

Vieux Château Certan 2021

CSPC# 102705

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	77% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon.
Appellation	Pomerol
Classification	Bordeaux AOC (<i>Appellation d'origine contrôlée</i>)
Website	http://www.vieuxchateaucertan.com/vieux_chateau_certan_uk.html
Analysis	pH: 3.62
Sustainability	Alexandre Thienpont practices 100% sustainable vineyard management farming techniques at Vieux Chateau Certan. While the estate is clearly a traditional winery, they embrace modern technology. For example, utilizing infrared cameras that are placed on tractors that allow for precise picking of single rows and even individual vines. That is a lot of work when you consider they have about 70,000 vines!
General Info	The Vieux Château Certan estate, which in 1745 already figured on Bellayme's famous map under the name of "Sertan", is located in the heart of the Pomerol plateau. Covering 14 hectares (35 acres) in one single block, the Vieux Château Certan vineyard is the fruit of a century of painstaking work and careful decision-making. Once the threat of April frosts had passed, a full flowering and a managed healthy vine canopy from spring till the beginning of summer ensured that solid foundations for the vintage had been laid down. The summer continued in temperate and frequently wet weather conditions up till the middle of August. Four glorious weeks of hot, dry and sunny weather then set in. Thank to these favourable conditions, the Merlot was superbly balanced, supple and perfumed. It brings uplift and roundness to the blend. The Cabernet Franc displayed aromatic intensity and its hallmark character. It shows delicacy, length of flavour and breed and gives a shimmering aspect to the wine. Finally, the Cabernet Sauvignon, brings a floral finishing touch and added structure. The 2021 Vieux Château Certan offers multiple facets: it shows a balance between freshness and roundness, fruit character and length of flavour.
Winemaker	Alexandre and Guillaume Thienpont
Vintage	From winter to the end of March, the first part of the 2021 growing season was marked by mild temperatures and frequent rainfall, which brought about a fast budding of the vines. The 2021 Vieux Château Certan offers multiple facets: it shows a balance between freshness and roundness, fruit character and length of flavour.
Vineyards	The 13.5-hectare Vieux Chateau Certan vineyard is located in the center of Pomerol, on the plateau. When you arrive at the junction where the estate rests, you are truly at the cross streets that could easily be renamed to the center of the heart and soul of Pomerol. Directly across the street is Chateau Certan de May and just down the road you'll find Petrus. Vieux Chateau Certan has a terroir of clay and gravel soil. Vieux Chateau Certan is one of the largest vineyards in the Right Bank that are planted in one single block of vines. The Vieux Chateau Certan vineyard in total is divided into 23 separate parcels. The vineyards of Vieux Chateau Certan are planted to 65% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon with vines that average 50 years of age. However, there is one very old plot of Merlot that was planted all the way back in 1932, making it one of the oldest parcels in the Pomerol appellation. Alexandre Thienpont is responsible for changing the makeup of the vineyards as well. He removed the Malbec and reduced the amount of Cabernet Sauvignon in the vineyards, while adding more Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Unlike the vineyard farming practices used in the 1960's and 1970's, today, no pesticides of any type are used on the vines. Alexandre Thienpont practices sustainable vineyard management techniques.
Harvest	Yield: 38 hl/ha. The harvest was carried out every day from 24th September to 6th October
Vinification/ Maturation	The grapes are picked by hand and sorted meticulously at the end of each row of vines. After a gentle crushing, they are put into oak vats, by variety. Those vats destined to make up the blend of the Grand Vin are run off into 65% new French oak barrels and aged for 18 months.
Tasting Notes	Vieux Château Certan combines savoir-faire with exceptional soils. Coming mainly from the vineyard's oldest vines, Vieux Château Certan is every year a blend of the most excellent lots produced at the estate. The brilliance of the wine's hue, the richness of its aromas and the subtlety of its flavor bring it inimitable style.
Serve with	meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, chicken, roasted, braised, stewed, and grilled dishes.



Production	Approx. 3,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2029-2050
Scores/Awards	95+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024 17.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022 96 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022 94 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - March 2024 95 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022 97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024 96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022 98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024 19.5 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022 96 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022
