

CHATEAU SAINT CORBIAN 2012

Appellation Saint Estèphe

~ Background ~

Château Saint Corbian is one of the last small estates in the prestigious St. Estèphe region of the Médoc. Contiguous to Château Calon Segur and down the road from Château Cos d'Es-tournel and Château Montrose, Saint Corbian is an up-and-coming estate making outstanding, dense, fruit-forward wines.

At the end of the 19th century, Château Saint Corbian was a modest growth that produced only 20 barrels per year. The estate was acquired by the Anney family in 1939 and is today run by Mr. Jean Anney, the third generation.

Because of its location in the north of Médoc and a soil structure that also includes clay and limestone, grapes tend to take longer to ripen. Mr. Anney planted 25 years ago more Merlot (which ripens one month earlier than Cabernet Sauvignon) to balance the Cabernet and to create a riper, fruitier wine.

~ Viticulture ~

- Planted surface of the property is 6 hectares.
- Soil is Clay and limestone.
- **Grapes are 50% Merlot, which is unusually high for the Médoc, and 50% Cabernet Sauvignon.**
- Density is 6700 vines per hectare.
- The age of the vines is between 30-40 years.
- Production is 50 hectoliters per hectare.
- Green harvest and deleafing. Hand-sorting to eliminate unripe grapes.
- Manual harvest.

~ Winemaking ~

Mr. Anney is a traditionalist and makes a wine that reflects the terroir of his estate. While he is the winemaker, he uses Mr. Eric Boissenot, the winemaker of Latour, Margaux, Lafite and Mouton (nicknamed the "first growth winemaker"), as a consultant.

- Fermentation in thermoregulated steel tanks with 2 pumping-overs daily.
- Vatting 21 days.
- Aged 15 months in oak barrels, of which 50% are new.
- Fining with egg whites. No filtration.
- Production is around 1,500 cases per year.



~ Tasting Notes ~

Deep garnet red color. Rich and complex nose of ripe black berry fruits, vanilla and toasty, grilled flavors. In the mouth, the wine is full-bodied and rich, with velvety tannins and good structure. The high percentage of Merlot bestows finesse, roundness and mellowness to the wine. Aging potential of 5-10 years. Excellent with grilled red meats, poultry, duck, and pork dishes.



92 Points. CELLAR SELECTION. The estate is a small enclave within the Château Tour des Termes which is owned by the same family. Half-and-half Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine has a smoky character from the wood aging. That balances with the rich black fruits and intense fruitiness. It is likely to be ready to drink from 2018. - RV