
Château Calon Ségur 1996

CSPC# 745418

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint Estèphe
Classification	Third classified Growth in 1855.
Website	http://www.calon-segur.fr/en/#menu-tome-ii-en
General Info	<p>3rd classified growth in 1855. Calon, meaning little river skiff used in Middle Ages to ferry timber across the Gironde estuary, gave its name to the district which was at one point known as Calones or Saint-Estèphe-de-Calon. In early times, Château Calon-Ségur was one of the original three vineyards in Saint-Estèphe, and in 1825 Château Montrose (in 1855 classified as a Second Growth) was a forest-land parcel belonging to the Calon-Ségur estate. By marriage, the estate came to be owned by Nicolas-Alexandre, marquis de Ségur who also owned Chateau Latour and Chateau Lafite. Despite his ownership of these two First Growths, the Marquis said that his "heart was with Calon" and the wine's label today includes a drawing of a heart around the Chateau's name. Chateau Calon Segur had been in the hands of the Gasqueton family since 1894. The future of Calon-Ségur has been in question since the death of proprietor Denise Capbern-Gasqueton in September 2011 at the age of 87. Bordeaux third-growth Château Calon-Ségur has been sold to Suravenir, the life-insurance subsidiary of French banking group Credit Mutuel Arkea, for an estimated \$212.5 million. Videlot, a Bordeaux wine group owned by Jean-François Moueix, is a minority partner in the deal. The purchase agreement was signed June 29, 2012 and the buyers expect to finalize the sale in November 2012.</p>
Vineyards	The vineyard has 74 acres in total and it is surrounded partially by a stonewall and located in the northern town of St. Estephe.
Vinification/ Maturation	The wines are fermented for 3 weeks in enamel-lined steel vats and are then matured in oak barriques (40% new) for 18 months.
Tasting Notes	Notes of tobacco, spice box, cassis, cigar box and leaf, medium bodied, with a fresh, bright, crisp red and black fruit finish.
Cellaring	Drink 2009-2028
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007 90 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - January 1999 92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #122 - April 1999 92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #115 - February 1998 90-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #110 - April 1997 92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2009 94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2000 93 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2002 17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - September 2006 90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 10, 2012 16.2 points - Farr Vintner (score only) September 2006 17.5 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - July 2001 15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) 17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) 92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) 92 points - Campbell Mattison, The Wine Front (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Currant and fresh herbs. Full- to medium-bodied, with plum flavors and a medium finish. --'95/'96 Bordeaux retrospective. Drink now."</i> - JS, Wine Spectator</p>

Reviews *“Aromas of blackberry, currant, strawberry, tar and mint. Medium- to full-bodied, with a polished and caressing texture. Not as good as the great '95, but excellent. This chewy yet closed wine needs years to come around. Best after 2003.”*

- JS, Wine Spectator

“The 1996 may not be as profound as I had predicted from cask, but it is an exceptional wine. Dark ruby-colored, with a complex nose of dried herbs, Asian spices, and black cherry jam intermixed with cassis, it possesses outstanding purity, and considerable tannin in the finish. This classic, medium to full-bodied, traditionally made wine improves dramatically with airing, suggesting it will have a very long life. Anticipated maturity: 2009-2028.”

- RP, Wine Advocate

“The 1996 has gained weight, revealing even more flesh and depth than it did in spring, 1997. The wine is opaque ruby/purple-colored, full-bodied, ferociously tannic, and crammed with fruit and extract. Made in an uncompromising, traditional style, this wine will require a decade of patience. There is plenty of sweet fruit on the attack, and while the tannins are high, they are remarkably ripe with no evidence of astringency or vegetal characteristics. This appears to be a profound, classic, muscular, and powerful Calon-Segur that will age effortlessly for 30-40 years. Readers should remember that this estate possesses one of the greatest terroirs of Bordeaux and produced a bevy of legendary wines in the twenties, late forties, and early fifties. Since then, it has been something of a hit or miss property, but under her administration, Madame Gasqueton has produced consistently outstanding wines. The 1996, a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, was made from extremely low yields of 35 hectoliters per hectare. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2035.

Proprietor Madame Gasqueton (one of The Wine Advocate's heroines of 1997) has produced two unqualified back to back successes. Kudos to Calon-Segur, as both the 1995 and 1996 wines have a strong buy recommendation from me, but only for readers who have the patience to wait them out.”

- RP, Wine Advocate

“A compliment is in order for Madame Gasqueton, the strict yet passionate widow who has taken over this estate since the death of her husband several years ago. It is no coincidence that the 1995 and 1996 Calon-Segurs are two of the finest wines this estate has made since 1982. Why? First, Madame Gasqueton introduced a stricter selection, producing more abundant quantities of the second wine, the Marquis de Calon. Secondly, improvements were made in the cellar, and the percentage of new oak casks was increased to 50%. Thirdly, approximately 20% of the production benefits from having malolactic fermentation occur in barrel rather than tank. And lastly, Calon-Segur is now bottled after 18 months in cask, a much-needed departure from the former practice of aging the wine 24-30 months prior to bottling. The 1996, a 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot blend, made from very low yields of 35 hectoliters per hectare (just over 2 tons of fruit per acre), appears to be a dazzling, traditionally made, uncompromising, classic Bordeaux that will need 10-15 years of cellaring. Sixty percent of the crop made it into the final blend. The wine exhibits an opaque purple color, and copious quantities of sweet, floral-scented, black-cherry and cassis scents. Full-bodied, powerful, and tannic, the 1996 Calon-Segur should equal the quality of the 1995 but be less appealing in its youth. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2030.”

- RP, Wine Advocate

“Surprisingly, this is showing more maturity on the rim than the 1995 Calon-Segur. Contradicting the preconceived style of the vintage, the bouquet has more femininity than the '95, good lift with freshly rolled tobacco, autumn leaves/November bonfire, a touch of espresso. Moving firmly into secondary aromas with hints of bell pepper. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, very harmonious, a slight softness counterbalancing the smoky, graphite-tinged black dusty fruits. Good length, perhaps just lacking a little grip right on the leafy finish. But a very good wine for the vintage – a real foodie wine. Drink 2012-2035. Tasted November 2008.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“Last tasted blind at Farr's horizontal. Very intense, tobacco infused nose. Black olives and damp earth. Superb definition. The palate is well-balanced, crisp, black toasty fruits, slightly grainy texture with great freshness and poise. Assertive tannic finish. Still needs some ageing. Excellent. Tasted September 2006.”

- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews *“Saturated ruby-red. Pure, highly perfumed aromas of black cherry, currant, plum, minerals, tobacco, leather and fresh herbs. Very ripe, suave and spicy; at once subtle and gripping. Lovely Cabernet character dominating today. Very firm, long finish is youthful but not hard-edged. Showing extremely well.”*
- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Strongly mineral nose. Very fresh and sappy. Good integrity of fruit right through the beginning, middle and end of the tasting experience. Lots of tannin there still which is very slightly dusty. Correct St-Estèphe. Sweet start and then glossy.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Notes of tobacco, spice box, cassis, cigar box and leaf, medium bodied, with a fresh, bright, crisp red and black fruit finish. This is developing at a faster pace than I thought, as Calon Segur usually takes decades to come around.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Gorgeous colour. Fresh coffee grounds on the nose, with some rich, inky fruit. Fat and richly textured on the palate, which is loaded with fruit. Another wine with a delicious mineral and stone edge to the luscious fruit. A very nicely crafted wine.”
- CK, The Wine Doctor
