

Château Saint Pierre 2008

CSPC# 749556

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot

Appellation

St Julien

Website

<http://www.domaines-henri-martin.com/fr/chateau-saint-pierre>

General Info

Chateau St Pierre is an estate that dates back to sixteenth century and gained its name when in 1767 the vineyard came into the possession of Baron de Saint-Pierre. Classified as a fourth growth in the 1855 classification, in 1922 the estate was separated from the chateau when vineyards were acquired by Belgian wine merchants. Château Saint-Pierre is the smallest and least well-known of the St-Julien crus and is now producing wine in accordance with its 4ème Cru Classé status. Saint-Pierre can trace its history back to 1693 and its vineyards, located behind the village of St-Julien-Beychevelle, have always been rather fragmented. In 1982 the property was bought by Henri Martin, who also owns Château Gloria. Today it is run by his daughter Françoise and her husband Jean-Louis Triaud. Saint-Pierre's style is powerful and tannic with considerable depth of fruit and concentration on the palate. It remains underpriced compared to its more illustrious St-Julien neighbours.

Vineyards

17 hectares on Garonne gravel planted with 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc.

Harvest

Hand harvesting

Maturation

Traditional winemaking followed by 14 months age in barrel, 60% new.

Tasting Notes

A very elegant, intense crimson colour. Very fine, spicy aromas. Wonderfully silky, delicious tannins, great persistence and a well-balanced finish. This well-rounded, enchanting vintage has great assurance and style.

Production

6,250 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2018-2058

Scores/Awards

89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2011

88-91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2009

93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011

92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #182 - April 2009

87 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2012

87 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2011

87-89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2007

93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 31, 2010

91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 31, 2009

15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010

16.38 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - March 3, 2012

93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (review only)

92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 28, 2011

92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 20, 2010

88 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2009

16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)

17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews

"Lightly firm, offering a nice woody hint, along with briar, currant, fig and roasted vanilla bean notes, all backed by a streak of espresso on the finish. Very solid. Drink now through 2016. 6,250 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Sweet blackberry and currant on the nose. Medium-bodied, with fine tannins. Plenty of good fruit, with roses and berries. Clean and crisp. Score range: 88-91"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"As I predicted from barrel, this stunning effort is a wine to buy by the case. Its opaque ruby/purple color is followed by aromas of graphite, barbecue smoke, blackberries and black currants. The full-bodied, textured 2008



Reviews *Saint-Pierre reveals a skyscraper-like mouthfeel along with tremendous viscosity and unctuousity. One of the richest and potentially longest-lived 2008s, it is a fabulous sleeper of the vintage. Drink it over the next 20+ years."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

"It is a shame this wine is so difficult to find, but it is one of the smaller estates in St.-Julien, and Saint-Pierre has a very strong following in Belgium as well as other European countries. The inky/blue/purple-tinged 2008 exhibits sweet notes of creme de cassis, blackberries, charcoal, incense, and damp forest floor. With plenty of sweet, ripe tannin in addition to a textured, full-bodied mouthfeel, this blockbuster will require some patience. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2030."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted ex-chateau and single blind in Southwold. The Saint-Pierre 2008 demands coaxing from the glass, but it is worth persevering with as attractive black olive and creamy aromas emerge. Fine delineation. The palate is medium bodied with succulent texture, a lot of skin maceration here with a touch of mocha on the finish. It is a little buffed up by the oak, but attractive in its own way. Tasted January 2012."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the UGC 2008 tasting in London. This has a dense, earthy, sous-bois dominated nose that is in need of a little more vigour and fruit intensity. Very introverted at the moment. The palate is medium bodied with sinewy tannins, but I am missing some of the precision and tension exuded by its peers. Tasted October 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"En primeur barrel sample. A blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon and 17% Merlot, tasted twice with one bottle showing a little greenness – the other much less so. Similarly, the sample at the UGC was disjointed compared to the one poured at a negociant, which had grippy tannins, clean crisp blackberry on the palate with an earthy, slightly aggressive finish that should mellow by bottling. Tasted April 2009."

- NM, Wine Journal

"At 40 acres, Saint-Pierre is small for the Médoc, but it is certainly performing well. As fine as the 2005, the 2008 is a stylish wine that also packs a firm punch of dense fruit, firm tannins and mouthwateringly juicy acidity. For medium-term aging."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"91-93 Barrel sample. Ripe, balanced wine that brings rich fruit and sweet tannins together with firm black plum skin and spice. The tannins come through as dusty and rich, not dry."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"This is the success story of St. Julien. The property was known for producing a strong wine in 1961. It took close to 45 years before they began making strong wines. Since 2005, they have been getting better every year. Chocolate, cocoa powder, cassis, earth, sweet black cherry and coffee bean aromas were coupled with a long, polished, cassis and blackberry filled finish that will drink well young and age for at least two decades."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"2008 Saint Pierre opens with oak, vanilla, black raspberry and chocolate scents. In the mouth, the wine feels round and approachable. The finish ends with a blast of cassis and blackberry. This is a property that keeps getting better, but sadly prices continue rising as well. 92 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Good depth of well-extracted black fruit, fruitcake and spice. Cedary Saint-Julien characteristic, ripe tannins and fleshy depth of fruit. Smooth. Drink 2015-2022."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Nice density of very ripe and vibrant dark berries with hint of violets and of nice length. The fruit is soft initially but builds with a great density of fruit and tannins, though it will need time for the tannins to soften and fruit to surface. Tasted in Bordeaux, France."

- JCL, asianpalate.com
