

Château De La Dauphine 2015

CSPC# 764029

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Fronsac
Website	http://www.chateau-dauphine.com/en/our-wines/
Sustainability	Organic
General Info	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 Halley's have shown just what exceptional <i>terroir</i> 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 Dubourdiou 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 28 th , 2011.
Winemaker	Bruno Lacoste. Michel Rolland consults.
Vintage	A fresh start for this spring, then the vines grew and blossomed quickly thanks to a very long period of dry and very hot weather. (April to July). The rain in August was favourable to the vines because it reduced drought stress to a reasonable extent. The rains of middle September feigned the winemakers' good humour a bit, but not the very beautiful quality of the vintage which we brought into the cellar by the end of September and the beginning of October during sunny days. Very beautiful fruit, round tannins, and a smooth mouth - these are the most beautiful qualities of this vintage which reminds us a lot of 2009.
Vineyards	The 31-hectare Bordeaux wine vineyard of Chateau de La Dauphine is located in the Fronsac appellation. The terroir is clay and limestone soil. 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. Planting density: 6000 vines/Ha. Average age of the vines: 28 years
Soil	Soil types- clayey-limestone, Fronsac "mollasse".
Harvest	Manual harvesting plot by plot from September 15th, 2015, to October 2nd, 2015.
Vinification/ Maturation	Double sorting table before and after destemming, the grapes are gravity fed into tanks Extraction: Manual Pumping over of 1 1/2 volumes per day for 10 days with little aeration. Fermentation at 26°C for 20 days. Maceration for 30 days. Vertical pressing with separation of the musts; P1 - P2 - P3 malolactic fermentation in tanks. Maturing of separate batches in oak for 12 months with 25% of new barrels.
Tasting Notes	Deep-crimson colour, almost velvet-like. The nose is quite elegant, presenting ripe red fruits with spicy notes. On the palate, a well-rounded wine, with voluptuous structure. This wine has a beautiful potential of ageing as it is one of the greatest vintages of Bordeaux.
Serve with	Chateau La Dauphine is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau La Dauphine is best paired with lamb with a honey sauce, sliced beef with morels, quail with grapes, rabbit with wine sauce, or osso buco.
Production	9,600 cases made (130,000 bottles)
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2030. Peak 2025.



Scores/Awards **91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018
88 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018
91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
91+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2016
92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016
91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 2018
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018
90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018
89-91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
Review Only - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017
15.5-16.5 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2016
92-93 points - Vert de Vin - September 2017
16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2018
15.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016
15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2018

Reviews *"Offers an enticing core of plum, black currant and raspberry paste flavors that are mixed with light charcoal, licorice, and singed alder notes. This has energy to match its range through the finish. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2019 through 2025. 9,600 cases made."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Made up of 90% Merlot with 10% Cabernet Franc, the medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2015 de la Dauphine has a nose of warm plums, mulberries, and fragrant earth with wafts of charcoal and fruitcake. Medium to full-bodied, it's rich and spicy in the mouth with a chewy frame and long, mincemeat pie-laced finish."
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 vintage La Dauphine is a blend of 90 % Merlot and 10 % Cabernet Franc. Having vexed about the 2014 last year, 2015 is a much « happier » sample, pure and quite elegant with black cherries, blueberry and cassis fruit, the new oak nicely integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, crisp blackberry, and bilberry fruit with a healthy sprinkle of white pepper to spice up the finish. This an excellent Fronsac, although it deserves 4-6 years in bottle."
 - NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 de la Dauphine initially showed some dustiness on the nose although this seems to blow away. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit, moderate acidity, and a slight chewiness on the finish. It is a curmudgeonly Fronsac that, as I mentioned from barrel, will need a few years in bottle to loosen up and show the potential it demonstrated from barrel."
 - NM, Wine Journal

"Very pretty aromas of perfume, currants and orange peel follow through to a full body, round and chewy tannins and a flavorful finish. Solid and structured. Give it two years to soften. Better in 2020."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A Fronsac with lots of dried dark fruits and dark chocolate. Full body, velvety tannins. A little extracted now. Should soften with élevage."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a ripe, lightly toasty wine, rich with blackberry flavors and showing considerable weight. It offers a touch of licorice, a firm core, and the potential to age. This is the first vintage under the Jean-Claude Labrune family for this 130-acre organic Fronsac estate. Drink from 2022."
 - RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep in color, the wine is lush, rich, fleshy, sweet, and long. There is minerality, loads of ripe, juicy fruits, length, and character. You can drink this for pleasure for at least 15 years or so."
 - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“Deeply colored, with a lush, round, supple character, the wine is packed to the gills with licorice, sweet, juicy, dark red and black fruits, chocolate, and espresso beans. Sweet, fresh, ripe, earthy, dark fruits with great textures and presence, plus it sells for a song and drinks well early! 90-92 Pts.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2015 La Dauphine is potent, but also remains relatively light on its feet next to other Fronsacs in this vintage. Inky red/purplish fruit, floral notes and spice are among the signatures. Sweet floral notes and silky, polished tannins add to an impression of finesse. The blend is 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Tasted two times”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2015 La Dauphine is an attractive, mid-weight Fronsac to drink upon release. Super-ripe, black cherry, plum, lavender and violet are laced into the inviting, floral finish. This is an especially polished, refined Fronsac from the Halley family. In some tastings, the fruit was quite ripe and succulent, while at other times, the wine was a bit more understated. Either way, the 2015 should be a terrific value. Tasted four times.”
- AG, Vinous

“A terrific Fronsac from 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the 2015 La Dauphine is made in a medium-bodied, forward, easy-going style and offers lots of strawberries, plum, fruit cake and spice aromas and flavors. I wouldn’t push the aging curve, but it will certainly offer considerable pleasure over the coming 7-8 years.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“A dark, rôti edge to the fruit on the nose, smoky, with a lightly sooty suggestion of tannic concentration. The palate is fresh, pure, quite cool, and stony, textured but with a firm, rather broad backbone, supported by some oaky lactones. Laid over the top there is a rather medium-bodied draping of black fruit and black olives. The overall effect is rather cool, certainly structured, but with a reserved fruit texture. Good”
- CK, The Wine Doctor

“The nose is fruity and offers a richness as well as depthness. It needs to be put in a carafe. It reveals notes of crushed cassis and crushed blackberry and wild strawberries associated with fine touches of redcurrant, licorice as well as subtle hints of caramelization, Sichuan pepper, racy minerality, a very discreet hint of tobacco / clove and very discreet hints spices. The palate is fruity, mineral, well-balanced, racy, elegant and offers a nice acid frame, straightness, suppleness, precision, aerial side, a nice definition, a good structure, a slight fat, and finesse. In the mouth this wine expresses notes of black cherry, cassis and redcurrant associated with hints of black chocolate / mocha and a subtle hint of pepper / spice. Tannins are fine, straight, and elegant. Good length.”
- Vert de Vin
