

Le Marquis de Calon Segur 2015

CSPC# 801703

750mlx12

13.7% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

57% Merlot, 33% Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint- Estèphe

Website

<http://www.calon-segur.fr/en/#wines-2>

General Info

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. Videtot, 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.

The estate's Second Wine is a different expression of the Calon terroir. With an average proportion of 75% Merlot in the blend, it is enjoyable to drink in the immediate term and exhibits a warm and velvety character.

The Marquis de Calon Ségur reveals another reading of the terroir of Calon. It is the subject of a real parcel definition. The Marquis de Calon is largely made from Merlot and delivers a very tender grain of tannin. Gourmand, silky, expressive, it plays with its immediate charm while recalling the elegance of its elder.

Vintage

A cool winter, a warm spring, and a mixed summer; mild weather conditions for the harvest.

- From January to March: Temperature and rainfall close to the average.

- May and June: Mild.

- July: Hot and dry.

- August and September: Cooler than average with some stormy showers in August and a rainy spell from 11 to 15 September.

- Bud burst: A little later than usual followed by very regular growth.

- Flowering: First flowers on 25 May and Full flowering on 4 June

Despite a slow start to flowering, it was then rapid and even.

- Véraison: Mid-véraison on 4 August. As with the flowering, it was rapid and even.

- Leaf removal: Leaf removal between the end of June and beginning of July, adapted to the water stress of each plot, and even within plots.

Vineyards

The vineyard of Chateau Calon Segur remains almost exactly the same as it did at the time of the 1855 Classification. While the vineyard is large at 55 hectares, most of the time, only 50 hectares of vines are planted. This allows time for the soils to remain fallow and become revitalized.

The terroir of Calon Segur is a blend of gravel, rocks, clay, sand and limestone soils on the surface with gravel that can be as deep as 5 meters. Underneath, you find marl, clay and limestone. On average, the vines are 25 years of age. The young age is due to the replanting program. However, they have old vines, placed close to the small chapel, which range from 45-60 years of age.



Vineyards	Because the vineyard is situated in the northern most part of the St. Estephe appellation, quite often, Chateau Calon Segur can have one of the coolest terroirs in the northern Medoc. Thus, they can be one of the last properties to finish harvesting, depending on the vintage.
Harvest	This vintage is the result of a blend of 57% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Cabernet Franc. The harvest took place from September 18 to 25 for Merlot, from September 25 to October 5 for Cabernet Sauvignon and from September 23 to 30 for Cabernet Franc.
Vinification / Maturation	The harvest is entirely manual, they are accompanied by a first control on foot, a vibrating ginner followed by manual sorting. The grape berries are then divided into thermoregulated frustoconical stainless vats for a vat of 20 days. The wine was then aged for 17 months in barrels (50% new barrels). The egg white paste has been reintroduced.
Tasting Notes	The Marquis de Calon Ségur 2015 reveals an intense color, purplish purple. On the nose this wine reveals a bouquet with a fruity and spicy character, notes of caramel mingled with notes of black fruits and a floral touch of violet. The attack is delicious, elegant, slightly sweet mixing with a slight minerality and especially of creaminess. The wine has fat and a nice freshness that carries the fruit to the end. A great, racy, balanced wine that takes a few years to keep.
Production	11,667 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2029
Scores/Awards	<p>87 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>85 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>88-90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>88 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>88-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Bright and fresh, with floral, bitter cherry and damson plum notes streaming through, carried by a slightly brisk-edged iron accent. Shows a savory echo through the finish. Drink now through 2026. 11,667 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Le Marquis de Calon-Segur is blended of 57% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Cabernet Franc, aged in 50% new and 50% one-year-old French oak barrels for 17 months. Deep garnet-purple in color, it has a balsamic nose with dark cherries and notes of truffles and char grill. The medium-bodied mouth is fine, fresh and lithe with chewy tannins and an earthy finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Marquis de Calon Segur is a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc cropped at 47 hectoliters per hectare and matured in 50% new wood over the next 17 months. The blend is indicative of a decreasing proportion of Merlot. The nose is very attractive, quite rich and opulent in style, macerated black cherries, cassis and violet, nicely defined and gaining intensity in the glass. The palate is smooth on the entry with ripe blackberry and boysenberry fruit. There is a little graininess to the texture and a pleasant salinity that just crescendos towards the finish, leaving a marine-influenced residue in the mouth. This has very good potential and is certainly an improvement in terms of the deuxième vin compared to previous vintages."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *“Bottled in June 2017, the 2015 Le Marquis de Calon-Ségur was actually more closed on the nose compared to the 2015 Capbern tasted alongside and demanded more encouragement from the glass. Eventually it reveals blackberry, light charcoal and loam aromas but the aromatics clearly need another couple of years. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, supple in the mouth with well-judged acidity. This is more open in the mouth than on the nose, already showing the fineness of the tannins. I appreciate here the precision on the finish, completing a very assured deuxième vin that should age well over the next decade.”*
- NM, Wine Journal
- “Wow. This second wine shows such beautiful cedar, tobacco and berry character. Full-bodied, layered and juicy. Lots of gorgeous fruit and spice character. Long finish. Second wine of Calon-Segur. Drink in 2021.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “This finely perfumed wine has a percentage of Cabernet Franc in the blend giving elegance as well as contrasting well with the ripe, jammy Merlot. This generously structured wine is smooth, juicy with red fruits and acidity. It will age well over the medium term. Drink from 2024.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “92–94. Barrel Sample. This wine is lightly perfumed from the Cabernet Franc in the blend, which gives it a juicy, fragrant, exotic character. Red fruits and great swathes of acidity sweep through.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Fine, St-Estèphe nose. Some richness, certainly full ripeness. Classic, very satisfying, well-balanced stuff. GV”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Beautifully expressed fruit: ripe 57% Merlot with a lift from 10% Cabernet Franc. Wonderful purity and freshness and extremely elegant for St-Estèphe; a perfect second wine.”*
- Decanter.com
- “Medium bodied, with a sweet, earthy, leaf and cherry filled character, you can drink this young, while waiting for the Grand Vin to come around.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Mid depth; purple at edge; attractive fruit; some spice; elegant; nice soft and supple entry on the palate; very easy fruit here this year; less concentration apparent than in '14 but a harmony and roundness; fresh and pure; nice extract – very Bordeaux in feel. Good acidity. [57% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 13.7% alc, TA 3.5, PH3.7, 47hl/ha, 50% new oak]. Drink 2024-2030. Tasted at Calon 4/4/16. 90-92”*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “Violets and plums with lovely elegance and freshness in this second wine of Calon Segur. Balanced, pretty and approachable young with lively fruit character.”*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- “The 2015 Le Marquis de Calon Ségur, the chateaux's Merlot-based second wine, is pretty, gracious and nicely lifted, all qualities that make it an excellent choice for drinking now and over the next few years. Bright, red-toned fruit, floral notes and silky, polished tannins give the wine its finesse and grace. The 2012 spent 19 months in barrel (25% new) and was bottled in September 2017, which is on the later side for second wines. In 2015, the Cabernet Franc lots that usually go into the Grand Vin were used in the Marquis. The blend is 57% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Franc. Tasted two times. (AG)”*
- AG, Vinous
- “The 2015 Le Marquis de Calon Ségur is a pretty wine. Lifted, precise and decidedly feminine in style. Bright red cherry, blood orange, tobacco and expressive floral notes add to the wine's mid weight structure. Silky tannins add to the wine's near-term appeal. I would prefer to drink the Marquis sooner rather than later. Tasted three times.”*
- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“The second wine of Calon Segur is the 2015 Marquis de Calon and it’s a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc brought up in 50% new oak. It’s an outstanding wine in its own right and offers classic notes of cassis and currant fruits intermixed with lots of toasted spice, graphite, and background oak. With medium-bodied depth, a nicely concentrated mid-palate, and a silky, elegant texture, it should shine for a decade.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck
