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# Château Canon 2009

CSPC# 801686

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

Saint Emilion

**Classification**

First Growth B. Premier Grand Cru Classe B.

**Website**

<http://www.chateaucanon.com/>

**General Info**

Chateau Canon is a highly esteemed wine production estate in the Saint Emilion appellation of Bordeaux, France. Originally referred to as Clos St-Martin, this top Bordeaux fine wine is ranked among the Premier Grand Crus Classe B, as designated by the classification of Saint Emilion wine.

Chateau Canon, located in the south west of Saint Emilion, is a neighbor to other renowned wine estates like Chateau Magdelaine, Chateau La Gaffeliere and Chateau Ausone. The vineyard surface measures around 21.5 hectares, with a grape selection of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc.

Since the early 20th century, Chateau Canon has been rated as one of the best Saint Emilion wines; in total, around 7,500 – 9,000 cases are produced each year, of both the first wine Chateau Canon as well as the second wine Clos de Canon.

**Winemaker**

Oenologist: Gilles Pauquet. Head of vines: Stéphane Bonasse

**Vintage**

The conditions for the 2009 vintage were the driest in ten years, though the growing season started with a very wet and cool spring, delaying the bud break. On 13 May, the Saint-Émilion vineyards were battered by a hailstorm, most notably the plateau, which resulted in a partial loss of the harvest. Throughout the 2009 vegetation cycle, the water balance was largely in deficit, particularly from 15 June to mid-September. From this point of view, the vintage is very similar to that of 2000, but with lower yields. The onset of vine water stress was later than in 2005. The earliness of the storm and the quick reactions of the chateau's team made it possible to repair the damage quickly and with the best possible outcome in the circumstances. These superb climatic conditions were conducive to the formation of a rich vein of tannin, with late onset of technological and aromatic ripeness. The powerful presence of anthocyanins and above all the very low level of malic acid are similarly characteristic of this vintage. The rains in mid-September gave fresh momentum to the rather slow ripening of the grapes, while the magnificent late-season weather provided ideal harvesting conditions. During the summer of 2009, the high quality of the clay and limestone slopes of Faugères afforded a good level of water recovery for the vines, without any pronounced stress or phenol blocking. Moreover, with the yield limited by the hailstorm in May, the fruit that survived was endowed with even greater richness.

**Vineyards**

Chateau Canon owns 34 hectares of vines. 24 of those hectares are used to produce Chateau Canon. The vineyard of Chateau Canon is located in the heart of the St. Emilion, on the top of the limestone plateau. The terroir is clay and limestone soils. Their best parcels are close to the chateau, near the cemetery and in front of the chateau, with views of the St. Emilion village. The vineyard of Chateau Canon is planted to 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. This shows a marked increase in the amount of Cabernet Franc in the vines. There has been a slow, on-going program to add more Cabernet Franc to the vineyard, which took over 15 years. And it is still ongoing! The vineyard is planted to a vine density that ranges from 5,500 to 6,500 vines per hectare. The newer plantings are all at the higher levels of density

**Maturation**

To produce the wine of Chateau Canon, fermentation takes place in temperatures ranging from 28 – 32 degrees Celsius in double walled, temperature controlled, stainless steel vats. Chateau Canon uses 24 vats ranging in size from 56 hectoliters to 98 hectoliters. This range of vat sizes allows the estate to vinify the wines on a parcel-by-parcel basis. Malolactic fermentation takes place in a combination of stainless-steel vats and French oak barrel. The wine is aged for 18 months in 70% new, French oak barrels, and 30% 1 yr-old barrels.

**Tasting Notes**

Very deeply-colored. Subdued, muted nose. Huge concentration, power, and heat with substantial oak presence. A monumental style that slightly overlooks the magical effect



<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Canon is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
<b>Production</b>	4,415 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2021-2050
<b>Score/Awards</b>	<p><b>93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2012</p> <p><b>95-98 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010</p> <p><b>97+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2019</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - March 2017</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - December 2011</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188 - April 2010</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0713 - January 2013</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0713 - December 2012</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0112 - October 2011</p> <p><b>92-94+ points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal #0510 - March 2010</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Stuart Pigott, JamesSuckling.com - March 2019</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2012</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2012</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - August 2010</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2010</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2010</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2010</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 2011</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2010</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2019</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2019</p> <p><b>93+ points</b> - Ian d'Agata, Vinous - May 2010</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2020</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2013</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - April 2010</p> <p><b>88 points</b> - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - April 2010</p> <p><b>93-94+ points</b> - John Gilman, viewfromthecellar.com - May 2010</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Gilbert &amp; Gaillard (score only) - March 2012</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - March 2012</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - March 2012</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - February 2012</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This is a creamy, lush, hedonist's wine, with suave, textured layers of fig sauce, puréed plum and cassis woven with hints of mocha and pain d'épices. Picks up grip though, joined by a roasted mesquite hint on the finish for added length. Best from 2014 through 2025. 4,415 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"What a gorgeous nose, with sweet and delicate fruits such as sliced plums that turn to milk chocolate and flowers. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a long, long finish. You want to drink this right away. 75 percent Merlot and 25 percent Cabernet Franc."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet colored, the 2009 Canon is a little reticent to begin, opening out to notions of rare beef, cast iron pan, cigar boxes and cloves with a core of baked plums and mulberries plus a waft of dried lavender. Full, richly fruited and still quite youthful, the palate has a firm yet velvety texture and seamless freshness supporting the generous fruit, finishing long and mineral laced."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Tasted at the Château Canon vertical, the 2009 Canon is turning into the great wine it was predestined to become. A blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc (the same as 2010 incidentally), the nose is clearly more flattering, more opulent than the 2010 with an explosion of blackberry, melted tar, kirsch, and dried violet petals; here, the Merlot is more expressive than the Cabernet Franc. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, a voluminous Saint Emilion with an accentuated savory element that fans out towards the long</i></p>

**Reviews** *and persistent finish. It's here that the Cabernet Franc takes over and delivers that long, long finish. This is a Canon that reminds me of Cheval Blanc...it's that good. Tasted October 2015."*

- NM, Wine Advocate

*"The finest Canon since the 1982, the 2009 (75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc) reveals a dense blue/purple color along with a classic nose of chalk dust, blueberries, black raspberries, black currants, and a touch of wood smoke. Medium to full-bodied, elegant, and loaded with an inner framework of minerality and moderately high tannins, this backward, but stylish, concentrated Canon will benefit from 7-8 years of cellaring and last for three decades."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"This is the best Canon since 1982, and it is possibly capable of eclipsing that legendary vintage. It has taken a while for the proprietors, the Wertheimer brothers (the owners of Chanel and the Margaux estate Rauzan-Segla) to get Canon back to its former glory. Yields in 2009 were 35 hectoliters per hectare, and the harvest occurred between September 28 and October 5. The blend is 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc, with a natural alcohol level of 14%. Dense ruby/purple and full-bodied, with terrific blueberry and raspberry fruit intermixed with spring flower garden scents, with extraordinary density, purity, and a multi-layered texture, this is a prodigious Canon with sweet tannins and lots of viscosity. It should drink well for 30 or more years. Bravo! (Tasted three times.)"*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Served blind at the Southwold 2009 tasting. Two bottles were tasted in different flights, the first seeming to be just a little more monotonous than I would have liked, however the second was far more attractive. It has a beautiful nose with lifted blackcurrant and bilberry fruit laced with minerals and cedar. The oak is quite noticeable but in synch with the fruit. The palate is silky and smooth on the entry. It is fleshy in the mouth but belying the firm structure underneath. Perhaps it would benefit from more tension towards the finish but that is a minor quibble. Charming as ever. Tasted January 2013."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"John Kolasa mentioned that in 2009 he increased the percentage of Cabernet Franc up to 25% and that his intention is to dial it up to 35% in several years. The 2009 was matured in 60% new oak. This is more reticent on the nose, very classic in style but beautifully defined with just the right amount of reserve and austerity. The palate is fresh and very elegant, with disarmingly svelte, silky tannins. Good depth, not powerful but succulent and mineral-rich on the structured finish. Excellent – but it will need several years in bottle and is perhaps more 2010 in style than its peers. Tasted December 2012"*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London, the Canon 2009 is more introspective and masculine on the nose compared to its peers: dark fruit with scents of cold limestone. The palate is medium-bodied with a firm backbone, real edginess here with a citric seam of acidity, elegant but linear towards the finish. Tightly-coiled in the mouth, this will need several years to blossom. Tasted October 2011."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted at the chateau and the UGC, the Canon '09 is a blend of 75% Merlot (picked 23rd to 28th September) and 25% Cabernet Franc (picked 2nd until 5th October) cropped at 35hl/ha and matured in 60% new oak, the crop reduced by 20% due to the hail. Delivering 14.5% alcohol and a pH3.7. The nose is fresh and lively, well defined with blackberry, briary, cedar, a touch of vanilla and an almost sorbet-like freshness. The palate is full-bodied with fine tannins, a powerful Canon, very well defined, a slight chalkiness coming towards the finish, a sharpness that lends freshness and vitality. A more masculine, structured Canon than I was expecting, but it will soften by the time of bottling. Excellent. Tasted March 2010"*

- NM, Wine Journal

## Reviews

*"Aromas of nuts, spices, chocolate powder, then changes to fruits and flowers. Fascinating. Full body, with silky tannins and a wonderful intensity and super polished tannins with a long, long finish. Super refined. Best Canon in years. Try in 2016."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A fleshy and generous St.-Emilion with a great interplay of fresh and super-ripe plum aromas. Behind this is quite a major tannin structure and plenty of chalky minerality that carries the bold finish beautifully. Drink or hold. (Horizontal Tasting, London, 2019)."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Hugely dense, foursquare wine with great fruit and the purest tannins. Chocolate and coffee predominate at the same time as sweet tannins and acidity. A wine that combines charm with great power."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Definite wood aromas, the fruit buried under the high toast flavors. This gives dryness as well as extract. The wine comes across hard, tight, almost dark in character."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"A little paler than some. Lightish cherry red. Glossy, gamey, almost animal nose. Rich and sweet but with a certain dryness on the finish. There is some real life here. Very glamorous. Sumptuous and flattering, very polished, racy, and sinewy and like a racehorse. Good enterprising energetic stuff! Date tasted 30th March 2010. Drink 2017-2030."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Brilliant this year - so satisfying and refined. Has to be the best Canon for a number of years. Certainly, no block-buster but pure and silky with length and line. Exquisite. Drink 2016-2040."*

- JL, Decanter.com

*"Not quite as opulent as many wines from 2009, here, the wine focuses on its floral and ocean nose, along with nuances of sweet, red cherries, and plums with a hint of licorice. Soft, bright, and fresh, with soft tannins and a long, red fruit and salt-packed finish, this is just now starting to be fun to taste. But its best days are in the future."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The color is starting to show signs of maturity as is the nose, with its roasted smoky berries, truffle, wet earth and 5 spice notes. On the palate the wine is taking on a silky character, with more softness and flesh. The elegant, lifted red pit fruit and spice in the end note is starting to be in a good place."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Minerality is the first thing you notice, fresh black raspberry, plum, anise, coffee and cherry notes add to the complexity. From a blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc, the wine combines ripe flavors, concentration, freshness, structure and balance to create a St. Emilion that demands at least a decade, if not 15 years to full open up."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Never the darkest wine from St. Emilion, the wine offers oak, flowers, plums, licorice, stone, cherries and pipe tobacco aromas. From a blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc, the wine offers rich textures and layers of sweet, ripe, spicy black and red fruits. This is a wine to lay down for at least a decade."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"2009 Canon is a dark ruby offering whose mineral, floral, dark raspberry, spice, and licorice aromatics pair well with a mouthful of intense, silky, sweet berries. The wine has purity and freshness, and finishes with flavors of plums, spice, and licorice. Canon now includes some fruit from the replanting done in 1998. New plantings are of cabernet franc vines. The vineyards are currently 25% cabernet franc. Over time they will increase to 35%."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

**Reviews** *“The 2009 Canon has a loose-knit, quite sensual bouquet that does not have the same depth or mineralité as recent vintages like the 2015 and 2016. The warmth of the summer comes through here, a touch of garrigues. The palate is medium-bodied with soft tannin, a little more advanced than say, the Canon-la-Gaffelière’s with a spicy, black pepper and sage tinged finish. Enjoy this over the next decade, but is it a long-term Canon? Tasted at BI Wines & Spirits’ annual Ten Year On tasting. Reviewed by Neal Martin. Tasting date: February 2019. Drinking window: 2019 – 2035.”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“Red-ruby color is less dark than most other '09 Saint-Emilions, which to me is not at all a bad thing. Refined, perfumed aromas of redcurrant, almond flower, incense, and cinnamon. Enters the mouth light and fresh, displaying attractive red berry and mineral flavors nicely framed by sound acidity. This very well-balanced wine seems almost too easy to drink now but has excellent focus and grip, and plenty of inner-mouth energy. No doubt it will develop more complexity and depth with bottle age. Almost Burgundian in style, this is a subtle wine of real substance and nuance, made in a less showy style that is not out to grab headlines. One of the most successful Canons in a long time.”*  
- ID, Vinous

*“The 2009 Canon has a surprisingly muted bouquet despite rigorous aeration, reluctantly offering black fruit, meat juices and light garrigues-like aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy, slightly coarse tannin, quite spicy but overall, rather overbearing, and lacking tension on the finish. Tasted blind at Farr Vintners’ 2009 Bordeaux tasting.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“One of my favorite vintages from this incredible terroir located on the upper plateau of Saint-Emilion, the 2009 Château Canon is just about pure perfection in a glass. It delivers a monster bouquet of blackberries, raspberries, white truffle, and flowery incense that develops beautifully with time in the glass. Rich, full-bodied, and powerful, it's still classic Saint-Emilion, offering incredible minerality as well as structure. This brilliant wine can be drunk any time over the coming two decades.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Intense dark berry confit, spices and candied peel still restrained. Full-bodied and sweet, chocolaty texture, round, opulent, note of sweet extract, honey finish, lacks freshness and kick.”*  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“Pure and ripe nose with clean fruit, plum, cassis and blackberry notes, no oak noticeable, clean and juicy on the palate rather soft texture with a good level of freshness and medium to long, pure finish.”*  
- AL, Tasted.com

*“The 2009 Canon is an unequivocally great wine in the making and will probably end up resembling the 1982 Canon in style but prove to be superior to that fine bottle. As is the style of classically made wines such as this, today the '09 Canon is tight, structured, and only hinting at the superb complexity to come, but with its superb quality clearly evident. The bouquet offers up an excellent aromatic mélange of black cherries, dark berries, espresso, woodsmoke, herb tones, tobacco leaf, lovely soil tones and a touch of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, ripe, and rock solid at the core, with impeccable balance, firm, ripe tannins and great focus and grip on the long, properly reserved, and chewy finish. A great classic in the making. (Drink between 2020-2070).”*  
- JG, viewfromthecellar.com