
Clos du Roy 2018

CSPC# 848136

750mlx12

15.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet sauvignon.

Appellation

Fronsac

Website

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

General Info

Thirty years ago, Vendée-born agricultural engineer Philippe Hermouet began to knuckle down to the task of learning how to grow wine after he arrived 'by chance' in the Fronsac area. He bought Clos du Roy in Saillans, in the Fronsac appellation area, from his in-laws – the property shares its name with that of his wife, whose maiden name was Joëlle Roy. Philippe Hermouet also bought Château Roc Meynard around Tertre de Meynard, in the neighbouring village of Villegouge in the Bordeaux appellation area.

The original 10-hectare vineyard in 1987 now covers 50 hectares and both vines and technical infrastructures have been constantly reviewed over the years. The latest change came in spring 2018 with the planting of 8,000 Malbec vines which will broaden the aromatic spectrum of Vignobles Hermouet wines. The range is already famed for its diversity and stems from a high proportion of Merlot vines, complemented by Cabernet Franc, Cabernet-Sauvignon, Sauvignon blanc and Sémillon.

"The vineyard plots had to be entirely redesigned, and the varietal range adapted to our mosaic of soil types and aspects – this is Fronsac! There is clay on the hillsides, rocky limestone outcrops on the plateau, 'molasse du Fronsadais' and sandy clay at the foot of the hills. Such a diverse array of soils enables us to make wines renowned for their 'Fronsac complexity' – they are naturally powerful with substantial ageability", explains Philippe Hermouet, a staunch supporter of Fronsac to which he devotes part of his time as Chairman of the Fronsac Wine Council.

Winemaker

Consultant winemaker Bruno Lacoste

Vintage

Having virtually drowned the pruning team during the winter and frayed our nerves in the spring with an epic battle against mildew, the vintage then made a 180 degree turn at the beginning of July and the "Bordeaux miracle" occurred once again, with a magnificent summer and early autumn!

The summer of 2018 was the hottest since 2003, but without the latter's excesses and water stress, since reserves had been amply replenished at the beginning of the year and enabled the vines to cope with the lack of rain during July and August.

As we started picking at the end of September, the weather remained glorious, enabling the Merlot on the limestone plots and the Cabernet to finish ripening in perfect, warm conditions.

The vintage produced small berries with thick, ripe skins resulting in richly-coloured wines. The seeds were also somewhat unusual, revealing their advanced maturity with a dark brown colour and very little astringency.

2018 will be remembered as much for the trials of its spring as for the richness of its wines. In addition to being one of Bordeaux's most structured vintages, 2018 has a surprising freshness: two characteristics that promise an excellent capacity to age.

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).!

Sustainability

Environmental stewardship underpins the vineyard replanting programme and in 2018, the property joined the Environmental Management System. Fully aware of the natural wealth and complex ecosystem in their vineyards, Vignobles Hermouet have made a commitment to certification and relentlessly strive to preserve their soils and determination to pass their property on befittingly.



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| Vinification/ Maturation | Fermentation in stainless steel tanks at controlled temperature! Soft crushing (small vertical press)! Malolactic fermentations in tanks. Aged for 12 months in French oak barrels of which a third new. Bottling after 20 months! |
| Tasting Notes | Clos du Roy represents the great wine of the property. Tannic wine and beautiful acidity, it is naturally able to age. Our job is to raise this wine by mixing the best, density, complexity, and balance. |
| Serve with | Best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. |
| Production | 50,000 bottles produced. |
| Cellaring | Drink 2023-2038 |
| Scores/Awards | <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>87-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019</p> <p>87-89 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p>92-94 points - Yves Beck - April 2019</p> <p>89-90 points - Vert de Vin - April 2019</p> |
| Reviews | <p><i>"The 2018 Clos du Roy is made up of Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec. Deep garnet-purple colored, it delivers profound baked plums, boysenberry, and cassis notes with touches of chocolate box, underbrush and truffles. Medium to full-bodied and packed with generous black fruits, it has a velvety texture and lively line, finishing savory."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Very solid Fronsac with currant, chocolate and walnut character. Medium body. Firm tannins."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"The 2018 Clos du Roy is a wine of real substance and power. Inky red/purplish berry fruit, sweet spice, licorice and new oak give Clos du Roy its decidedly opulent, plush feel. The 2018 needs time to fully assimilate its oak and come together, but it is quite promising."</i> - AG, Vinous</p> <p><i>"The 2018 Clos Du Roy reveals a deep purple color as well as a firm, slightly angular feel to go with plenty of dark fruit and minerality. The tannins are aggressive, yet it has a good mid-palate, impressive purity, and I suspect will come together nicely once bottled. Nevertheless, those tannins will need watching."</i> - Jeb Dunnuck</p> <p><i>"Deep purple. Intense bouquet marked by chalky and refreshing notes. A lot of character and tension in the mouth. The tannins are compact, well integrated and the structure is lively, which ideally supports the fruity expression until the finish. A wine that demands to flourish. The outlook is encouraging. Great success. 2023-2038."</i> - YB, YvesBeck.wine</p> <p><i>"The nose is aromatic, fruity, gourmand and offers elegance. It reveals notes of ripe cassis, ripe blackberry and small notes of violet associated with fine touches of wild red berries, vanilla as well as a very discreet hint of nutmeg and hazelnut. The palate is fruity, well-balanced, mineral, racy and offers a juicy/finely acidulous frame. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy cassis, juicy blackberry and small notes of juicy small red berries associated with fine hints of flowers (in the background). Tannins are well-built."</i> - Vert de Vin</p> |
