

## Clos de L'Oratoire 2009

CSPC# 749564

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**General Info**

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc  
St Emilion

Clos de l'Oratoire is located on Saint-Emilion's north-east slope.

The origins of Clos de l'Oratoire lie in the Peyraud estate, which was established by the Beylot family, a firm of *négociants* based in Libourne, in the middle years of the 19th century. This was a substantial estate which required extensive planting by the proprietors, who were also responsible for the construction of the *château* which still graces the vineyards today. Its division, in which some of the best parcels were cleaved off to create Clos de l'Oratoire, occurred following the first classification of the St Emilion vineyards in 1955. The Beylot family made the split in good time for the 1969 reclassification, seeing the smaller of the two classed as *Grand Cru Classé*. The larger part, by then known as Château Peyreau, remained unclassified, and both parts stayed under the tenure of the family.

Just a few years later, however, came a significant change in ownership with the arrival of the Neipperg dynasty. Today the property is owned by Stephan von Neipperg, although it was in fact his father, Joseph-Hubert, Graf von Neipperg, a descendant of Franconian nobility, who acquired the property. Joseph-Hubert was one in a long line of successful winemakers in his homeland, Württemberg, which is now part of Baden-Württemberg, a southwest German state. He had made his first investment in Bordeaux in 1971, with the purchase of Canon-la-Gaffelière, and it was only the following year that he added Clos de l'Oratoire to his portfolio. Nevertheless, it is Stephan, his son, who is today the driving force behind Clos de l'Oratoire, as well as Château Peyreau, which also came under the direction of the Neipperg family. Contrary to what is sometimes said, the plots comprising Clos l'Oratoire were not acquired in 1991, but in 1971 (at the same time as the von Neipperg's four first vineyards in Saint-Emilion).

During the 2nd revision of the Saint-Emilion classification, in 1969, the owner at the time had already selected the best plots of Château Peyreau and submitted them for classification. His request was accepted, and Clos de l'Oratoire was born in that year. However, major efforts undertaken to achieve Clos de l'Oratoire's full potential date from 1991.

**Vineyards** The 10.32 hectares of vines grow on Fronsac molasse covering a layer of sand with a clay subsoil. Average vine age is 35 years. This terroir is ideally suited to the blend of Merlot (90%), Cabernet Franc (5%), and Cabernet Sauvignon (5%) grapes. Merlot contributes roundness and opulence to the wine, whereas Cabernet Franc is responsible for power, aromatic complexity, and length.

**Harvest** October 7-12, 2009. By hand, into small crates to avoid bruising Yield 20hl/ha. Sorted before and after destemming No crushing. The grapes arrive on a conveyor belt.

**Maturation** In temperature-controlled wooden vats for 22-30 days depending on the vintage Extraction par pneumatic pigeage (punching down the cap). Malolactic fermentation and barrel ageing: In new oak barrels (70%) on the lees Fining and filtering as necessary, depending on the vintage. 15months barrel ageing.

**Tasting Notes** With its pronounced fruity aromas and beautiful deep crimson colour, Clos de l'Oratoire is a smooth, soft, very seductive wine. Despite its tremendous ageing potential, Clos de l'Oratoire is nevertheless enjoyable seven years after the vintage.

**Production** 2,250 cases made

**Cellaring** Drink 2015-2027



**Scores/Awards** **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012

**92-95 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010

**93 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012

**91-93 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010

**90-92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010

**91 points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July 2012

**Reviews** *"This is very suave, with mocha and smoldering tobacco flavors laced with fig, plum and blackberry notes. A flash of sweet tapenade and iron helps extend the finish, which has lovely latent minerality. This shows great restraint, considering its power of fruit. Best from 2015 through 2027. 2,250 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Loads of aniseed and black licorice aromas. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a lovely balance of fruit, and everything else. Love the length. 90 percent Merlot and 10 percent Cabernet Franc. Score range: 92-95"*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"A flamboyant St.-Emilion, this largely-Merlot blend displays notes of Christmas fruitcake, cedar wood, tobacco leaf, and loads of black currant and blackberry fruit. A showy, extravagantly concentrated, hedonistic style of St.-Emilion, with some wood smoke and roasted herbs adding nuance to the full-throttle aromatics and long, lush, silky flavors, this wine can be drunk now or cellared for up to 15+ years."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The 2009 Clos de l'Oratoire, a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc that achieved 13.5% natural alcohol, exhibits an inky/ruby/purple color along with a big, sweet nose of incense, blackberries, blueberries, cedar, and spice box. Rich, opulent, and full-bodied, this offering is a complete turn-on that should provide enormous pleasure over the next 10-15 years. (Tasted four times.)*

*Stefan von Neipperg's 25-acre St.-Emilion estate (planted in clay and limestone) had slight hail damage, which resulted in somewhat smaller yields (28 hectoliters per hectare)."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted at Canon-la-Gaffeliere, cropped at just 20hl/ha between 7th and 12th October, a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, this has an opulent bouquet with pure black cherries, black plum, a touch of wet sand and a hint of cooked meat. The palate is medium bodied with creamy new oak, quite plush, modern, but very seductive with a hint of savoury fruit, perhaps even a touch of dried salami towards the finish that adds another level of intrigue. Very fine. Tasted March 2010."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Bright ruby-red. Cherry, cola and sandalwood on the expressive nose. Densely packed, unctuous and sweet, with powerful spice shop lift to its cherry fruit. Quite suave in texture and very long on the back end, finishing with substantial dusty, oak-driven tannins. A knockout for this property."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

---