

Château Canon La Gaffelière GCC 2012

CSPC# 744967

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classé B

Website

<http://www.neipperg.com/index.php?act=1,9,3,,,,,en>

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 e also contributed to Canon La Gaffelière's reputation around the world.

Vintage

The end of winter was dry and cold (February) with a substantial water deficit in the soils. Then spring remained cool but wet (April) disrupting bud-break. Uneven vine shooting was visible on the same stock.

Finally, temperatures turned milder but heavy rains on early June disturbed the flowering and gave some shot berries (colures). On July, hot days alternated with lower temperatures which gave difficulties to the veraison. End of summer was more even, hot and dry on August, September was milder; its showers intensified the ripeness. As the harvest approached, the grapes displayed good ripeness both in the skins and the tannins.

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

Cropped between October 3-11 at 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) Ageing in new oak barrels (80%) on the lees for 15 months. No fining.

Tasting Notes

Very dark red violet color; appealing, lifted, tart black currant, plum nose; silky textured, tart berry, black currant palate; needs 4-plus years; medium-plus finish.

Production

4,167 cases made.

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2030

Scores/Awards

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015

90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013

93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015

92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013

92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013

90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 9, 2013

87-89 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2013

17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013

16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com (score only)



Scores/Awards **17.25 points** - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2013
92 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013
92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 11, 2015
91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 26, 2013
90-92+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013
90-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2013
15.5+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2013
90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013
91-93 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 16, 2013
17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
90-92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
16.8 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Scores/Awards *"This has a lovely core of pure, fresh, well-defined boysenberry, blackberry and plum fruit, which glides beautifully over polished alder and vanilla notes while hints of violet and anise fill in on the finish. A lovely whiff of tobacco chimes in at the very end. This should be fun to cellar. A big wine that goes with the flow of the vintage and doesn't try to overdo it. Best from 2018 through 2027. 4,167 cases made. "*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Bright and pure, with mingling notes of plum pit, black cherry preserves and steeped currant fruit, all lined with red licorice and well-integrated spice. Shows ample grip, but the tannins are well-buried. Not big, this relies more on accessibility and balance overall. Score range: 90-93"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Proprietor Comtes von Neipperg has done an incredible job with this estate, turning things around from a vegetal, diluted and undernourished wine in the 1970s and 1980s to something that has gotten stronger and strong ever since 1988. The dense ruby/purple 2012 offers pure blackcurrant and black cherry fruit along with some notes of Christmas spices and earth. It is full-bodied and opulent, with light tannins in the finish. This is a beauty of impeccable balance, great purity and texture. Kudos to von Neipperg, who rarely ever seems to make a mistake. Anticipated maturity: now-2030. The final blend tips the scales at 13.5% from an equal-part blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Exotic notes of Christmas fruitcake, cedar wood, cassis, espresso roast and chocolate soar from the glass of this sensual, impressively well-endowed 2012. Full-bodied with silky tannin and well-integrated wood, this beauty is a tribute to the impeccable viticulture and fermentation techniques of Neipperg and his head consultant, Stephane Derenoncourt. This wine will be drinkable upon release and should evolve for 15 years. From brilliant proprietor Stephan von Neipperg, this nearly 50-acre vineyard on the foothills of the limestone plateau of St.-Emilion enjoyed low yields of 28 hectoliters per hectare, and the final blend consisted of equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Franc. The natural alcohol is 13.5%, about average on the Right Bank in this vintage."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The Canon-la-Gaffeliere is an equal blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc picked between 3rd and 11th October and aged in 80% new oak. It has a perfumed floral bouquet with creamy new oak, succulent dark cherry fruit and creme de cassis emerging with time. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannins and then it just dips a little on the mid palate. It remains balanced with fine acidity and a subtle saline touch on the finish. Fine – this might improve further in barrel. Tasted April 2013."
- NM, Wine Journal

"This is very intense with beautiful dried flowers and dark fruits and a lovely finish. Lovely depth too. Goes on for minutes. Medium-to-full body."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *"90–92. Barrel sample. This tannic wine is very dry and extracted. It doesn't have the weight to sustain this intense dryness, however, suggesting potential for a fine fruitiness with age. Dark on the palate, it finishes quite dry."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Good bright, full red. Reticent aromas of red cherry, cocoa powder, fresh herbs and licorice. Then rich and dense in the mouth, with black fruit and tar elements lingering nicely on the thick, somewhat chunky finish. But the tannins come off as a bit green and dry, as there's not quite enough middle-palate supporting material here. Perhaps the elevage will help this wine flesh out."*
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- "50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Franc - more than usual. Deeply coloured with purple rim. Strong Cabernet Franc character comes through: really zesty fruit with graphite layers. Attractive combination of fruit and dark savour, with the oak showing firmly on the finish at the moment (80% new). But it is fresh too, the tannins fully ripe and compact but not heavy. (JH)"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "An equal share of Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Fragrant and floral. Attractive mid-palate fruit then long, firm finish. Well judged."*
- JL, Decanter.com
- "And just to prove that I really have nothing at all against extraction, if it is well done, where we are with a high, tanning-wringing extraction, but with astringency and no bitterness, and smooth fruits pouring fourth at the same time. This is tight, but there is vibrancy behind it, and feel certain that it will develop well. The tannins are tough, but not irredeemably so, and the alcohol is high, but in balance with plush, well-controlled autumnal fruits. 92 / 17.75. Highly recommended. Drink 2018-2030."*
- JA, The New Bordeaux
- "Lush, polished, earthy and supple, with loads of floral notes, licorice, earth, spice and fresh, dark red berries. The wine is long, fresh and lingers on the palate."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Harvested over a four-week period from October 10 through November 10, the wine is produced from a blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc that is 50/50. On the nose, the wine opens with flowers, licorice, coffee, spice and blackberries. On the palate, the medium-bodied,"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Vibrant purple at edge; saturated look; black fruits, deep aromas; black cherry; lots of layers here; some oak to integrate further on the palate but very attractive wine. Chewy finish. 92-94+ Tasted at Chateau Canon-la-Gaffelière Friday April 12, 2013 [Earlier note] Deep and dark looking; freshness here; some red fruits, some lift; not OTT; lots of oak tannin on the palate but flesh; chew and density. Dense and deep. 50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Franc. 90-92+ UGC Weds 10 April 2013"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "The fruit is ripe the palate has richness of flavour and sweetness with a mix of red and black fruits. Ripe tannins help the mid suppleness but under all the ripe fruit there is the freshness of red cherry and raspberry that gives a slightly lighter feel on the finish. 2017-26"*
- Derek Smedley MW
- "Stefan Von Neipperg's Canon la Gaffeliere was one of the first vineyards where winemaker Stephane Derenoncourt made his mark. Modern in style but not overblown or jammy. 50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Franc. The vines here are old and the yield was only 28 hl/ha. An intense, smoky nose with cassis, strawberry and sweet cherry fruit. Creamy, toasty and smooth on the palate with soft tannins and a velvety texture. Rounded with a good, long finish. This is a fine, smooth and supple Saint Emilion."*
- Farr Vintners

Reviews *“This wine is aromatic and subtle with layers of dark berry fruits, cedar, plums and an earthy/mineral edge. The flavours are densely packed and restrained at the moment with firm, ripe tannins. Tasted twice, this wine showed well both times. Its depth and long finish suggest it should open up into a classic beauty given time. 50% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Franc. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (07-Apr-2013)”*
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“Oaked nose muted yet endearing. The palate is still very reticent with a wonderful structure, refined tannins and fruit that is still backward. Promising. (16-Apr-2013)”
- en.gilbertgaillard.com
