

Château Sansonnet 2017

CSPC# 763515

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Website

<http://www.sansonnet.com/accueil>

General Info

In the 18th Century Château Sansonnet was the property of the Duke Decazes, Prime Minister under the reign of Louis XVIII. The historic home, restored, furnished and redecorated now welcomes private and business guests in an elegant, typical Saint-Emilion, setting. Sharing the unique terroir of the best Saint-Emilion crus classés, Château Sansonnet is located to the North East of the medieval village, on the highest point of the limestone clay plateau. The property extends over 7 hectares in a single block of land surrounding the château itself. He sold Chateau Sansonnet in 1846 to General de Coutard and retired from politics in 1848.

Château Sansonnet was then bought by Prosper Robin, a cooper, in 1892 and remained in the Robin family's hand for 4 generations spanning a century until the d'Aulan family (former owners of *Piper-Heidsieck Champagne*) took it over in 1999. The d'Aulan family has owned Piper Heidsieck since the 19th century and sold the Champagne House in 1988 to the group *Rémy Martin*. Nowadays they are part of Edonia, a French family-owned negociant business which owns and distributes their wines from Château Sansonnet, *La Croix du Casse*, *Jonqueyres*, *Clinet*, the Argentinian *Alta Vista*, and the sweet Tokaji from *Château Dereszla*, amongst others. In 2012, Château Sansonnet joined the tight circle of Saint-Emilion's Grans Crus Classés. This distinction was a reward for constant, hard and close work carried out on the vines with a continuous concern for quality.

Winemaker

Jean-Philippe Fort

Sustainability

A restructuring of the vineyard has led to environmentally friendly practices, a pure expression of the exceptional terroir through a micro-plot approach and a renovation of the vat room and cellar. The tailor-made vinifications are carried out under the guidance of famous wine consultant Michel Rolland and Jean-Philippe Fort. All these efforts and investments have been rewarded with an improvement in the quality of the wines, whose stylistic definition comes through more and more with each new vintage, as confirmed by the 2017.

Vintage

The privileged position of Chateau Sansonnet, on top of the limestone plateau of Saint-Emilion, has spared the vineyard from the damage caused by the frost of April 2017.

Vineyards

Chateau Sansonnet is located in the St Emilion appellation, on the right bank of the Gironde. Its 7 hectares of vineyards are planted on the highest point of a limestone clay plateau. The vines are split into 2 varieties: 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc. In our quest for superlative quality, we are working towards a gradual transformation of the vineyard, focusing particularly on complantation work, i.e. planting different grape varieties in a specific soil type, on raising the height of the vine training and on meticulously adapting vineyard work according to the evolution and behavior of the vines.

Harvest

The grapes are harvested entirely by hand, from 19 September to 1 October.

Vinification/ Maturation

Our vinification equipment is entire suitable for the geography of our vineyards. Straight after harvesting, a proportion of the grapes will undergo pre-fermentation cold maceration; these are kept at 5°C for 6 days. During alcohol fermentation, the temperature of the vats is rigorously controlled. A rail-mounted automatic punch-down fermenter optimizes extraction. This is then followed by hot maceration. Malolactic fermentations take place in casks of French oak in which the wine will then age for 16 months. This fully custom-made vinification is orchestrated by our enologist, Jean-Philippe Fort, from the Michel Roland Practice!



Tasting Notes The First Wine of the property, the Chateau Sansonnet 2017 pays tribute to the Saint-Emilion appellation's flagship red grape, Merlot, 85% of which is blended with 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. While this vintage was truly a challenging one, the Chateau Sansonnet 2017 promises to be a successful vintage indeed, offering an expressive aromatic bouquet and a silky-smooth texture on the palate, while also maintaining a perfect balance. The nose is elegant, racy and offers a beautiful grain and complexity. It reveals notes of cassis, raspberry and small notes of blackberry associated with small touches of violet, graphite, violet plum as well as hints of toasted, tonka bean and an imperceptible hint of pepper. The palate is fruity, mineral, juicy, well-balanced and offers a beautiful definition, an acidulous/fresh frame as well as a fine richness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of ripe/juicy cassis, ripe/juicy blackberry and small notes of raspberry associated with fine touches of violet, violet plum/blueberry as well as very fine hints of tonka bean, toasted, chocolate and a subtle hint of bourbon vanilla. Tannins are elegant and well-built. A very discreet hint of coffee on the finish. Good length.

Production 1,750 cases made.

Cellaring Drink 2021-2032

Scores/Awards **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020
89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018
95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020
90-92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018
92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018
91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2020
89-90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018
16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018
90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018
93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020
91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2018
90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018
90-92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018

Reviews *"This is enticing, with a succulent core of crushed plum, blackberry and dark currant fruit that melds nicely with apple wood and sweet tobacco notes. Shows a good brambly tug through the grippy finish. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2021 through 2032. 1,750 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Shows a light coffee and ganache frame around a core of lightly steeped plum and blackberry fruit. Toast drapes on the finish. Offers more heft than cut but remains solid. 1,750 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Sansonnet needs some coaxing to reveal notions of warm blueberries, plum preserves and boysenberries followed by Chinese five spice, licorice, fertile loam and charcuterie with a waft of lavender. Full-bodied, the palate is packed with layered black and blue fruits, framed by ripe, velvety tannins and plenty of freshness, finishing long and with great purity."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The present blend of the 2017 Sansonnet is 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple in color, it offers up notions of crushed blackcurrants, wild blueberries and black raspberries with wafts of pencil shavings, tobacco leaf and lavender. Medium to full-bodied with a firm frame of grippy tannins and just enough freshness, it has just enough vibrant fruit to flesh out the structure and good length."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Iodine and dark fruit with blackberry and blueberry character. Hints of moss. Medium to full body and firm tannins."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews

"Powerful tannins dominate this massive wine that has as much to do with structure as with dark black-fruit flavors. Dense and concentrated, it will age well and should be drunk from 2023."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"89–90. Barrel Sample. This wine has solid tannins balanced with juicy acidity and ripe fruit flavors. The rich texture blends admirable structure with luscious fruit. Drink this delicious wine from 2021."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"85% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon. Very dark cherry red, almost black at the core. Fragrant with pure dark fruit and the finesse of graphite. Tannins are much more supple than I expected, the wine overall more graceful. The tannins and freshness providing sufficient structure for the fruit. Not terribly long but surprisingly approachable. (JH)"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"This 7ha estate owned by Marie-Bénédicte Lefèvre is one to watch and is often good value for the terroir, something that is increasingly rare in St-Émilion. This has a lovely rich expression of tight but fresh blue fruit and white pepper, courtesy of the two Cabernets. It doesn't have the generosity of 2015 or 2016, but it's a well-handled wine with an attractive saline finish. Drinking Window 2023 – 2036"

- JL, Decanter.com

"Produced from a blend of 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc, this rocks! It is more than the flowers, layers of ripe, lush fruits, black cherries, espresso and licorice. The wine is fleshy, flashy and already delicious. One of the hottest tickets in St. Emilion these days, this is a great style of wine, that still sells for about a song."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2017 Sansonnet was cropped at 21hl/ha and matured in 100% new oak. It has a well-defined bouquet building on its promise from the barrel, plenty of black fruit with chocolate and mint. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins, a fine bead of acidity, a little powdery in texture. A precise and quite refined finish copes with that new oak with aplomb. This have very good potential."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Sansonnet was cropped at 21hl/ha from 6.96-hectares of vine on limestone soils surrounding the Maison. It was picked from 19 September to 1 October and it is matured in 100% new oak and two 7.5hl amphora used for the Merlot. It has a fresh bouquet with red cherries, crushed strawberry and a touch of black truffle. This is quite refined. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, crisp acidity, conveying a fine sense of energy with a precise finish that disguises the new oak with some style. Excellent."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Sansonnet is a rich, explosive wine endowed with real depth and intensity. I have seen Sansonnet blossom with a few years in bottle and suspect that may very well happen here as well. Lavender, menthol, crushed rocks, spice, chocolate, smoke and tobacco add layers of nuance to the inky dark fruit. This is a terrific showing from proprietors Christophe and Marie Lefèvre. Tasted two times."

- AG, Vinous

"A perennial overachiever, the 2017 Château Sansonnet is a hidden gem in this complex, irregular vintage. Black cherries, blueberries, violets, and hints of underbrush give way to a medium-bodied, rounded, supple, beautifully polished red that has sweet tannin and nicely integrated acidity. This estate was relatively unaffected by the April frost. The rough blend is 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Cabernet Franc, harvested between the 19th of September and the 5th of October, representing roughly 65% of the total production. It's still aging in 100% new French oak."

- Jeb Dunnuck