

# Château Berliquet 2020

CSPC# 749536

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

69% Merlot, 31% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

St Emilion

**Classification**

Grand Cru Classé

**Website**

<http://www.chateau-berliquet.com/>

**General Info**

The name of Berliquet is one of the oldest Saint-Emilion vineyards, this one is already on the cards Belleyne in 1768. Château Berliquet is located on the Magdelaine plateau, a few hundred meters from the village of Saint-Emilion. This is one of the oldest estates in the region, and Berliquet is included on the famous map drawn by Belleyne (an engineer working for King Louis XV) in 1768. In 1829, Berliquet was considered one of Saint Emilion's five grand crus. The estate currently belongs to SCEA Château Berliquet, managed by Patrick and Jérôme de Lesquen. The classification of 1986 allowed the castle Berliquet to find the place it held among the great wines of Saint Emilion. The year 1996 marked a turning point in the life of the castle Berliquet. With the support of Patrick Valette, Patrick De Lesquen and his team do their utmost to establish the reputation of the castle Berliquet. The castle Berliquet listens to determine the optimum time for harvest. Thus, castle Berliquet puts all its skills to bring you the best of its soil. Chateau Berliquet was sold to luxury goods empire Chanel Group in October 2017. Chanel, which is owned by the Wertheimer family, also owns Château's Canon and Rauzan-Ségla in Bordeaux, as well as St. Supéry Estate Vineyards and Winery in Napa Valley.

**Winemaker**

Winemaker/Technical Director Nicolas Audebert  
Nicolas Thienpont and Stephane Derenoncourt consult.

**Vintage**

Winter: exceptionally mild  
Spring: very rainy  
Summer: very hot from July onwards  
Autumn: the rain returned as of the Solstice

**Vineyards**

The 9 hectares of vines face south by southwest and border on several Premiers Grands Crus Classés. Château Berliquet is divided into three parts: the plateau (25% of the total area under vine) with clay soil on a limestone subsoil, the slope (50%) with predominantly clay soil, and the pied de côte or "foot of the slope" (25%), with a high percentage of brown clay. Grape varieties consist of Merlot (70%), Cabernet Franc (25%), and Cabernet Sauvignon (5%). The average age of the vines is about 30 years.

**Harvest**

Hand harvested in small crates. Merlot: 14 to 24 September. Cabernet Franc: 24 September. Yield 40 hl / ha.

**Maturation**

Since the takeover by Patrick Valette, winemaking has continued to progress. The length of macerated berries 20 to 30 days, the fermentation is conducted in small tanks under controlled temperature between 28 ° C and 30 ° C, followed by malolactic fermentation in French oak barrels. The wine is in monolithic limestone quarries located in the vineyard for 16 months in 50% new barrels.

**Tasting Notes**

Château Berliquet 2020 is a wine with a strong personality. Fresh pink grapefruit notes immediately burst through the nose and are soon interwoven with a deep terroir structure, rooted in the clay. The wine is dense, a quality also associated with its tannins, polished by the wine's ageing. Floral vegetation expresses itself through a complexity of South of France aromas: pine, slightly sweet gorse flower, sap and broom. A hallmark of the terroir and the vintage: a mineral, almost saline finish with a long, drawn-out aftertaste.

**Serve with**

Perfect for cellaring; yet showing very well right now. Open this bottle at home and witness how the flavors evolve and mature over the course of an evening or bring a bottle to your favorite restaurant to savor with a charred steak or short ribs braised in a red wine sauce.

**Production**

3,000 cases made.

**Cellaring**

Drink 2024-2035

**Scores/Awards**

**92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2023  
**94 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023  
**94-96 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021  
**95 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2023



**Scores/Awards** **94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - December 2022  
**95-96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021  
**93 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021  
**93 points** - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2023  
**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023  
**94-96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021  
**92 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021  
**88-90 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021  
**92 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023  
**89-91 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021  
**94 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023  
**92-94 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021  
**94 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023  
**93-95 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021  
**94-95 points** - Vert de Vin - May 2021  
**92-94 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2021  
**93-94 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021  
**16 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021

**Reviews** *"Nicely rendered, with a fresh, focused core of damson plum and red currant coulis laced with a floral edge and backed by a refined chalky note. The finish features warm tobacco accents to the blossom notes. A restrained style. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2024 through 2035. 3,000 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"A brilliant success for this property in the ascendant, the 2020 Berliquet opens in the glass with aromas of dark berries and cherries mingled with hints of warm spices and violets. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and layered, it's vibrant and dynamic, with polished tannins, a bright spine, and a long, elegantly chalky finish. It represents another step up for Berliquet, which will soon benefit from a new winery."*  
- WK, Wine Advocate

*"The 2020 Berliquet is composed of 69% Merlot and 31% Cabernet Franc, weighing in at 14.5% alcohol. It is aging in French oak barrels, 50% new. Deep purple-black colored, it trots casually out of the glass with effortlessly flamboyant scents of stewed black cherries, warm plums, and baked blackberries, plus hints of chocolate mint, violets, and licorice with a touch of fertile loam. The medium to full-bodied palate is very tightly wound with layers of ripe black fruits and earthy accents, framed by finely grained tannins and tons of freshness, finishing long and fragrant.*

*Since this property was acquired by Chanel in the autumn of 2017, the positive changes in the expression and intensity of the recent vintages are very impressive, coming from a site with a lot of previously untapped potential. "We are very excited about this terroir here," Winemaker/Technical Director Nicolas Audebert told me. "When we bought the property, people were thinking we would blend this into Canon. But this was never our point. We are interested in finding how Berliquet can be. The soil is an interesting mix of limestone plateau at the top of the vineyard, clay in the middle and sandy soil toward the bottom. It is roughly a third of each soil type, so, more complex than Canon (their sibling property, situated close by on the Saint-Émilion's famed "limestone plateau"). The limestone brings elegance, tension, and freshness. The clay brings more density and weight. Down the hill, where we have the lighter soil with more sands, we get fruit purity. Now, understanding the differences, we can do better here—be more precise. We have the two varieties on all the soil types." I asked if the vines on the sandy soil struggled this year during the drought. "No!" Audebert said. "Interestingly, on all three soils we have water and freshness. At the bottom is where the excess of water runs down. There are four different "sources" or drainage points on the slope leading into the bottom parts." Exciting times for Berliquet—bravo to Nicolas Audebert and his team!"*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2020 Berliquet, a blend of 69% Merlot and 31% Cabernet Franc, needs a fair bit of coaxing to bring out notes of blueberry preserves, black cherry compote, and blackberry pie, followed by hints of chocolate mint and lavender. The generous, full-bodied palate is jam-packed with ripe, seductive black and blue fruit preserves flavors, framed by velvety tannins and just enough freshness, finishing long with a spicy kick. This estate, recently acquired by Chanel, is already starting to show its true potential, and what a beauty!"*  
- LPB, Wine Independent

- Reviews** *“Blackberry with charcoal and dark earth aromas that follow through to a medium to full body with fruit, iron, and moss flavors. It’s structured and well-formed with excellent balance of acidity.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Very soft and polished with beautiful tannins that are poised and beautiful. It’s medium-to full-bodied and gorgeously proportioned. Ready for even more polishing.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “A slightly cooler terroir than its sibling estate Château Canon, a little more clay-based which gives weight, depth and power while also being austere right now, with grippy tannins and a bite of blood orange. Great stuff, can start drinking this in five to six years to allow the structure to soften while keeping the appeal of the wild cherry and blackberry fruits. 50% new oak for 16 months. Barrel Sample: 93.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Nicolas Audebert and Thomas Duclos, the pair that did such brilliant job at Château Canon, have turned their sights on Berliquet, owned by Canon since 2017. There are slightly cooler soils here, a touch more clay and it gives a subdued edge with clear quality and bright brambled blackberry, rhubarb, pomegranate, blood orange, turmeric spice. Tight and full of energy. 50% new oak, 40hl/h yield, harvest September 14 to 24. 7.5ha.”*  
- JA, Inside Bordeaux  
- JA, janeanson.com
- “Medium-bodied, elegant, refined and with a strong, floral essence, you also discover sweet, fresh, cherries, licorice, plums, and hints of chocolate mint on the nose and palate, which is all topped off with its silky, vibrant, red pit fruit and mineral-edged finish. Drink from 2024-2045.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Quite floral in nature, with tinges of orange rind, cherry blossoms, licorice, red plum liqueur and minerality on the nose. The wine is elegant, fresh, polished, sweet, and long. Silky and precise, with no hard edges, there is length and salty tannins with energetic, pure red fruits squeezed over crushed rocks and stones. This is the best vintage of Berliquet I have ever tasted. The wine blends 69 % Merlot with 31 % Cabernet Franc 14.5% ABV.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “The 2020 Berliquet has an open, quite generous bouquet of high-toned, quite floral aromas (iris and violet petals) mixed with Dorset plum, bilberry, and wild strawberry. The palate is medium-bodied with a medicinal, menthol-tinged opening, ripe and again, generous. The candied finish just needs to show a little more restraint. Fine, but it will have to manifest more elegance and composure by the time of bottling. Perhaps it was unfair to pour this against the 2020 Canon, also owned by the Wertheimer family, but it highlighted the difference between their respective terroirs.”*  
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2020 Berliquet is another step in a direction favoring finesse over the burly power that often marked the wines of the past. Delicate and nuanced, with pretty floral top notes, this mid-weight Saint-Émilion is a charmer. Drink it over the next decade or so.”*  
- AG, Vinous
- “The 2020 Berliquet is the first wine that shows a real change in direction under its new ownership and the team headed by Nicolas Audebert. Bright and chiseled with energy, this mid-weight Saint-Émilion is quite promising. Crushed red flowers, mint, sweet red berry fruit. There is still a bit of grittiness in the tannin, but this is a decidedly more finessed style than the wines of the recent past.”*  
- AG, Vinous

**Reviews**

*“Another brilliant Saint-Emilion in the vintage, the 2020 Chateau Berliquet is mostly Merlot yet includes close to a third Cabernet Franc, which no doubt contributes to its elegant, finesse-driven, floral character. It's incredibly pure and classy, with notes of red and blue fruits, sappy spring flowers, graphite, and baking spices all emerging on the nose. These carry to a medium-bodied, ultra-fine, pure, seamless 2020 that offers pleasure today and will offer pleasure in 15+ years as well. This wine is never the biggest or richest in a vintage, but it shines for its purity, balance, and elegance. It's beautifully done. Best After 2023.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Notes of iron, toasty oak, violets, and ample red and blue fruits emerge from the 2020 Château Berliquet, a medium to full-bodied, gorgeously balanced, and textured Saint-Emilion based on 69% Merlot and 31% Cabernet Franc. It has a solid kick of background oak, but the fruit is incredibly pure, and it has a great mid-palate and outstanding length. Still aging in 50% new French oak, it should benefit from short-term cellaring and cruise for 15 years or more in cold cellars.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Deep ruby, opaque core, purple rim. Attractive cherry fruit, red wild berries underlaid with liquorice, fine wood savouriness and orange zest. Juicy, fresh plum fruit with a hint of nougat, ripe tannins, nicely structured, mineral, and well-balanced, shows length and potential.”*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“On the nose, it is fresh fruity, bright, racy and offers elegance as well as a good definition. It reveals notes of bright blackcurrant, boysenberry, small notes of strawberry associated with touches small acidulous/juicy red fruit, lily, crunchy small blue fruits as well as a hint of cardamom, sweet blond tabaco, iris, a very fine hint of pepper, minerality racy/terroir. On the palate is fruity, offers juiciness, freshness, gourmandize, a nice definition, precision, a nice bright fruit but in elegance, a fine suavity, gourmandize and a certain purity of the fruit. The wine expresses notes of juicy/ acidulous/ fresh small red fruits, violet, racy minerality as well as hints of tonka bean, sweet blond tabaco and almond. Good length. A persistence of the note of tonka bean. The tannins are precise and elegant.”*

- Vert de Vin

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