

Château Canon La Gaffelière GCC 2015

CSPC# 744967

750mlx12

13.7% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

55% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Franc, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classé B

Website

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

Organic

Organic Certified by FR-BIO-10

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 year 2015 appears to be the warmest and sunniest, throughout our country, since the beginning of meteorological statistics. A long heat wave and dry period allowed to achieve excellent flowering conditions until the arrival, in August, of miraculous rains. This rain enabled the vines to maintain the necessary water reserves and to provide requisite nourishment for perfect ripeness. The harvest began in September under a clear blue sky. Thanks to this ideal weather, we were able to wait for optimum ripeness for each grape variety.

All the conditions are there to allow 2015 to join the greatest vintages of Bordeaux.

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 19 September to 6 October. 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 30 days. Extraction by pneumatic pigeage (punching down the cap) Ageing in new oak barrels (55%) on the lees for 17 months. No fining

Production

6,250 cases made.

Cellaring

Drink 2025-2040

Scores/Awards

96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018

94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016

97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018

93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016

95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018

96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018

94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018

93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015

17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017

17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016

93 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2016

94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017



Scores/Awards **96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
93-95+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - May 2016
93-95+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016
95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016
97 points - Antonio Galloni, *Vinous* - February 2018
95-97 points - Antonio Galloni, *Vinous* - April 2016
96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018
93-95 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016
17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016
18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016
17.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016

Scores/Awards *"Still youthfully tight and backward, with a well-roasted frame of alder and juniper holding sway for now, but the core of cassis, blackberry and plum fruit waits in reserve, showing prodigious depth. When the toast and fruit melds, the backdrop of tobacco, singed iron and chalky minerality will get a turn to show. There's a lot here. Built for the cellar. Best from 2025 through 2040. 6,250 cases made."*
- JM, *Wine Spectator*

"Dark and winey, with currant paste and fig notes backed by slightly briary grip and an ample dose of toast. There's good energy here and nice vivacity, despite the darker profile today, and this should easily round into form after the élevage. Score range: 94-97"
- JM, *Wine Spectator*

"Composed of 55% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Franc and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and aged in French oak, 55% new, for 17 months, the 2015 Canon la Gaffeliere features a deep garnet-purple color and a cedar-laced nose to begin, giving way to fragrant underlying scents of roses and violets with a core of crushed black currants, blackberries and Bing cherries plus hints of fallen leaves and dusty earth. Medium to full-bodied, the seductively perfumed red and black fruit fills the mouth, framed with plush tannins and plenty of freshness, finishing very long and minerally."
- LPB, *Wine Advocate*

"The 2015 Canon la Gaffeliere is a blend of 55% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Franc and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 19 September and 6 October at 37 hl/ha and matured in 55% new oak barrels. It has another "cool" bouquet, a common thread among Comte Stephan von Neipperg's 2015s - very restrained at first, nicely focused and gradually revealing undergrowth and even a subtle charcoal scent (probably from the Cabernet Sauvignon). The palate is medium bodied with black fruit laced with graphite and cedar, the Cabernet brothers really defining the character of this Saint Emilion and edging it towards say, more Figeac in style. This is a fascinating 2015, more cerebral than previous vintages that I have tasted over the years."
- NM, *Wine Advocate*

"The 2015 Canon la Gaffeliere, which was bottled 26-28 June 2017, has a heart-warming, delineated, sensual bouquet that really is top notch, one of the finest I can remember over the last 20-odd years tasting this wine. Blackberry, bilberry, crushed violet and a touch of cedar all beautifully intertwined. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannin, a perfectly pitched thread of acidity, just the right amount of salinity leading to a poised, graphite-tinged finish thanks to the contribution of the Cabernet. Just a superb wine."
- NM, *Wine Journal*

"The aromas of violets and rose petals are prevalent here with blue fruits as well. Full body integrated and firm tannins and a long finish. Structured yet fine and shows such finesse. Give it five or six years to come together."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This structured wine also offers juicy, elegant fruit. Full of black plums, spice from judicious wood aging and acidity, its core remains to develop. The wine needs to age so drink after 2024."
- RV, *Wine Enthusiast*

- Reviews** *"93–95. Barrel Sample. Perfumed and fruity, this crisp wine is shot through with acidity as well as bright black-currant flavors. The tannins are smoky, hinting at the wood aging, although they're likely to integrate well with the fine fruitiness."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Mid crimson. Dark, spicy and a nice mineral rocky quality. Dry but succulent and really elegant on the palate. Extremely fine tannins. Elegant but rich in fruit in the middle. (JH)"*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Only 55% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon. 55% new oak. Purplish crimson. Quite heady. Lots of Cabernet leafiness (picked up to 6 October). Racy, sinewy. Far from a blockbuster."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Pure and fragrant with a delightfully perfumed nose. The palate is harmonious and poised with a velvety texture showing maturity and freshness. Fruit very much to the fore backed by fine-grained tannins and a persistent finish. Now organically certified."*
- JL, Decanter.com
- "Sophisticated, smooth and regal, though a little hard to read, it's clearly full of tight, well-extracted fruit, some cinnamon and white pepper spice, and finely grained tannins. Very good quality, holding itself in check, insistent rather than loud. (JA)"*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Opulent in nature, the wine offers up its nose of fresh flowers, truffle smoke, plum and cherry, simply for the asking. On the palate, the fireworks kick in. Deeply concentrated, it takes only a sip to discover the sexy, sensuous nature of things here. The fruit is perfectly ripe, sweet and multi layered. The finish goes on for more than 40 seconds. This is the best wine I have ever tasted from Canon La Gaffeliere."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deeply concentrated, the wine has this sexy, sensuous nature, with supple, plush tannins and richness that lets you know this is quite special. This will easily score at the top of the range once in bottle."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deeply concentrated color leads to a serious escalation of flavor combined with sleek, silky tannins and a saline minerality. There is a dance of freshness, length and depth in the long, spicy finish. On the palate, this wine is soft yet vibrant with a fresh, sweet, black cherry and red licorice finish. Made from a blend of 55% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Franc and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine reached 13.7% alcohol with a pH of 3.65."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep colour; more solid and substantive than L'Oratoire; layers; ripe black fruits; very nicely judged; some Cab influence here on the palate with the spicy characters; very supple and approachable; nice depth; soft finish. [55% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Franc, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, Certified organic, 39hl/ha, 55% new oak, 30-day cuvasion, 13.7% alc]. Drink 2020-2030. 93-95+"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- [second tasting at UGC 6/4/16]: Deep colour; substantial aromas; quite a lot of fruit here; sweet ripe plums; spicy note from the Cab Franc; satin fruit to begin with but plenty of guts in the middle and a little chew on the finish; nicely textured; structure here under the satin fruit canopy. Depth. Drink 2020-2035. 93-95+"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "A gorgeous Canon La Gaffeliere that is superb - going beyond what they did in 2010. Layered flavors of spices, herbs, dark berry fruit along with plush, ripe tannins and an amazing finish makes this one of the top St Emillions in this vintage. There is evidence this wine will improve in bottle though it is delicious young."*
- JCL, asianpalate.com

Reviews *"The 2015 Canon La Gaffelière is deep, powerful and explosive. Seamless and captivating in the glass, it possesses magnificent richness, volume and intensity in every dimension. The Cabernet Franc, usually such a strong signature, is nearly buried by the sheer intensity of the Merlot fruit. Espresso, mocha, licorice and plum infuse the racy finish. The 2015 is going to need the better part of a decade to be expressive. Tasted two times. (AG)"*
- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Canon La Gaffelière is seriously impressive. Like all of Stephan von Neipperg's wines in this vintage, the Canon La Gaffelière is endowed with considerable richness and a sense of vertical structure. The significant presence of Cabernet Franc gives the wine striking aromatic lift, which it very much needs. Mocha, red cherry jam and sweet floral notes give the 2015 its soaring perfume. This exceptionally beautiful Saint-Émilion is going to need time to fully come together, but it is super-impressive, even in the early going. The 2015 has been nothing short of magnificent on the two occasions I have tasted it so far. The presence of Cabernet Franc is felt in the wine's strong aromatic signature.
- AG, Vinous

"From an incredible terroir just outside the village of Saint-Emilion and a blend of 55% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Franc and the balance Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2015 Canon-La-Gaffeliere is a beautiful, elegant, complex beauty readers should snatch up. Blueberries, violets/spring flowers, Asian spices, and a salty minerality all emerge from this full-bodied, yet elegant 2015 that has sweet tannin, a big mid-palate, and a great, great finish. Still tight and reserved, give bottle 3-5 years of bottle age and enjoy over the following two decades or more."
- Jeb Dunnuck
