

Château Canon La Gaffelière GCC 2010

CSPC# 744967

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Appellation

Saint Emilion

General Info

The von Neipperg counts are descended from a noble line dating back to the Holy Roman Empire. This family has contributed great soldiers and illustrious diplomats throughout the centuries. Responsible for numerous military exploits, the family's long history is grounded in their attachment to their land. In fact, the Counts von Neipperg have been making fine wine there since the 12th century.

In 1985, Stephan von Neipperg was officially named estate manager and proceeded to make in-depth changes at Canon La Gaffelière. He started by making a complete analysis of data concerning his vineyard and then drew logical conclusions of what needed doing. His collaboration at a later date with Stéphane Derenoncourt also contributed to Canon La Gaffelière's reputation around the world.

Vintage

Stephane Derenoncourt is the long-time wine consultant at all of Stephan von Neipperg's estates. Yields were shockingly low here, 28 hectoliters per hectare, and the wine is a beauty of both elegance and power.

Vineyards

The 19.5-hectare vineyard has a complex, outstanding terroir of clay-limestone and clay-sand soil. The topsoil is primarily sandy, increasingly so as one moves away from the slope. The vines, an average of 45 years old, are deeply rooted in the soil and absorb all the goodness in the terroir. They are mostly replaced individually rather than plot by plot (which maintains the average age). The last major replanting dates back to 1986. Mass selection is practiced. This is especially useful in order to perpetuate the precious old Cabernet Franc vines. It not only maintains the vineyard's genetic heritage, but also its unique balance

Harvest

October 5-20. Yield 28hl/ha. Harvested by hand, into small crates to avoid bruising. Sorted before and after destemming. No crushing. The grapes arrive on a conveyor belt

Vinification/

Maturation

Fermentation in wooden vats for 32 days. Extraction by pneumatic pigeage (punching down the cap). Aged in 80% new oak for 19 to 20 months. No fining or filtering

Tasting Notes

Intensely dark, almost opaque purple core. Extremely perfumed notes of flower blossoms, charcoal, clay and limestone minerality are full of intensity. The gorgeous attack of spiced plum and black cherry explodes deliciously, with freshness and juiciness on the mid-palate. Incredibly manicured tannins are plush, with precision and length already at such a young stage. This will be ready to drink in a couple of years and then cellar well for 25 to 30+.

Cellaring

Drink 2013-2033

Scores/Awards

95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013

94-97 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011

95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013

92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011

94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011

93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011

17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011

18 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2012

17-18 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - May 2012

16.5-17.5 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2011

18 points/5 stars - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2011

95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 30, 2011

94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 22, 2011

93 points - Jane Anson, newbordeaux.com - April 2011

92 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010 (no review)



Scores/Awards **95 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2011 (no review)
92-94+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011

Reviews *"This takes the power of the vintage and puts it in its pocket for later, preferring instead to let mouthwatering briar, loganberry, mulberry and blackberry fruit strut its way forward, enlivened with roasted wood spice and supported by suavely but thoroughly embedded iron-tinged structure. Should cruise for two decades. Best from 2016 through 2035."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Ripe and dense, but very, very sleek, with lovely polish to the texture, which lets the layers of plum sauce, blueberry and boysenberry fruit glide along. Powerful but perfumy. A beauty in the making. Score range: 94-97"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"This wine shows wonderfully exotic tapenade, licorice, Christmas fruitcake, cedar wood, blackberry and sweet cherry notes in its strikingly provocative aromatics. On the palate, the wine is dense and full-bodied, with stunning concentration, purity, texture and length. It is full-bodied, silky smooth and seems to have more in common with the 2009 than one might expect, although the freshness and tannin levels are slightly more elevated. Drink it over the next 20+ years.

An absolutely spectacular success once again from proprietor Stephan von Niepperg. Gilles Pauquet is the consultant and has done an exemplary job with this particular estate."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"One of the first to work with the now famous Stephane Derenoncourt, proprietor Stephan von Neipperg continues to fashion some of the most consistently outstanding wines in Bordeaux. This 2010, a blend of 55% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon made from tiny yields of 28 hectoliters per hectare, achieved 14.5% natural alcohol – perhaps the highest Canon La Gaffeliere has ever achieved. Dense, sweet, open-knit black cherry, licorice, incense and cassis aromas soar from the glass of this opaque purple-colored offering. Full-bodied, pure and undeniably sexy yet larger-scaled than normal, this beautiful wine should drink well for 15 or more years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A blend of 55% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, the Canon-la-Gaffeliere is demonstrating better delineation on the nose than the Clos l'Oratoire with scents of black cherry, blueberry and dried apricot (reminds me of Jaffa Cakes!) The palate is full-bodied with very dense, almost oppressive tannins, a much more tannic Canon-la-Gaffeliere than recent vintages, powerful and burly on the finish. This will require several years in bottle. Drink 2018- Tasted March 2011.
- NM, Wine Journal

"This is tight and powerful. Solid frame of fruit and tannins. Curious about this. Like the 2009. This is 40 percent Cabernet Franc, 10 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 50 percent Merlot."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"93-95 A beautifully structured wine that is both ripe and elegant. It is bolstered by tannins, the acidity a great cutting edge. The black currant fruits are already delicious, although the tannins promise a great future."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Very dark, sweet and succulent and much fresher than its stablemate Clos de l'Oratoire - but at the limit of ripeness! Lots of vitality, serious wine. Another sample tasted blind was also clearly at the far end of the ripeness spectrum, but seemed a little too sweet, almost sickly. Black cherry jam plus green notes on the end. If this second sample was not tired but actually more representative, then I'd suggest a score of 16 and that the wine should probably be drunk in the period 2016-22 but my score refers to the sample tasted non blind at the property."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Dark slightly high-toned, lightly perfumed although in a rather intense manner, with violets, graphite and smoke rather than anything more delicate, I have to say I immediately rather like it. It has a sooty concentration but not the dead fruit of some wines. The palate confirms this, showing dark and soot-tinged black forest fruits, but with a supple weight, fine concentration and a tannic structure which is grainy and marries well with the rest of the wine. The finish shows all these elements in combination, with no room for domineering tannin. There is

Reviews *even acidity here. A real tour de force in this vintage. Very well done. From my Bordeaux 2010 assessment at two years. 18/20 (November 2012)"*

- CK, *The Wine Doctor*

"Lots of lovely exotic fruits here, a fine depth, and a great fruit richness. The palate is broad, convincing, with lots of substance and depth. This wine has a really impressive and imposing character on the palate. The rich and ripe tannins it possesses are nicely enveloped by the substance and fruit within the wine, giving it some sense of harmony and balance. This is very correct, tannic and young, showing great potential, but in need of a lot of time. From a Grand Cru Classé Tasting. 17-18/20 (May 2012)."

- CK, *The Wine Doctor*

"A blend of 50% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. This sample, with its dark cherry-red hue, has a dark, smoky and slightly meaty fruit profile, freshened by some brighter elements, with nuances of chalky fruits with a touch of raspberry. A supple style on the palate, quite polished, although with a very ripe, soft-focus, fruit compote feel in the mouth, reflecting the wine's aromatic character. Nevertheless, underneath there is a firm structure, the tingling acidity and tannins coming through together. These tannins have a ripe, borderline-chewy character although this substance seems in keeping with the rest of the wine, and not over the top. My main criticisms are the borderline suggestions of over-ripeness and chewy tannin, but I think for Canon-la-Gaffelière this in fact seems quite restrained. From my Bordeaux 2010 primeurs assessment. 16.5-17.5/20 (April 2011)"

- CK, *The Wine Doctor*

"Fresh, expressive, a really elegant wine with 45% Cabernet in the blend. Impeccable quality of fruit. Abundant tannins but very refined. Drink 2018-2035."

- JL, *Decanter.com*

"With elements of fresh flowers, coffee, spice, blackberry, earth and plum in the perfume, this lush, round Bordeaux wine is filled with minerality and soft tannins. The wine will be aged in 70% new oak. 93-95 Pts."

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

"2010 Canon La Gaffeliere Low yields of 28 hectoliters per hectare produced a blend of 55% Merlot, 35% Cabernet and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon that will be aged in 70% new oak. Licorice, chocolate mint, spice, jammy black raspberries, silky lush textures and long, fresh, sweet chocolate cherry expansive finish are the hall marks of this wine. 93-95 Pts"

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

"So intense, so knitted together that it is hard to break through. Deep licorice and dark coffee beans, espresso in a Milan cafe. It delivers a fresh finish, and there is quite clearly huge potential, no drying tannins. Another intellectual, brooding wine, not immediately pleasurable, but packed full of interest. 93/100. Drink 2019-2032."

- JA, *newbordeaux.com*

"Deep and dense; ripe and creamy nose, very plush, lots of extract it would seem; ripe but nicely handled palate, good density, sweet and sexy with layers of flavour; density yes but doesn't feel pushed too far; chalky minerality here to; grip and density but nicely done. Rich and attractive wine. 92-94+/100 [55% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon 14.5 alc] Tasted 6 April 2011 at UGC"

- JW, *winewordsandvideotape.com*