

Château De La Dauphine 2010

CSPC# 737782

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
General Info

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc
Fronsac

Once owned by the Moueix family, they sold in 2001 to Jean Halley, wanting to concentrate on their Pomerol and Saint Emilion holdings. I wonder sometimes if they regret this decision, as the Halleys have shown just what exceptional *terroir* this estate has, teased out by a major investment in the vineyard and cellars. Investments of over 10 million euros have resulted in a complete restoration of the chateau and chais, replanting and restructuring of the vineyard and vineyard processes, careful lowering of yields to increase concentration in the berries, new equipment to ensure minimal disturbance of the grapes, the installation of a gravity-based system with a rotating walkway to ensure gentle and consistent filling of the tanks, and the introduction of a second wine. Denis Dubourdieu has worked with the chateau as consultant oenologist for the past five years, alongside 32-year-old Guillaume Halley – Jean Halley’s son and now La Dauphine’s owner and director. Jean Halley died accidentally April 28th, 2011.

Vineyards

The 31-hectare Bordeaux wine vineyard of Chateau de La Dauphine is located in the Fronsac appellation. The terroir is clay and limestone soils. The vineyards are planted with 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 6,300 vines per hectare. On average the vines are 33 years of age. To increase the quantity of Chateau de La Dauphine, Halley was able to merge Chateau Canon de Brem into La Dauphine. That was quite a feat considering that Canon de Brem was located in the Canon Fronsac appellation.

Soil
Harvest

Soil types- clayey-limestone, Fronsac “mollasse”

Traditional tilling of the soil, leaf removal on one side, “green” harvesting. The ripe fruit is picked by hand with two sorting operations before and after the de-stemmer.

**Vinification/
Maturation**

The wine of Chateau de La Dauphine is made in a completely modern, state of the art facility in the Fronsac appellation. In fact, it currently offers the most advanced wine making facilities in the entire commune as well as in much of the Right Bank! The semi underground, circular vat room has 26 concrete vats around the sides along with 8 central stainless-steel vats for vinification. This allows the parcels to be vinified on a plot by plot basis. A gravity-based system with a rotating walkway was installed to ensure gentle and consistent filling of the tanks. On average, the wine of Chateau de La Dauphine is aged in 30% new, French barrels oak for 12 months. The average annual production of Chateau de La Dauphine is close to 6,500 cases of Bordeaux wine per year. There is a second wine, Delphis, which is aged in 10% new oak.

Tasting Notes

Chateau de La Dauphine is a top value Bordeaux wine and one of the best wines from Fronsac Canon Fronsac. It’s filled with lusty, ripe, dark, jammy fruit, soft textures and good concentration. It drinks well young.

**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2013-2021

90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011

87 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013

87-90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- May 2011

91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2013

91 points - Jane Anson, newbordeaux.com - April 2011

88-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewincellarinsider.com - March 14, 2011

91 points - Neil Mechanic, JJBuckley Wines - April 2011



Reviews *"A bright, lively, floral style, with lots of raspberry and cherry fruit. A floral edge hangs on through the long, licorice-filled finish. Score range: 90-93."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"An attractive cranberry and mulberry-like fruitiness with hints of underbrush and damp earth permeates this medium-bodied, stylish, mid-weight wine. Dark ruby, it is soft enough to be consumed over the next 5-6 years but seems to have adequate stuffing to possibly last longer."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"This property, which has been on a qualitative roll, is one of the largest estates in Fronsac, and their wines are both easily found and fairly priced. The deep ruby/purple-hued 2010 cuts a larger, richer, more concentrated swath than usual without losing its elegant, rich, intensely fruity, lush style. A hedonist's dream, it is a heady red to enjoy over the next 6-10 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Ripe dark cherries with some blueberry, leather and licorice. Opens up with orange blossom and violets. Really sweet and pretty fruit on the palate with a nice juicy acidity and fine tannins. Vibrant and fresh with medium body and length. Charming and enjoyable but a bit tight and bitter in the finish. Try in 2016."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Again, a good balance of power, rich ripe black fruits, and an attempt to keep things in check. I am enjoying this one more than many. Denis Duboudieu is consultant at this estate, and I think it shows. 80%/20% merlot, cabernet franc. 91+/100. Drink 2015-2030."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Deep in color, with oak, licorice, floral, chocolate and dark berry scents pairs well with the wines round textures and sweet black cherry finish. 89-91 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"80% merlot, 20% cabernet franc. Aged a year in a combination of 1/3 new oak, 1/3 one-year-old oak and 1/3 two-year-old oak barrels. The nose exhibits soy, crushed blackberry and currant, followed by aromas of crushed rock. Candied cassis, olive and juicy licorice coat the mid-palate with cleansing acidity and a medium grip. Tannins are a bit angular and the finish is elegantly long. Drink 2016 to 2025. "

- JL, JJ Buckley Wines
