

# Château Clos de Sarpe 2011

CSPC#766000

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

open

## Grape Variety

85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc

## Appellation

St.-Emilion

## Website

<http://www.clos-de-sarpe.com/>

## General Info

Chateau Clos de Sarpe is an interesting wine that clearly represents its massive, stony terroir. Prior to being in the hands of the Beyney family, Chateau Clos de Sarpe owned by the Baron du Foussat de Bogeron who let go of the estate in 1923. Chateau Clos de Sarpe has been passed down from generation to generation in the Beyney family. Currently, it's managed by Christine and Jean-Guy Boney. Since Jean-Guy Beyney took over the Bordeaux wine making at Chateau Clos de Sarpe, the property has completely turned around. Previously, there was almost very little selection and no new oak was used for barrel aging. Things are very different today at the Right Bank property. The differences clearly show in the wine. Chateau Clos de Sarpe is consulted by Michel Rolland. On average, less than 1,000 cases of Chateau Clos de Sarpe are produced every year. There is a second wine, Charles de Sarpe.

## Vineyards

Chateau Clos de Sarpe comes from the heart of the Sarpe area, which is located north east of the village of St. Emilion. The small, 3.68-hectare Bordeaux vineyard of Chateau Clos de Sarpe is planted on thin, clay over deep limestone soils. With some of the oldest vines in St. Emilion averaging over 70 years of age, the vineyard is planted to 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. The vines are planted to a density of 5,500 vines per hectare.

## Harvest

Yields are always low at Chateau Clos de Sarpe. On average, they are often close to 25 hectoliters per hectare.

## Vinification/

Vinification takes place in a combination of oak and traditional, cement vats.

## Maturation

Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. Chateau Clos de Sarpe is aged in 100% new, French oak barrels for 16 to 18 months

## Tasting Notes

The wines of Chateau Clos de Sarpe are a backwards, tannic, mineral driven throwback to the ancient days of Bordeaux wine. The style of this Bordeaux wine is intense minerality, strong tannins and serious levels of concentration. It is a unique style of St. Emilion wine that requires serious aging to soften and develop its aromatic complexities. The style is powerful, fruit driven and rich with notes of black fruit, smoke and liquorice.

## Cellaring

Drink 2014-2034

## Scores/Awards

**86 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only, 2014  
**89-92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012  
**96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014  
**92-94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012  
**90 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com (score only)  
**87-89 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012  
**92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - November 17, 2013  
**88-90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 24, 2012  
**13.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

## Reviews

*"A frankly polished, ripe style, with a mocha frame around the core of plum cake and cherry confiture flavors. The toasted edge holds sway on the finish, with the fruit verging on jammy. For fans of the style. Drink now through 2015."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator



**Reviews** *“A very ripe, vivid style, with warm linzer torte, cherry confiture and blackberry jam flavors laced with ample toast and roasted wood spice notes. This has heft, but also enough polish through the finish, thanks to well-embedded acidity. Score range: 89-92”*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*“Another astonishing effort from proprietor Beyney, this blockbuster 2011 may be the most concentrated and intense wine of the vintage. Unlike previous vintages that were characterized by sky-high levels of tannin, the tannins in this Clos de Sarpe are very silky and soft, letting the fruit show through rather dramatically. The color is an opaque purple and the wine is loaded with beautiful black fruits, minerals and spices. It pushes richness and ripeness to the limit but pulls back before it veers over to the Amarone style favored in parts of Italy. This glorious, full-bodied St.-Emilion is one of the superstars of the vintage. Sadly, production is microscopic. It should drink well for 15-20+ years.”*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*“The 2011 Clos de Sarpe represents a return to form after a somewhat underachieving 2009. This small 12+ acre vineyard had remarkably low yields of 16 hectoliters per hectare, and the final blend from the proprietor, Monsieur Beyney, was 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. Along with La Fleur Morange, this is one of the most powerful wines of the vintage (15% natural alcohol). While most top vintages of Clos de Sarpe reveal excruciatingly high levels of tannin, the 2011’s tannin levels are very manageable and the tannin is remarkably sweet and well-integrated, giving this wine more charm and appeal at an early age than one normally sees. Nevertheless, it is a powerful, opaque purple-colored wine displaying notes of incense, blueberry and blackberry liqueur and spring flowers. Concentrated, full-bodied and multidimensional with lots of intensity as well as the aforementioned sweet tannins, it should drink well for at least two decades.”*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*“87-89. Barrel sample. Here is a wine with weight and richness, aided by new-wood aging. It has toast and ripe black-plum flavors.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Normally Clos de Sarpe requires years, if not decades in the cellar before its ready to drink. But that is not the case with this vintage. Notes of stone, licorice, oak and dark red berries open up the wine. The wine is polished and round, with an approachable, fresh, black cherry filled finish. This has really filled and improved since it was tasted in barrel.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Smoke, black raspberry and stone notes lead to a powerful, dense, tannic, stone-filled, severe wine that will take a long, long time to soften.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

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