

# Château Saint-Pierre 2016

CSPC# 749556

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety** 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc  
**Appellation** St Julien  
**Classification** 4<sup>th</sup> Grand Cru Classé  
**Website** www.domaines-henri-martin.com

## 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 4<sup>ème</sup> 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.

## Winemaker

Cellar Master: Philippe Blanchard

## Sustainability

The owners are concerned about caring for the environment and have been awarded a level 3 High Environmental Value certification (HEV 3) and the ISO 14001 certification.

## 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

17 hectares of Garonne gravel planted with 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Gravel of Gunzian origin on clay-sandy subsoil.

## Harvest

Hand harvesting picked between 29 September and 3 October for the Merlot, and 5-17 October for the Cabernet Sauvignon.

## Maturation

Aged for 14 months in 50% new and 50% one-year-old French oak.

## Tasting Notes

Château Saint-Pierre offers a typical wine of Saint-Julien: dense, complex, and very rich. We then discover its tannic structure, fine and elegant, and its length in the mouth of exception.

## Production

unknown

## Cellaring

Drink 2025-2040

**94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019

**92-95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2017

**94+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - November 2018

**94-96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017

**94 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - December 2022

**96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019

**94-95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017

**92-94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2017

**17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2020

**17- points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017



**Scores/Awards** **95 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017  
**97 points** - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - February 2022  
**96 points** - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - April 2021  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019  
**94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017  
**93 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017  
**89-93 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017  
**95 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - August 2020  
**96+ points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019  
**96 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020  
**93 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2017  
**93 points** - Vert de Vin - March 2017  
**95 points** - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2017  
**17.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021  
**18 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

**Reviews** *"This is packed, with a ganache frame wrapping up a dense core of blueberry, black currant, fig and açai berry reduction flavors that will need time to stretch out. While they do, they'll meld with the warm tar and sweet tobacco notes that line the fruit in spades. In the end, there's a plushness here that is distinct from St.-Julien's typically brambly grip. Best from 2025 through 2040."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Beautifully done, with ample grip but a polished, fresh feel around the core of blueberry, cassis, and warm plum flavors. Lovely anise and singed apple wood accents show on the finish."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Aged for 14 months in 50% new and 50% one-year-old French oak and blended of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc, the deep garnet-purple colored 2016 Saint-Pierre leaps from the glass with exuberant Black Forest cake, blackberry compote and cassis with hints of cigars, earth, and violets with a waft of iron ore. Medium-bodied, the palate has a firm frame of grainy tannins with fantastic energy and depth, finishing on a lingering chocolaty note. 2021 – 2046."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2016 Chateau Saint-Pierre is a blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc picked between 29 September and 3 October for the Merlot and 5-17 October for the Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine is matured in 50% new oak. The Cabernet comes through strongly on the nose as you would expect quite intense black fruit, graphite and just a touch of dried herbs. There is lovely definition and focus on display. The palate is well balanced with grainy tannin, a crisp line of acidity, classic in style in keeping with the style of the vintage with very fine mineralité and tension towards the sprightly finish. It is one of the most Pauillac-like Château Saint-Pierre's that I have tasted, a very well crafted, almost understated but sophisticated wine that will age for 20 to 30 years. This is a fantastic Saint Julien that may well rest at the top of my banded score. Drink 2022 - 2050."*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"The 2016 Saint-Pierre is deep garnet in color. It soars from the glass with expressive scents of cassis, blackberry pie, and plum preserves, plus hints of pencil shavings, tilled soil, and black truffles. Medium-bodied, the palate is packed with juicy black fruits, supported by grainy tannins and plenty of freshness, with an earthy finish."*  
- LPB, Wine Independent

*"This is fantastic, offering lots of fresh tobacco and blackcurrants and undertones of hazelnuts and chocolate. Full-bodied with firm and chewy tannins, yet ever so polished and refined. One of the most structured St. Pierre's in years. A blend of 73 per cent cabernet sauvignon, 21 per cent merlot and six per cent cabernet franc. Try from 2024."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

**Reviews** *“Blueberry, blackberry, and fresh currant-leaf character. Full-bodied, refined, beautiful, dense, and tight. Great depth. Best ever.”*  
- JS, [Jamessuckling.com](http://Jamessuckling.com)

*“Ripe and fruity while also having just the right amount of structure, this is a concentrated wine. It has depth and fine, elegant acidity, and is likely to be ready from 2026.”*  
- RV, *Wine Enthusiast*

*“Tasted blind. Earlier maturing than some. Nice wine for early drinking. Everything in its place but not one of the most concentrated. Drink 2024 – 2039.”*  
- JR, [JancisRobinson.com](http://JancisRobinson.com)

*“Dark purple. Sweet peppery notes on the nose. Very glossy and friendly. Sweet start and then quite chewy. Well put together if a tad inky on the end. Not quite enough density on the finish for perfection. Drink 2025-2038.”*  
- JR, [JancisRobinson.com](http://JancisRobinson.com)

*“Highly coloured in the glass, with aromas of violets spiraling through. On the palate this is more bilberry and blueberry than tight cassis, with slate and bitter coffee ground notes. There's very little light peeking through the tannins at this stage, and again I get the architectural feel of a 2010. Monumental and extremely accomplished, this is easy to recommend, living up to its early promise. Matured in 50% new oak, with malo partly in barrel. Drinking Window 2024 – 2040.”*  
- JA, [Decanter.com](http://Decanter.com)

*“Structured and measured with grippy tannins, this is a subtle yet extremely successful wine. Fully ripe black fruits are joined by gentle spices that slowly curl up through the palate. These guys have been delivering such a fantastic run of vintages and continue to do so here - for me yet another St-Julien that is clearly better than the 2015. Drinking Window 2027 – 2045.”*  
- JA, [Decanter.com](http://Decanter.com)

*“The most effortlessly brilliant vintage in St Julien, and Saint Pierre is right up there with the best of examples you can find. Smoky and sculpted, still chewy tannins, firm but confident, liquorice and campfire smoke that displays welcome and generosity - makes you want to pull up a chair next to the embers and grab a friend to share it with. The fruits are brambled hedgerow and crumbled blackberry, with touches of brioche and cream, along with bitter chocolate that adds definition. Mineral tingle to the acidities, and another wash of smoke as it opens. 50% new oak, harvest September 29 to October 17.”*  
- JA, *Inside Bordeaux*

*“Tasted at home on a quiet (there were a lot of them this year) Saturday night early in the year, when we knew it was crazy to open a five-year-old St Julien, but we just couldn't wait. The first year with new cellars, this is luscious (a word I use to describe Saint-Pierre more than pretty much any other St Julien except perhaps Léoville Poyferré), with ripe, finessed blackberry and cassis fruits, Cabernet dominant with pencil lead and eucalyptus on the finish, along with freshly cut herbs. Harvest September 29 to October 17. 50% new oak.”*  
- JA, [janeanson.com](http://janeanson.com)

*“Just a notch below its stable mate, Château Gloria, in 2016, but this is still a very serious St Julien from the Henri Martin portfolio. Concentrated, firm and vigorous, with leafy aromas, layered dark berry and tobacco flavours and plenty of supporting tannin. 2026-36.”*  
- TA, [timatkin.com](http://timatkin.com)

*“Concentrated, full-bodied and with a touch of oak on the nose and palate the wine has depth, flesh and round tannins, with a nuanced, ripe pit fruit and espresso filled finish.”*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

**Reviews** *“Dark in color, the wine is full, rich, deep, fleshy, and round. The tannins are ripe and so is the fruit, which you can taste and feel to a much better degree, now that the oak program has been improved here. The wine ends with a long, black cherry, espresso, licorice, and earthy component that hangs with you.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“Dark, inky ruby in color, this wine is full bodied, concentrated, deep, long, and focused. The fruit is precise, fresh, and poised. The wine was produced from 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot and 6% Cabernet Franc.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“Firm at the start the nose has a minty freshness the palate slightly tight but it opens up in the middle with a mix of sweet black fruits. Under the richness bramble and bilberry refresh with rich black cherry giving depth on the finish. 2025-40.”*

- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2016 Saint-Pierre has an intriguing bouquet of baked black cherries, dark chocolate, espresso and gamy notes, the oak regime more prominent compared to its peers within this Saint-Julien flight. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, and the oak is more assimilated here than on the nose. Nicely detailed and very poised, although there is a touch of dryness right on the finish.”*

- NM, [Vinous](http://Vinous)

*“Coming from 50-year-old vines and a blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc, the 2016 Château Saint-Pierre (Saint-Julien) is in the same ballpark as the 2015 yet shows a slightly more elegant, classic feel, which is very much in the style of the vintage. Beautiful notes of crème de cassis, black raspberries, crushed rocks, tobacco, and lead pencil shavings as well as some smoky notes with time in the glass all flow to a deep, full-bodied, concentrated Saint-Julien that has fine tannin, flawless balance and integration, no hard edges, and a great finish. This brilliant wine from winemaker Jean-Louis Triaud will benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age and keep for 25-30 years. Maturity: 2023-2053.*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, subtle lightening of the edges, restrained dark berry confit, delicate tobacco, pleasant herbal spice. Medium complexity, ripe cherries, firm, and persistent, salty touch, has aging potential.”*

- PM, [Falstaff Magazine](http://Falstaff Magazine)

*“The nose is fruity, aromatic as well as relatively concentrated. It reveals notes of fresh red fruits, fresh blackberry and fresh strawberry associated with a slight touch of bell pepper as well as discreet hints of coffee, chocolate, and toasted oak. The palate is fruity, well-balanced, silky and offers a beautiful freshness, a racy minerality, depthness as well as a good structure. In the mouth this wine expresses notes of fresh blackberry, fresh wild strawberry and slight notes of fresh small berries associated with hints of dark chocolate, oak, and caramelized oak. Tannins are fine and well-built. Good length.”*

- Vert de Vin

*“Intense nose with ripe dark fruit, fine oak and smokiness, layers of cassis, dark cherry, cocoa bean, and fine leather. The palate is dense but polished with fine proportions, silky tannins, crushed berry notes, crème de cassis, sweet spices, and a very long and persistent finish. Very promising.”*

- AL, [Tasted.com](http://Tasted.com)

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