medium to full-bodied, layered, and multidimensional, it's immensely refined and seamless, with a lively spine of acidity, ripe tannins and a long, penetrating, intensely saline finish. This beautifully balanced Canon is one of the classiest, most complete wines of the Right Bank in this vintage. Tasted four times.

In the last few years, this sleeping giant has well and truly reawakened, and the 2021 vintage represents another fine success for Nicolas Audebert and his team. 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)."

- WK, Wine Advocate

"The 2021 Canon is a blend of 71% Merlot and 29% Cabernet Franc with yields of 40 hl/ha and aging for 16-18 months in French oak, 50% of it new. Deep garnet-purple colored, it is slightly closed to begin, revealing subdued notes of juicy black plums and boysenberries, plus hints of Morello cherries, cinnamon stick, clove oil, and Sichuan pepper. Medium-bodied, the palate has a solid backbone of fine-grained tannins and bold freshness (pH 3.37) supporting the vibrant black and red fruits, finishing long and minerally. 2027-2039."

- LPB, Wine Independent

Reviews

“Lots of crunchy red cherries and blue plums followed by violets, fresh sage and Christmas spices with baking spice and coconuts. Medium- to full-bodied with superb fine-grained racy tannins and beautifully refreshing acidity that gives an edge to it. Gorgeous finesse and elegance with harmony and precision. Delightful, too. Already drinkable but give this a few more years to come around. Try after 2026 and it should be beautiful for a long time.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“A wine full of finesse and class with fantastic length and polish. Medium to full body with ultra-fine tannins that run endlessly down the length of the wine. Blackberry, graphite, and spice. Agile and weightless.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Red and black fruits mingle with the firm structure of this dense wine. The tannins are solid while the ripe berry flavors show well against the wine's richness.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Cask sample. Reserved at present. Floral notes as the wine opens. Texturally very elegant, the tannins extremely polished and fine. Compact, concise. Less wow this year but clean and refreshing and enough fruit for ageing.”

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

“Dark chocolate, perfume, violets, wildflowers and bramble berries on the nose, so much going on aromatically. Lovely succulence straight away, the bright acidity giving a mouthwatering effect and really delivering in terms of vibrant and lively fruit forwardness but with these lovely edges of graphite, slate, bitter chocolate, cream, and salinity. So elegant and so refined as well as super stylish. I also love the cooling menthol Cabernet aspects you get all the way through and on the long finish. This has real class, but also an effortless quality to it that is so remarkable. One of the most memorable wines of the vintage! Drinking Window: 2026 - 2045.”

- GH, Decanter.com

“Gorgeous bright plum colour with violet reflections. The epitome of careful, precise, well-spiced winemaking. Sibling estate Berliquet has perhaps more immediate charm because there is more power running through it, but this is just elegance and finesse personified. Red cherry, raspberry, blueberry, blackberry, slate, saffron, oyster shell, they have teased out layers of complexity that were not easy to find in the vintage, and there is length also, with pumice stone salinity scraping across the palate. It's subtle, and it's not at the heights of a 2019 Canon, but this will not be out of place in a vertical of the estate.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“Talk about on top of their game, even in the difficult 2021 vintage, Canon managed to produce one of the wines of the vintage! The perfume pops with little effort as you already find its bouquet of violets, spearmint, cigar wrappers, black cherries, plums, licorice, and cocoa. And the palate is even better with its edgy freshness, sweet, red berries, plums and red plums, fresh cherries, herbs, and a touch of fennel along with salty accents in the elegant mid-palate and finish. The wine blends 71% Merlot with 29% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2026-2055.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The nose stands out with its nuances of flowers, crushed stones, spearmint, cigar wrapper, red plums, fresh cherries, herbs, and a touch of fennel. The wine is all about its freshness, purity, energy and elegant nature, finishing with silky tannins with their trademark touch of salt, mint leaf, and sweet, vibrant red berries. 13.5% ABV. The harvest took place September 16 - October 6. Drink from 2026-2055.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Nicolas Audebert compares it to the 2001 vintage. Bright purple hue. The nose brings ripe but cool dark cherries, and blackcurrant, together with violet and red cherry blossoms. The oak is toasty but savoury, matching the fruit aromas. The palate has a weightless intensity, fine chalky tannins match to bright acids and compact fruit. Everything is highly refined and there is a moreish approachability to this wine that should make it delicious from a relatively early stage. Harmonious and elegant, the tannins persist with focus and balance the fruit beautifully. There is certainly ample structure for ageing here, too. A fine Saint Emilion that Canon lovers will greatly enjoy.”

- TP, Farr Vintners

Reviews

“The 2021 Canon has a clean and precise bouquet. Redcurrant, cranberry and wild strawberry scents gradually emerge, perhaps a little more tertiary than previous vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins—a strict Canon, quite saline with just a hint of licorice coming through toward the finish. Although it does not reach the imperial heights of other vintages in recent years, the 2021 is still a fine effort considering the challenging growing season.”

- NM, Vinous

“Around 70% of the vineyards produced the normal yield, which underwent a 50% deselection, yet it still yielded 40hL/ha because the vines did not suffer stress. After mildew, any bunches that showed damage on the stems were removed. Nicolas Audebert told me that there was no concentration or saignée, just a little chaptalization (around 0.5–1.0%, depending on the tank). This has quite a concentrated bouquet of opulent dark cherries, blueberry, violet and just a hint of camphor. The palate is medium-bodied and pliant, with gentle grip, saturated tannins, and a judicious touch of spice toward the compact finish. While recent top-flight vintages may well eclipse this Canon, it still stands as a fine addition to the recent roster.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2021 Canon shows just how magical this site is. Vertical and explosive in feel, with tons of pure power, it impresses with its intensity, drive, and super-classic profile. Bright saline notes and vibrant tannins give the 2021 a feeling of energy that only gains momentum with time in the glass. It's not an easy Canon, like the 2015 or 2018, but it is incredibly expressive. It is the sort of wine that only truly emerges with time in bottle. I would be thrilled to own it. Canon must surely be one of the great relative values in first-class wine. Wow. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“Dramatic, rich, and imposing, the 2021 Canon is shaping up to be one of the wines of the vintage. Sculpted red purplish fruit, rose petal, lavender, sage, and crushed rocks all race out of the glass. A heady, vertical wine, Canon is endowed with tremendous concentration and class. The aromatics alone are beguiling, but it is the wine's balance that impresses most. Tasted three times. This is such an elegant and regal wine.”

- AG, Vinous

“From a château you can't go wrong with, the 2021 Château Canon is another head-turning, elegant, seamless wine that comes from unquestionably one of the greatest terroirs on the upper plateau of Saint-Emilion. It shows the vintage's fresher, elegant style beautifully, with lots of perfumed red fruits, spice, flowers, and chalky notes. These carry to a medium-bodied, seamless, elegant Saint-Emilion that has supple tannins, a notable sense of freshness (although I suspect the pH is solid), and a great finish.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“This is a gentle, layered, silky and near-flamboyant Canon, and nothing is forced nor too urgent, and the result is a wine that is serenely fruited and beautifully balanced on the nose and palate. While this is firmly a medium-weight wine, there is a density of perfume and succulence on the palate, and it will enchant all-comers. The freshness and elegance here are tremendous, and the flavours are kaleidoscopic. With an impressive length and thought-provoking complexity, this is a multifaceted wine with great accuracy, refinement, and drive.”

- Matthew Jukes

“Dark garnet, purple reflections, brightening to the pastel rim. Fine red forest berry fruit, floral nuances, a hint of cranberries, noble wood influence, inviting fragrance. Juicy, freshly structured, fine tannins, finesse with a lovely length; elegant fruit sweetness on the finish. A lively food companion, overall harmonious and very appetising.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fruity, elegant and reveals freshness (in subtlety), complexity and a fine intensity. There are notes of pulpy cherry, lily and more slightly blueberry, juicy/fresh blackcurrant combined with fine touches of lilac, small fresh/juicy purple plums, and delicate pepper. The palate is fruity and demonstrates juiciness, a nice acidic structure, minerality, good definition, greed, freshness, complexity, nice silkiness/juiciness, fine/discreet grain, energy, fullness, fine Merlot richness/generosity and fullness. On the palate this wine expresses fresh/juicy cherry, crushed raspberry and more lightly violet notes combined with hints of juicy/fresh blackcurrant, small blue plum as well as a subtle hint of fresh lily/fresh flowers, a discreet hint of bergamot, sweet spices, a delicate hint of vanilla and chocolate. Good length. A little chewiness and gourmandize on the finish/persistence.”

- Vert de Vin
