

Clos du Roy 2015

CSPC# 801702

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Fronsac

Website

<http://www.vignobleshermouet.com/en/the-wines/clos-du-roy/>

General Info

Fronsac vine estates stretch on hillsides overlooking the confluence of the Isle and the Dordogne rivers, this terroir of the Bordeaux area has been renowned from more than three centuries.!

The Clos du Roy is a family owned 22-hectare wine estate whose wines fully express the richness and the complexity of the greatest Fronsac vines.!

The Clos du Roy is naturally strong and prone to ageing, its winemaking process is led by a constant care for balance and delicacy.

The first proper bottling in Château Clos du Roy was in 1970. Beforehand, the vine of this small wine estate was sold as bulk wine to wine trading companies. Clos du Roy quickly gained some fame and ranked among the high quality Fronsac wines. Château Clos du Roy takes part in a French contest called *Concours Générale Agricole de Paris* on a yearly basis; it has been awarded the gold medal for the vintages 1975, 1985 and 2003 and three times in a row for vintages 2009, 2010 and 2011, what consecrates our consistent efforts and quality mastery.

Since the 2014 vintage, the Clos du Roy has been tasted in the Primeur with a certain success for the 2015 and 2016 vintages

Vintage

On the Right Bank, the wines are intense and, at times, freakishly concentrated. The Merlots were especially affected by the summer heat. As a result, wines often tip the scales at 14% or higher. At times, considerably higher. I don't consider elevated alcohol alone as overly important, especially when wines are in balance. But that is not always the case in 2015. Many wines are over-ripe and pruny, neither of which I find particularly appealing. Because of the high alcohols, malolactic fermentations were late to finish, which shows up in some wines that are still raw and not fully formed. Quality-minded producers put the most heat-affected fruit in their second wines, many of which are also Merlot-heavy in 2015. Among the smaller Right Bank appellations, savvy readers should pay extra attention to Fronsac this year.

Vineyards

22 hectares in the Village of Saillans, 35 km North-East Bordeaux!

Along the coasts and on calcareous clay plateaus, with a dominant proportion of clay! 90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, Vines 25-year-old. Between 5050 and 6000 vines/ha! Natural sodding of the vines and mechanical work under each vine. Integrated protection of the vineyard (Optimus system).!

Vinification/

Maturation

Fermentation in stainless steel tanks at controlled temperature!

Soft crushing (small vertical press)!

Malolactic fermentations in tanks

Aged During 12 months in French oak barrels of which a third new

Bottling after 20 months!

Tasting Notes

The wines of Clos du Roy, family estate of 20 hectares, fully express the richness and complexity of the great Fronsacs. Naturally powerful and suitable for aging, the Clos du Roy is vinified with the constant concern for balance and finesse.

Production

50,000 bottles produced.

Cellaring

Drink 2018-2028

Scores/Awards

90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016

92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016

Scores/Awards

85-87 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016

90 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018

14 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)



Reviews *"The 2015 Clos du Roy has an earthy, briary-scented bouquet with great definition and personality. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, good body and is very well balanced, the finish offering blackberry and bilberry notes with a touch of sea salt. This is a great Fronsac wine in the making - one I look forward to tasting in bottle. Barrel Sample: 90-92 Points"*
- NM, Wine Advocate

"This shows finesse and depth with dark berry and dark chocolate character. Full body, integrated tannins. On it. Barrel Sample: 92-93 Points"
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

The 2015 Clos du Roy is rich, powerful and explosive. Succulent dark cherries, plums, menthol, licorice and new oak are all front and center. The tannins are a bit green, but this is otherwise a solid effort."
- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Clos Du Roy is made with guidance from Michel Rolland and sports a deep ruby/purple color as well as youthful notes of black cherries, strawberries, spring flowers, and lead pencil. With medium-bodied richness, solid mid-palate concentration, integrated acidity, give this impressive Fronsac a few years in the cellar and drink over the following decade or more."
- Jeb Dunnuck
