

# Château Cantemerle 2016

CSPC# 866159

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Haut-Médoc
<b>Classification</b>	5ème Cru Classé
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.cantemerle.com">http://www.cantemerle.com</a>

## General Info

Chateau Cantemerle is one of the first well known Bordeaux estates you see as start the drive along the D2, as you head towards the Medoc. Chateau Cantemerle is also one of the oldest properties in the Bordeaux wine region. Historical documents listing the Lords of Cantemerle of La Sauve Majeur Abbey, can be dated all the way back to the 12th century. The documents exist thanks to the monks who recorded any business that transpired in the monastic community.

In 1855, when the classification of the Medoc took place, Chateau Cantemerle was accidentally left off the list of classed chateaux. It was at the insistence of Madame Villeneuve-Durfort that her property be reinstated in the classification. That re-addition became the first of only two changes in the classification.

In 1852, Fleuret-Jean-Baptiste, Count of Lavergne, was a pioneer in the fight against mildew. The first attempts to control it were done by dusting the vines with sulphur at Cantemerle. He was rewarded for his efforts with several medals and a prize from the Academy of Bordeaux.

Until the late 1800's, the fortunes of Cantemerle could not have been any better. What happened next devastated the property. Cantemerle was not only the worst hit of the Medoc classified growths during the phylloxera crisis, but the vines were also attacked by downy mildew between 1879 and 1887. Consequently, the annual production of Chateau Cantemerle was slashed by 50%.

In 1892, the descendants of the last of the Villeneuve family, Jeanne Armande, Baroness Charles d'Abbadie, sold Chateau Cantemerle to the Dubos family after owning the estate for over three hundred years. The last family owner, Bertrand Clauzel sold Chateau Cantemerle in 1981 to the SMABTP group. At the time of the purchase, Chateau Cantemerle was in serious need of restoration. 40 hectares of vines, close to 50% of the estate needed replanting. In 1999, the new owners purchased 20 hectares of vines from Domaine du Moines Nexon, increasing the size of the Chateau Cantemerle. Other improvements were made in the cellars and the wine making facilities. The SMABTP Group has continued increasing their holdings in Bordeaux with purchases in the Right Bank. They recently added Chateau Haut Corbin, Chateau Grand Corbin and Le Jurat which are all located in St. Emilion appellation.

**Winemaker** Pierre Dubois

**Vintage** The year 2016 started off with the water tables full, thanks to the heavy rainfall from January to March. Three difficult months for the vineyard workers but which saved the day for this vintage! The mild temperatures in March ensured an early budburst but the colder, rainy mornings in April slowed down the growth cycle. From mid-June to mid-October, rainfall was well below the seasonal average. During the first two weeks of August, the colour change was short and even on each of the properties. The grapes developed in radiant, dry weather conditions. Light showers appeared in mid-September to re-boost the ripening process on the terroirs offering less water retention, thus perfecting the maturation of the tannins. The absolutely perfect weather conditions during harvest time allowed us to pick grapes boasting remarkable quality.

**Vineyards** 90 ha under production. Silica and gravel soils of the quaternary era. 64% Cabernet Sauvignon - 27% Merlot - 5% Cabernet Franc - 4% Petit Verdot. Average age of vines: 35 years.

Vine density: 8300 plants per hectare

**Harvest** Pruning: Médoc double Guyot. Deleafing: face to face after flowering (berry set). Grape thinning is done when the grapes are filling out. Green harvest occurs after changing of color (veraison). Handpicked harvest with selective sorting in the vineyard.



<b>Maturation</b>	Total destemming. The grapes are hand-sorted before crushing. Fermentation: 6-8 days at 26 -28°C. Maceration: 28 -30 days. Ageing for 12 months in french oak barrels (medium toast) which 40% are new. An ultra-light fining is done prior to bottling.
<b>Winemaker's Notes</b>	This unique soil and microclimate are reflected in the wine's personality. Cantemerle has a brilliant color, a powerful bouquet, and a soft, lively flavor. It is rare to find such refined fruitiness. This great wine can be enjoyed young, when it is charming, fruity, and marked by a vanilla taste which comes from well-integrated oak. This makes Cantemerle an ideal choice for the modern wine drinker who likes fresh tannins. However, it can also age extremely well. Fine, old vintages have impeccable class, with incomparable flavors of sheer elegance. Cantemerle therefore belongs to that rare category of the world's wines which can not only age, but also improve over several decades.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Swirling this wine in the glass brings forth a very complex bouquet, the hallmark of a great wine. In the mouth, the first impression is both powerful and elegant, with rich flavors covering the palate. All the usual aromas of this wine—tobacco, black currant, cloves and a woodiness typical of ripe Cabernet—are present in a subtle register which will become more prominent with time. The tannins are very supple, lingering elegantly on the finish. At this stage of its development the wine is characterized by a delicate charm. This promising wine offers a typical illustration of the Cantemerle terroir. Very classic, it calls for some time in a decanter before serving. A further two or three years in the cellar can bring out its lovely personality, but it will continue to improve for an even longer time thanks to the nature of the great 2016 vintage.
<b>Production</b>	33,333 cases made. (400,000 bottles)
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2019-2028
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>90 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p><b>88-91 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - November 2018</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - December 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2020</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Tim Atkin MW, timatkin.com - January 2016</p> <p><b>92+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2017</p> <p><b>88-91 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - August 2020</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>89-92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p><b>88 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - January 2019</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Matthew Jukes - April 2017</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2017</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2017</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2020</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - May 2017</p> <p><b>1 star</b> - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2020</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Starts with a violet note but turns darker quickly, with dark currant and black cherry preserve flavors forming the core. Nice fresh tobacco and iron details carry the mouthwatering finish. Not big, but focused and tasty. Drink now through 2030. 33,333 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JS, Wine Spectator</p>

**Reviews** *“Lively cherry and bitter plum fruit streaks through, laced with fine chalky tannins. Picks up iron and savory hints on the finish.”*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*“Medium garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Cantemerle offers up warm plums, black cherries and mulberries with an earth and bay leaves undercurrent. The palate is medium-bodied with just enough fruit and pleasantly chewy tannins, finishing with an herbal lift.”*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“The 2016 Cantemerle has a tightly wound bouquet, and it never quite delivers the detail and mineralité that some of its peers have produced in this vintage. There are attractive undergrowth scents and a touch of tobacco, but it does not leap from the glass with joy. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, good depth of fruit, blackberry laced with cedar and graphite. One sample was missed a little precision, however, a second and third demonstrated much more precision and tension. My score reflects this.”*

- NM, Wine Advocate

*“Plenty of menthol, blackberry, and blackcurrant aromas in this elegant, medium-weight Haut-Médoc that's got as much freshness as ripeness and a long, clean, mineral, and herbal finish. An incredibly food-flexible wine! Drink or hold [through mid-2030s.]”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Dense and chewy already with plenty of ripe tannins and bright fruit. Vivid acidity. Full body, a firm and silky texture, and a flavorful finish. Lots going on. Excellent follow-up to the great 2015!”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Well-integrated tannins give this wine a rich, velvet character that is underlined by the blackberry fruits. The aftertaste is dense, concentrated, and rich. Drink from 2025.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“This is another successful vintage from this estate. It is so finely structured that you notice the blackberry fruit more than the tannins, with a seam of crisp acidity throughout.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Tasted blind. Almost jammy it's so rich on the nose! Very dry finish. A bit austere.”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Deep crimson with purple rim. Intense aroma that is both ripe, sweet damson and floral. Really aromatic. Then rounded and sweet on the palate. Not complex but generous and full of flavour.”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Light nose and a little dull overall. Lacks energy. Is this a tired sample? Drying. 15.5 (Drink 2022-2030). Second sample at UGC: Quite pungent with treacly notes on the nose. Fairly light and soulless - not to say a little fruitless. Green notes on the end. Drinking range: 2023 – 2030.”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Sweet fruit on the nose is joined by plum and touches of vanillin. It has a southern Médoc feel, with almost-jammy fruit and a gourmet, damson streak. Edgy tannins hold the appealing, generous fruit, and the acidity is pretty high, but that's a signature of the vintage. A blend of the two Cabernets, Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot, aged for 12 months in oak, 40% new. Eric Boissenot consults.”*

- JA, Decanter.com

## Reviews

*"For me this is easily one of their best ever wines, totally living up to its fifth growth billing. Lovely and juicy with excellent tension, really walking that line. Menthol, cassis, and cedar are framed by well-wrought tannins that bring the whole thing together and lead onto a juicy finish. The blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot is aged in 40% new oak for 12 months, followed by a further four months in vats before bottling. Drinking Window 2027 – 2040."*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Lovers of good value claret should flock towards this lovely red blend in 2016. Fresh, sappy, and grassy, it's a wine that's all about texture and fruit flavour rather than oak and tannin. Elegant, subtle, and effortlessly complex. 2020-28."*

- TA, timatkin.com

*"Bright, crisp, fresh medium/full-bodied, juicy, pure, and clean, the fruit offers the right balance between lift and sweetness. Give this 6-9 years and it is going to be great!"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Medium/full-bodied, fresh, crisp, aromatic, and filled with sweet, bright, red cherries and juicy, crunchy cassis with just a hint of hint on the nose. I am sure this will age quite nicely."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Black raspberry, earth and floral scents are the start to this medium/full-bodied, fresh, crisp, aromatic wine. The tannins are ripe, leaving you with the sensation of crunchy cassis in the long finish. Produced from blending 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 12.95% ABV with a pH of 3.8. The harvest took place from September 22 to October 17 and the wine is aging in 40% new, French oak barrels."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"A popular Classed Growth Château from the southern Médoc, situated just below the village of Margaux, near to La Lagune. Cantemerle always provides reliable quality and value for money. The wines are never heavy or jammy. Good traditional claret that is usually sold at a modest price and with quality on the rise in recent vintages. Deep ruby in the class with a superbly fragrant, attractive nose of fresh blackcurrant, violets, roses and a little toast and vanilla too. The palate is smooth despite the level of tannin with superb levels of integration and freshness. Harmonious black and blue fruits are lifted by acidity and layered with toast and incense from high quality, integrate oak. The finish is long, pure, and precise. This is a superb effort from the Chateau, and doubtless the best they have made since the outstanding 2010. Well worth a look for drinkers looking to add great value for money to their cellar from the 2016 vintage."*

- Farr Vintners

*"Rich fruit on the nose the palate has depth of flavour a mix of black fruits. The ripe sweet fruit is underpinned by freshness bright vibrant slightly lighter at the back the finish though has depth rich concentrated fruit. 2026-36."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2016 Cantemerle has a comparatively opulent bouquet of black cherries, boysenberry and light violet scents, touches of cedar and sous-bois emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins. There is a touch of greenness here, although it does come across harmonious and there is a pleasing spiciness toward the finish. Fine. Tasted blind at the Southwold tasting. 2022 – 2045."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2016 Cantemerle has a fresh bouquet of airy, floral black fruit; light violet scents emerge with time. The sorbet-fresh palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, and blood orange mingles with supple red fruit toward the graphite-infused finish. Delicious, classic, and probably destined to age with class. Maybe a great value to boot? Drink 2022-2045."*

- NM, Vinous

**Reviews** *“The 2016 Cantemerle has a tightly wound bouquet, and it never quite delivers the detail and mineralité that some of its peers have produced in this vintage. There are attractive undergrowth scents and a touch of tobacco, but it does not leap from the glass with joy. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, good depth of fruit, blackberry laced with cedar and graphite. One sample was missed a little precision, however, a second and third demonstrated much more precision and tension. My score reflects this. Drinking range: 2020 - 2030 Rating: 90-92”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The 2016 Cantemerle has developed beautifully with élevage. Pliant, silky and exceptionally balanced, the 2016 has the pedigree and complexity to allow for a number of years of very fine drinking. Moreover, the 2016 delivers serious flavor intensity without being at all heavy. Smoke, iron, and cedar add character to a Haut-Médoc that has a lot to offer.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The 2016 Cantemerle comes across as raw and not fully put together. Even so, the wine possesses superb richness, volume, and depth. Iron, smoke, raspberry jam, and succulent cherry notes are all pushed forward. Plush and racy, with striking depth, this succulent, expressive Haut-Médoc is built for pleasure. Tasted two times. Rating: 89-92.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The 2016 Château Cantemerle is a solid effort, yielding ample mulberry and black cherry fruit intermixed with notions of tobacco, cedarwood, and spring flowers. It’s not a blockbuster but has a perfumed, complex, medium-bodied style that’s a joy to drink. Enjoy it over the coming 10-15 years. 2019 - 2034.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“(52 Cabernet Sauvignon, 39 Merlot, 5 Cabernet Franc, 4 Petit Verdot) | 40% new oak | 13% alc. With a darker shade of purple fruit than its neighbouring wines this is a fabulously exotic and unusual wine with serious appeal and detail. The oak is powerful, but this doesn’t detract from the lovely fruit and the perfectly balanced finish. Superb. 17.5+.”*  
- Matthew Jukes

*“Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, subtle lightening of the edges, somewhat reserved, dark berry fruit, ripe plums, blackberries, delicately reminiscent of liquorice. Good complexity, juicy, black fruit, integrated tannins, delicate nougat, firm, and persistent, good length, has development potential.”*  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“Floral and perfumed nose with ripe dark fruit, classic notes of cassis, plum, black cherry with fine oak and leather. The palate is dense with good volume and a polished texture, ripe tannin, very fluid and digest already with layers of ripe dark fruit, fine tobacco and a long sustained finish.”*  
- AL, Tasted.com

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