

Château Clos de Sarpe 2021

CSPC# 102922

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St.-Emilion

Website

https://www.closdesarpe.com/?page_id=667&lang=en

Sustainability

Organic.

In 2017, conversion to organic viticulture was initiated by Jean-Guy Beyney and Maylis Marcenat, crowned with success in 2020 with Agriculture Biologique (organic farming) certification.

Since acquiring the estate, the choice has been made to move towards organic farming: at Clos de Sarpe, no pesticides, herbicides, or chemical weedkillers have ever been used. Our first concern is to promote life in our soils:

- by minimising tractor traffic to avoid compacting the soil,
- by grinding the vine shoots after pruning, to provide the vines with natural fertiliser,
- by sowing between the rows every winter, to nourish the soils and decompact them naturally,
- Spraying is limited to the traditional use of Bordeaux mixture.

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 was 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 Beney family. Currently, it's managed by Christine and Jean-Guy Beyney.

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.

The wines of Clos de Sarpe are a backward, tannic, mineral-driven throwback to the ancient days of Bordeaux winemaking. The character of this Bordeaux wine is intense minerality, strong tannins, and serious levels of concentration and ripe fruit, with an old-vine intensity. It is a unique style of Saint Emilion wine that requires serious aging to soften and develop its aromatic complexities.

Winemaker

Maylis Marcenat

Vintage

For Bordeaux, the vintage is defined by two opposing climatic factors:

1) Tumultuous weather conditions during the first half of the year, with frost, heavy rainfall, and cooler than average summer temperatures. A warm winter and early spring prompted early budbreak, which resulted in vines that were vulnerable to frosts, and May and June saw downpours of rain which created significant mildew pressure.

2) An extraordinary end to the growing season, when the sun finally made an appearance in late August and an anticyclone weather system brought calm, fine weather to what had been chaotic conditions. Doom-mongering meteorologists forecast storms at the end of September into October, but these largely didn't materialise and those who were prepared to ride out the weather were rewarded with grapes attaining full ripeness and the choice of when to pick in late September for Merlot and October for Cabernet Sauvignon.

Vineyards

Chateau Clos de Sarpe comes from the heart of the Sarpe area, which is located northeast 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 around 20-25 hectoliters per hectare. The harvest took place October 7 - October 17.

Vinification/

Maturation

Vinification takes place in a combination of oak and traditional, cement vats. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrels. Chateau Clos de Sarpe is aged in 100% new, French oak barrels for 16 to 18 months



Tasting Notes	Dark purple colour with violet hue and black core. Expressive nose with aroma reminiscent of stewed blackberries and black cherries, vanilla, and hints of aromatic herbs. On the palate well-structured with medium body, ripe tannins, juicy fruit, and very good length.
Serve with	Clos de Sarpe is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Clos de Sarpe is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Clos de Sarpe is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta
Production	On average, less than 1,000 cases of Clos de Sarpe are produced every year.
Cellaring	Drink 2026-2050
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>92-94 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>88-90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>91 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>92-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>92-94+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>92-93 points - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2022</p> <p>92 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>93-94 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>93-94 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>91-92 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>91-92 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"The 2021 Clos de Sarpe has turned out very nicely in bottle, offering up aromas of dark berries, spices, sweet soil tones and bay leaf, followed by a medium to full-bodied, layered, and seamless palate with good depth of fruit, racy acids and impressively suave, polished tannins. By the standards of this site, the 2021 will be unusually approachable out of the gates."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Clos de Sarpe is showing beautifully, offering up aromas of wild berries and plums mingled with subtle hints of petals, loamy soil, spices, and pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, seamless, and velvety, with powdery tannins, lively acids, and a penetrating finish, it shows considerable promise. Maylis Marcenat reported that the vineyard was spared by both frost and mildew but fell victim to poor pollination at flowering, delivering low yields. In the winery, she opted for a long maceration at a very low temperature of merely 23 degrees Celsius for a judicious extraction, and that approach appears to have paid off handsomely."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Clos de Sarpe is deep garnet-purple in color. It leaps with notes of preserved plums, fruitcake, and baked black cherries, followed by hints of potpourri and Indian spices with a waft of cast-iron pan. Medium-bodied, the palate is juicy and spicy with plush tannins and a lovely line of freshness, finishing with impressive length."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Independent</p> <p><i>"A juicy and fruit red with lots of plum, berry and some cherry aromas and flavors. Medium body with round, creamy tannins, yet it remains elegant and bright."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Richly fruited and driving with high acidity and such lifted brightness. A burst of mouthwatering red berry fruit, pink floral touches and graphite on the palate which sustains a mid-palate in terms of continuation of flavour and density of tannins, though they are fine and powdery. It's lightly framed no doubt, but they haven't pushed too hard here, letting the vintage shine through harmoniously and the overall concentration and drive suggests this will further round out over ageing. A fun, playful and promising wine."</i></p> <p>- GH, Decanter.com</p>

Reviews *“Black cherries, crushed stone and floral notes show with ease in the nose. On the palate, the wine delivers its red fruits with a salty edge that comes from its deep, limestone terroir. Drink from 2026-2045.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Flowers, dark cherries, black plums, espresso, chocolate, and flowers come through with a strong touch of minerality in the nose and on the salty, rock, and stone infused, fresh, bright, juicy, crisp palate. The cut stone elements here make this one of the more individualistic wines of the vintage. The harvest took place October 7 - October 17. Drink from 2026-2050.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2021 Clos de Sarpe is a wine of density, power, and personality. Cedar, tobacco, scorched earth, licorice, incense, and dried herbs lead into a core of deep, textured fruit. Dark red plum, white pepper, blood orange and exotic spices all run through this potent, deeply structured Saint-Émilien. This is a standout.”
- AG, *Vinous*

“The 2021 Clos de Sarpe is another terrific wine from an estate that has been on a roll of late. There is plenty of the size and richness Clos de Sarpe fans have come to expect, but these days the wine has a bit more freshness to play off all that extroverted intensity. Black cherry, tobacco, spice, and new leather fill out the layers. The finish is ample, creamy, and so inviting. Tasted two times.”
- AG, *Vinous*

“I continue to love the wines from this estate, and while older vintages were powerful and rustic, that's not the case today. These wines always shine for their purity while still bringing lots of fruit and depth. The 2021 Château Clos de Sarpe is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc that hit 14% alcohol and is currently resting in 70% new French oak. Medium to full-bodied, ripe, and textured, especially in the vintage, it has terrific blue fruits, notes of iron, chalky mineral, and chocolate, ripe tannins, and a great mid-palate as well as finish. It's well worth seeking out, and I wouldn't be surprised to see it turn out to be one of the longer-lived wines in the vintage.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Deep garnet, purple rim. Plum fruit, dark cherries, a touch of nougat and figs, candied orange zest. Juicy, elegant, fine acidity, red cherries, silky tannins, well-structured, good length; elegant food companion.”
- PM, *Falstaff Magazine*

“The nose is elegant and reveals delicacy, a certain fleshiness of fruit and harmony. There are notes of crushed strawberry, creamy raspberry and, to a lesser extent, pulpy blackcurrant, combined with hints of blueberry, blue berries and fine hints of vanilla. The palate is fruity and offers juiciness, acidity, good definition, a certain gourmandise, and some creaminess (elegantly coupled with an airy side). On the palate this wine expresses creamy raspberry, redcurrant and slightly blackcurrant notes combined with hints of lily, blueberry as well as fine graphite, sweet spices, and a subtle hint of pepper. Good length. The tannins are nicely sapid and elegant. Nice acidity on the finish.”
- Vert de Vin
