

Château Jean Faux 2010

CSPC# 756495

750mlx12

13.8% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

50% Cabernet Franc, 50% Merlot

Appellation

Bordeaux Supérieur

General Info

Chateaux Jean faux is an old castle with origins that date back to the middle ages. Its history links it to the Knights Templar, who chose it as a stronghold on the left bank of the Dordogne. It has been producing wine since 1850.

After decades of working as a Saury wine barrel cooper, Pascal Collotte had always said that he would never buy a vineyard unless it was utterly perfect in every way, complete with a pond, an orchard and rolling pasture. Secure in his skepticism that nothing so perfect could possibly exist, everything changed when he laid his eyes on the Château Jean Faux. His purchase of the property in 2002 is proof positive that Bordeaux is still full of surprises!

Just outside the appellation limits of Castillon, this property is located on fairly steep slopes dominated by pine trees, which create a micro-climate. At the bottom of the slope is a small river that also has a tempering effect. Pascal's first vintage was in 2003 under the guidance of consulting winemaker Stéphane Derenoncourt, with whom the château has worked ever since. Château Jean Faux has been practicing organic since 2009.

Vineyards

Château Jean Faux is an 11-hectare estate, owned and run by Pascal Collotte, where vines are grown on a sloping clay-limestone soil, very close to the Dordogne river. In the words of Eric Asimov, writing in the New York Times, Aug 24, 2010: 'at Jean Faux, the Collotte's live what seems to be a fantasy of the winemaking life. They fill closets with preserved fruits and vegetables, and raise pigs to make hams, sausages and charcuterie, served with their own good red wine and rosé. Mr. Collotte farms his vineyards, largely of merlot, organically. Asked why, he looked incredulous and said, "Because I drink my wine.'" He also writes of the wines as being 'Gulpable red and rosé Bordeaux Supérieur'. These are amongst the most fine and elegant wines of Bordeaux, from the wine-making school that great Bordeaux doesn't have to be aged for 20 years.

Certified as biological from 2011. Varieties: 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc
Cultivation, de-budding, de-leafing, green harvest. Hand harvested in crates.
Hand sorting of berries on a vibrating sorting table. Area in production: 11,5 ha
Vine density: 7,400 vines/ha. Average age of the vines: 25 years old
Soils: Clay and limestone plateaus and hillsides

Vinification/

Maturation

Small stainless steel and cement tanks of 40 to 80 hectolitres

Fermentation: 20 to 30 days. Pre-fermentation cold maceration. 10 to 15% 'saignée' (drawn off must) of the volume. Partial micro-oxygenation during fermentation.

Malolactic fermentation in barrels. 12 to 14 months in barrels and six in tanks 100% French oak 'Saury' barrels; 40% in new oak and 60% in one wine and two wine barrels
Partial micro-oxygenation during ageing. Ageing on lees and stirring if necessary (12 to 14 months). Fining and filtration before bottling

Tasting Notes

This wine, from the AOC of Bordeaux Supérieur ('Supérieur' refers the higher alcohol level of wines from this AOC as opposed to the AOC of Bordeaux), is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. It undergoes a 20-day-maceration in concrete and stainless-steel tanks before fermentation and ageing in new oak barrels on the lees for 1 year. The nose is of cherries, milk chocolate, and cassis. It is beautifully balanced and absolutely delicious now. It is medium bodied and almost Pinot Noir like in its texture. It has none of the astringency that is sometimes associated with the wines of Bordeaux and in spite of this elegance it has the fruit and acid structure that will enable it to age gracefully for several years to come.

Production

4,000 cases made

Cellaring

Drink now-2020



Scores/Awards **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013
89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011
89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013
85-87 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011
88 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013
90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013
15 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011
Review Only - Geoffrey Binder, JJBuckley Wines - April 2011

Reviews *"This is quite ripe, with almost flashy plum, raspberry and boysenberry flavors, but they stay focused and driven, with mouthwatering anise and apple wood notes that cut through the middle and extend the long, fleshy, polished finish. A latent minerality chimes in at the very end, boding well for the future. Drink now through 2020. 4,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Ripe and direct, with a graphite-driven beam of linzer torte and blackberry compote notes. Plenty ripe but has nice underlying acidity for balance. Rich but pure. Should be the best vintage yet for Pascal Collotte. Score range: 89-92"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The wine displays a flowery side of Bordeaux, with a wonderfully perfumed smorgasbord of aromas that also include some raspberry and blueberry fruit. Dark plum/ruby in color, medium-bodied, strikingly elegant and almost Margaux-like in its finesse, elegance, and aromatic splendor, this deep, surprisingly concentrated and supple wine should be drunk over the next 5-7 years. Another major sleeper of the vintage, from a 25-acre vineyard with southwest exposition, it is made from 45% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Merlot. Jean Faux has been an overachieving property in many vintages, such as 2010, and the consultant is Stephane Derenoncourt. There are nearly 4,000 cases of this wine, cropped at a modest 33 hectoliters per hectare."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"This pleasant, elegant Bordeaux Supérieur is fashioned by consulting guru Stephane Derenoncourt. Composed of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, it is a mid-weight, attractive example of a low-level Bordeaux that sells for a song. Enjoy it over the next several years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"This is a little jammy and slightly overdone with lots of wood too. Full body, with round and chewy tannins and a dry finish. Drink or hold."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A solid wine with mineral, berry & blackberry character with dark tobacco. Full and silky. Much better than 2009."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Very dry and tight and more concentrated than most. Lots of acidity. Very firm. Quite a bit of alcohol on the finish. This is massively superior to the average Bordeaux Supérieur but is it much fun?"
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"80% merlot and 20% cabernet franc. Aged in 50% new oak. 25-year-old vines planted in clay and limestone soils. Yields are 33 hls/ha. Hand harvested into small plastic crates. 13.8% alcohol. 50% new oak and 50% one-year-old barrels. Aromas of crushed violet and incense are followed by melted licorice and a touch of minerality to create a taught nose. Very lush and round on the palate, this has loads of black fruits and a slight hint of truffle. A pleasure to drink now, this should show beautifully on release. Enjoy on release and over following 5-8 years. 3,800 cases produced. Stephane Derenoncourt consults."
- JB, JJ Buckley Wines
