

Château Canon La Gaffeliere 2017

CSPC# 873463

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, 10% 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.

Winemaker Stephan von Neipperg

Vintage Clearly, 2017 Saint Emilion will always be remembered as the year of the frost. The nights of April 27 and April 28 hit temperatures of below -4 Celsius. The Right Bank has not experienced this much damage from frost since 1991. Second generation fruit, the grapes that start growing after the frost, was successful to varying degrees. The results depended on the vineyard, terroir and good luck. The problem with those grapes is, if they reached maturity, it was not at the same time as the main harvest, so the berries needed separate vinifications. It was a lot of work especially since the percentage of second-generation grapes used is quite low. Another difficulty, or opportunity, depending on the situation was that first-generation grapes are the product of a cooler, dry growing season and the second-generation grapes received more sun, inheriting riper characteristics and higher degrees of alcohol, giving you 2 different wine styles. This is where the magic of blending comes in. Part of the reason the frost struck with such ferocity was that it hit just after bud-break, when the plants are at their most delicate stage of development. The vineyards which survived the frost were still looking for an early, and hopefully successful harvest.

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 18/09 to 10/10/2017

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 15 months. No fining

Tasting Notes Extravagant fruitiness drawing on citrus fruits. Mouth to match, baroque, slightly woody on this sample, the finish is still hard. The mini-harvest due to frost may not help at this stage of the wine's life, but it could surprise in the bottle.

Serve with Serve with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.

Production 5,000 cases made

Cellaring Drink 2024-2038



Scores/Awards **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2020
90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018
97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020
91-93+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2018
95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2020
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018
94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2020
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018
16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018
90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018
93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018
87-89 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2018
95+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2020
92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2018
92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2020
92-94+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - December 2018
17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018
89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2018
92 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2018
95 points - Vert de Vin - May 2018
95 points - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2020
17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021
17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2018
17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020

Reviews *"Features a deliciously ripe and inviting core of plum, boysenberry, and blackberry compote flavors, backed by anise and apple wood notes. Juicy in feel through the finish, with the fruit lingering. Tobacco and iron accents wait in reserve. Cellar for maximum effect. Best from 2022 through 2038."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Charming cassis and blackberry puree flavors glide along the polished structure, with light rooibos tea and anise accents chiming in. Offers a bright, polished finish."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Canon la Gaffeliere comes roaring out of the glass with exuberant notes of baked blackberries, blueberry compote and redcurrant jelly plus hints of forest floor, dried roses, and cedar chest with a waft of fallen leaves. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has fantastic density with a firm frame of finely grained tannins and tons of freshness, finishing with lingering layers of bright, energetic fruit."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Composed of 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2017 Canon la Gaffeliere contains a large part of second-generation fruit because 65% of the crop was affected by frost. Deep garnet-purple in color, it has pronounced crème de cassis, blueberry pie, red currants and red plums notes with touches of Chinese five spice, fragrant earth, tapenade, and tobacco. The palate is medium-bodied with nice firm tannins giving a sturdy frame along with plenty of freshness supporting great mid-palate density, finishing long and earthy.

Stephan von Neipperg's properties were significantly affected by frost, suffering more than 60% losses in most of the Vignobles Comtes von Neipperg vineyards, the exception being La Mondotte, which had no frost. "We took the decision to get really organized and bring the second-generation crop in," he told me. Like others who received damage from frost, the first thing they did was go through the vineyard to separately flag the unaffected, partially affected and totally affected vines, which were largely scattered randomly throughout the blocks. The frost-affected vines had to be managed much more carefully in the vineyard to allow every opportunity to achieve ripeness. This meant measures such as leaf pulling to expose the fruit and obtain maximum sun exposure. The unaffected vines were harvested roughly three weeks before the frosted vines bearing second-generation fruit. In the cellar, the second-generation grapes were fermented separately, repeatedly tasted and eventually added to the trial blends. Neipperg explained, "The first generation had very

Reviews *fresh fruit and nice tannins but was not so full in the mid-palate. There was a bit of dilution in these grapes from the rains. The second-generation bunches were very small, and the juice was much more concentrated.” In the end, it was decided that the blends were better with the inclusion of the second-generation fruit; therefore, Clos Marsalette, D’Aiguilhe, Clos de L’Oratoire and Canon-la-Gaffelière all contain a “significant proportion” of second-generation fruit. In my view, this was a successful move on Neipperg’s part, although this is certainly not so in all cases where second-generation fruit was used. Perhaps one of the most interesting tastings during my 2017 en primeur visits was tasting the Canon-la-Gaffelière and La Mondotte side by side. Both are excellent, but they taste like they come from completely different vintages, with the Canon-la-Gaffelière seeming to have two totally different ripening personalities in one wine.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“Extremely perfumed with blackcurrants, flowers, gunmetal, gunpowder and blackberries. Full-bodied, tight and reserved. The tannins are so tightly knit and just run through the center. Needs at least three or four years to open. A blend of 77% Merlot and 23% Cabernet Franc.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is really excellent for the vintage with wonderful density of fruit in terms of plum liqueur and creme de cassis. The palate’s plush but velvety with round tannins and a long finish. Should drink fabulously when young. So generous but silky and dialed-in.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This open wine brings out delicious black-currant fruits as well as the essential core of dark tannins. The solid backbone will stand the wine in good stead as it matures, softening the juicy, forward fruitiness.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Pretty similar dark crimson to the 2016. Very sweet start, and polished tannins. Not trying to be a blockbuster. This will be an extremely satisfactory lunchtime claret. Fast maturing. Good balance. Drink 2022-2030.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Very dark, black core. Lightly minty black fruit, suggesting ripeness, and a touch of oak char. Sweet and juicy on the palate, surprisingly light overall but harmonious and mouth-wateringly fresh. Drink 2023-2030.”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“Dark plum in colour, with some tight dark chocolate and tar. It's tightly extracted and has a silky texture and tons of impact, but a lot of the weight comes from its non-fruit elements. It stays true to its signature, which is to be applauded, but the oak notes are extremely dominant. Certified organic since 2014.”
- JA, Decanter.com

“The nose is chalky with dark berries, licorice, wet earth, and forest floor aromatics. The wine is full bodied, fresh, and mineral driven. You can feel the rocks and stones while enjoying the sweet red fruits and there is a freshness that stands out in the finish. The wine was made from blending 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Half of the vineyard was struck by the frost. The harvest took place September 18-October 10.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2017 Canon-la-Gaffelière was picked 18 September to 10 October at 16hl/ha, matured in 55% new oak. It has a fairly straightforward bouquet with high-toned black cherry and cassis fruit, the second-generation fruit lending freshness, though it does not have the complexity or depth of a great Canon-la-Gaffelière and there are a number of those in recent years. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, fleshy in the mouth and well balanced with notes of raspberry preserve, blackberry and light tea-leaves; smoky notes emerging towards the finish. This was sampled several times during my tastings, the final two showings undoubtedly superior. Yet despite the Herculean efforts I still feel that the second-generation fruit discombobulates what could have been a better wine. It should still offer a decade’s worth of drinking pleasure and in any case, it will be fascinating to see how it evolves.”
- NM, Vinous

Reviews

"The 2017 Canon La Gaffelière is another highlight in this range from Stephan von Neipperg. Bright, floral and punchy, the 2017 impresses for its energy and drive. Dried rose petal, mint, sage, tobacco, cedar and licorice add pretty top notes to this highly nuanced, layered Saint-Émilion. The Cabernet Franc is so expressive here. Quite simply, the 2017 is a wine of pure and total finesse. (AG) 95+."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2017 Canon La Gaffelière is superb. Compelling in its aromatics and overall balance, the 2017 has so much to offer. All the elements simply fall into place. As is the case with all of Stephan von Neipperg's wines, the 2017 is wonderfully fresh and nuanced, with less muscle than in the past and noticeably more finesse. Bright floral and mocha notes add lift to the dark red stone fruits. What a gorgeous wine this is. Tasted two times."

- AG, Vinous

"Incorporating plenty of second-generation grapes, the deep purple-hued 2017 Canon-La-Gaffeliere checks in as 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. It's a fresher, racier Saint-Emilion that has good acidity, fine tannins, and medium body, yet good concentration and balance. Give this outstanding 2017 4-6 years, and it will keep for at least two decades."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"A blend of 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon, aged in 55% new French oak, the 2017 Canon-la-Gaffelière offers a Burgundian mineral-laced bouquet of crushed flowers, forest floor, earth and both black and blue fruits. It has sensational purity, moderate depth, building tannin, and a great finish. It's certainly one of the fresher, more vibrant wines in the vintage, and the tannins will need to be watched, but its purity and elegance are something. I suspect the cellar will be your friend and it should be long-lived. Tasted twice. 92-94+"

- Jeb Dunnuck

The harvest took place between 18th September and 10th October. 65% production was affected by frost. Smoky, rich and wild, this is a nose I have not yet encountered this year and there is dense concentration here with swarming tannins throughout the palate. Very mouth-watering and combative with powdery astringency in every molecule, this is a tough wine and it struggling to gain control of itself. The oak is fairly strong, and this manages to add another layer of difficulty to the game."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"Deep dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate lightening of the edges, black berry fruit with a spicy background, a hint of orange marmalade, strawberry confit, and nougat. Juicy, exotic fruit texture, good, supporting tannins, charming style, salty freshness on the finish, mineral aftertaste, good development potential."

- Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is fine, aromatic, elegant, very slightly tight and offers power as well as a small density. It reveals notes of cassis, wild blackberry and fine/discreet hints of small wild fruits associated with zan, toasted, Cuban pepper as well as subtle hint of sweet spices. The palate is full, suave, gourmand, precise and offers a beautiful fat, a fine unctuousness, an acid frame, a good freshness, dynamism, a fine tension, volume, a good definition as well as a small straightness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy blackberry, cassis and more slightly fleshy red berries associated with small touches of toasted oak, caramelization, vanilla as well as a hint of toasted almond, cocoa. Tannins are fine, elegant, and slightly tight. Good fruity/acidulous persistence."

- Vert de Vin
