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## Château Canon La Gaffeliere 2018

CSPC# 848991

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	50% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Emilion
<b>Classification</b>	Premier Grand Cru Classé B
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.neipperg.com/index.php?act=1,9,3,,,,,en">http://www.neipperg.com/index.php?act=1,9,3,,,,,en</a>
<b>Organic</b>	<b>Organic Certified by FR-BIO-10</b>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Stephan von Neipperg
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>2018 Saint Emilion was not an easy vintage for producers. The winter months were easy, but the spring is one of the wettest in history. Depending on where you located in St. Emilion, during the initial 6 months of the year, between 550 mm to 600 mm (21"-24") of rain soaked your soils. This is more than the normal amount of rain the region experiences in a year!</p> <p>From there growers fended off violent attacks of mildew, which struck fast and furious. 2018 Saint Emilion was saved by the hottest, driest, sunniest vintage conditions since 2003. Barely any rain fell from July to harvest.</p> <p>Picking took place under warm, sunny and dry conditions. On average, production was down 10-20% for many vineyards. Conditions were so good between late September and mid-October; vigneron were able to pick at their chosen level of maturity. Harvesting took place from mid-September to mid-October.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<p>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</p>
<b>Harvest</b>	September 17-October 4, 2019. Yield 35 hl/ha
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	Fermentation in wooden vats for 35 days. Extraction by pneumatic pigeage (punching down the cap) Ageing in new oak barrels (50%) on the lees for 16 months. No fining
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>Chateau Canon La Gaffeliere's terroir consists of clay-limestone and clay-sand soil that is very permeable and particularly efficient at retaining heat. Reflecting the estate's soil, the proportions of grape varieties are rather atypical for the appellation: a perfect 50/50 divide between Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Cabernet Sauvignon ripens early on Canon La Gaffeliere's warm soil, adding power and aromatic complexity to Merlot's opulence to create wines of natural elegance and finesse. The wine is classy, remarkably well-structured, complex, pure, and always elegant.</p>
<b>Serve with</b>	Serve with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
<b>Production</b>	5,833 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2024-2038

**Scores/Awards** **96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021  
**94-99 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019  
**95+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021  
**94-96 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019  
**96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021  
**94-96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019  
**16.5+ points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2019  
**16.5 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019  
**15.5+ points** - Tom Parker, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020  
**95 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020  
**94 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019  
**96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021  
**95-97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019  
**95 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019  
**92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019  
**95-98 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019  
**95 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021  
**95 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2019

**Reviews** *"This has a lovely core of mulled cassis, damson plum and raspberry reduction notes, framed with an applewood note that integrates nicely while red tea, savory and chalky mineral notes develop through the finish. Restrained style, precise and very long. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2024 through 2038."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"A bright, mineral-driven style in the making, with the chalky aspect leading the way, quickly followed by a racy stream of red currant, raspberry and cherry coulis flavors. Has the grip of the vintage, but this is piercingly focused in feel."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Canon la Gaffeliere out of the gate delivers a seductive nose of plum preserves, kirsch and Black Forest cake with nuances of lilacs, underbrush, Indian spices and dusty soil. The medium to full-bodied palate is filled with black fruit preserves and loads of spicy accents, supported by chewy tannins and well-balanced freshness, finishing long and savory."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Canon la Gaffeliere has a fantastically exuberant nose of preserved plums, blueberry compote and black cherry pie with hints of menthol, mocha, Sichuan pepper and garrigue plus wafts of lavender and tilled soil. Full-bodied, concentrated and wonderfully decadent, it has a firm yet plush texture and just enough freshness in the background, finishing long with a menthol lift. Barrel Sample: 94-96."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Fantastic depth and richness to the nose with plums, mushrooms, bark and some mahogany. Full-bodied, tight and focused with very fine tannins and a long, creamy finish. Lovely polish, balance and clarity. Drink after 2025."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This already shows sophistication in a stream of black currant fruit set alongside the firm tannins that are still developing. Its structure and juicy berry fruits give richness and freshness at the end while also promising aging."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Very deep purplish crimson. Very perfumed – almost floral. Quite strongly Cabernet in aroma and very healthy and fine. Even if I can't help thinking of an absolutely top-of-the-range Maipo wine (sorry...)! Very fine tannins. Not galumphing at all. Really rather pure and 21st century. Long and refined, even if much lighter in tannins apparently than many 2018s."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

**Reviews** *“Sweet, toasty oak but the black fruit is lightly perfumed and minty. A bit flat on the mid palate, flattened by the tannins, though there is a cool refinement that somehow emerges on the finish. A bit of a conundrum for now. But the sweet blackcurrant comes back on the finish. More finesse to the tannins that in the Clos de l’Oratoire tasted at the same address. (JH)”*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“Deep ruby. Muddled nose of over- and underripe fruit – both candied and minty. Cherry-drop fruit dominates the palate, bringing an artificial edge to the flavour profile. The tannins are fine, persistent and grippy without a hint of over-extraction. Structurally very good, but the fruit is awkward in the middle. (TP)”*

- TP, JancisRobinson.com

*“This has the clear edge over La Mondotte for me because it combines the polish and glamour of a St-Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé with the salt taffy tang of limestone. Still a silky texture but a more attractive slate edge coming in on the finish to temper the sweet fruit and slow things down. A highly impressive wine.”*

- JA, Decanter.com

*“Owner Stephan von Neipperg always gives a little kick to his wines, a little swirl of oak finesse, a nod in the direction of glamour without going overboard. This gets the balance pretty much perfect, and although you can feel the ripeness of those red fruits, it's balanced by the minerality through the finish that asks you to stop, scrape your way up the limestone walls and rest at the top for the view. Good quality.”*

- JL, Decanter.com

*“Aromatically, the blend of truffle, flowers, mint, smoke, red pit fruits, licorice and spice keeps you busy, But the star of the show is all the mineral driven, fresh, lively, silky, refined, waves of roasted, ripe, red fruits and spice. Long, complex, lifted and vibrant, the fruit lingers and expands on your palate from the mid-palate through to the finish. The wine was made from a blend of 55% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Full-bodied, graceful and sensuous, this wine is packed with layers of luscious fruits. The purity of the berries stands out this year, as does the length, density, and energy. In the finish you will find velvety plums, cherries, licorice, chocolate, and spice.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2018 Canon-la-Gaffelière has a really lovely, elegant bouquet with perfumed red berry fruit laced with rose petals and lavender. Wonderful definition here and much greater focus than the Clos de l’Oratoire. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins, a mixture of red and black fruit with sea salt and truffle notes that lead to a vibrant, spicy finish that lingers. After tasting the 2017 in bottle, I uphold was discombobulated by frost, this is Canon-la-Gaffelière back to its best.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2018 Canon La Gaffelière is extraordinary. Fresh, vibrant, and bursting at the seams with energy, the 2018 takes full advantage of all the work Stephan von Neipperg and his team have implemented at their properties. Expressive floral and savory notes add myriad shades of nuance to a dark, sumptuous Saint-Émilion that melds together aromatic intensity and fruit richness. Even with all of its intensity, the 2018 retains an element of translucence that is beguiling. Tasted two times.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“It's never the biggest or richest wine in the vintage yet always has a classic Saint-Emilion elegance as well as brilliant minerality. The 2018 reveals a dense purple hue to go with an already complex bouquet of kirsch, blackberries, new saddle leather, bouquet garni, tobacco, and flowery incense. With medium to full-bodied richness, a seamless, elegant texture, ripe tannins, and a great finish, it builds nicely with time in the glass and is a complex, flawlessly balanced Saint-Emilion that offers both hedonistic and intellectual pleasure. It's going to keep for 20-30 years, and I'd recommend a healthy decant or a good 4-6 years of bottle age.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck