Château La Gaffèliere

The 2019 vintage of Château La Gaffelière encapsulates the finesse of Saint-Émilion's limestone terroir, delivering a wine of vibrancy, depth, and distinction.

CHÂTEAU
LA GAFFELIÈRE
SAINT-EMILION

97 vinous

1er Grand Cru Classé B 2019

Bordeaux, France

Region and Vineyards

Located on the southern slope of Saint-Émilion, Château La Gaffelière benefits from a privileged terroir that has produced wine since Roman times. The estate spans **38 hectares**, with **22 hectares classified as Premier Grand Cru Classé B**. The vineyard is divided into three distinct soil types: the **limestone plateau**, **clay-limestone slopes**, and **siliceous foothills**—each contributing unique characteristics to the final blend.

The vines, **planted 70% to Merlot and 30% to Cabernet Franc**, are cultivated using **integrated viticulture** and certified **High Environmental Value (HEV)**. Grass cover is maintained between rows, and green harvesting, leaf removal, and precise pruning are employed to enhance grape concentration. In 2019, the growing season saw extreme heat and water stress, mitigated just in time by a beneficial late July storm. The Merlot harvest spanned from **September 18 to October 8**, while the Cabernet Franc concluded on **October 11**, allowing for optimal ripeness across all plots.

Winemaking

Grapes are chilled at **7°C for 12 hours** before being sorted with optical precision. Fermentation is carried out by parcel in **gravity-fed, stainless-steel tanks**, without added sulfur at filling. Extraction is managed via both **pumping over and punching down**, with **maceration lasting 30 days for Merlot and 32 days for Cabernet Franc**.

Malolactic fermentation occurs in both tanks (75%) and barrels (25%), followed by an **aging period of 14 to 16 months** in **60% new French oak barrels**. The wine undergoes **three rackings**, a traditional but exacting approach that preserves freshness and elegance while encouraging gentle clarification and complexity through time.

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby with bright, youthful highlights.
- **Aroma**: Complex aromas of ripe red and black fruit, graphite, fresh tobacco, and subtle spices, underscored by floral notes and a hint of limestone dust.
- **Palate**: Plush and layered, the wine opens with silky Merlot fruit, energized by the linear drive of Cabernet Franc. The texture is elegant yet structured, leading to a mineral, persistent finish of remarkable poise.

Alcohol :14,20 %

Composition: 60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc

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Did you know?

Château La Gaffelière stands as a testament to **continuity and tradition**, with ownership by the **Malet Roquefort family** for over **four centuries**. Its location—between the hillsides of Ausone and Pavie—places it within a corridor of exceptional terroir, once part of the Roman villa "Le Gaffelièrensis." The estate is also notable for its forward-thinking approach, including early adoption of **gravity-fed vinification** and high-precision optical sorting.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roasted duck breast with cherry glaze**: Enhances the ripe red fruit character and adds depth to the fine tannins.
- **Porcini mushroom risotto**: Echoes the earthy undertones and highlights the wine's velvety texture.
- **Rack of lamb with rosemary jus**: Complements the structure and herbal nuances of the Cabernet Franc.
- **Comté or aged Saint-Nectaire**: Balances the wine's richness and minerality, creating a harmonious interplay.

97 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 97 Points (2019)

The 2019 La Gaffelière is a distinctive Saint-Émilion, which should be inferred positively. There is something atypically very tertiary about the nose, beautifully defined and focused with plenty of fruit, yet very complex and cerebral. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, a fine bead of acidity and wonderful harmony. The silky texture belies the structure underneath and the finish is extraordinarily long. Ancient vintages of La Gaffelière like the 1961 are legendary. This ranks alongside them - the best I have ever tasted. Magnificent.

95 Robert Parker Wine Advocate

Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2019)

The 2019 La Gaffelière wafts from the glass with a rich bouquet of blackberries and cherries mingled with subtle hints of burning embers and loamy soil that's framed by a deft application of creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, deep and seamless, it's a concentrated, vibrant wine built around bright acids and fine, powdery tannins. Its vivid fruit tones and classical balance make this Cabernet Franc-rich blend a promising candidate for sustained bottle age. Anyone who has tasted the great wines this estate produced in the 1950s and 1960s knows how great this site can be; and with stricter selection as well as the elimination of fruit from vines growing on the plain from the blend, that potential appears to be being unleashed at last.

94 Wine Spectator

Wine Spectator (WS) : 94 Points (2019)

This rolls out dense fig, boysenberry and red currant paste flavors laced with pronounced chalky minerality and notes of tobacco, dried anise and juniper. The serious tannic drive on the finish puts this in the 'classically austere' camp. Worth cellaring for sure, but patience is required. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2024 through 2040. 7,500 cases made, 500 cases imported.