

Château De La Dauphine 2016

CSPC# 764029

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Fronsac
Website	http://www.chateau-dauphine.com/en/our-wines/
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	Around six months of heavy rainfall followed by four months of drought and heat caused the winemakers of Bordeaux to break out in a cold sweat during the growth period for the 2016 vintage. The fear that they were facing a total disaster was at the back of their minds all the time. The stresses and strains experienced not only by the vines, but also the people who worked with them, were huge – and it turned out to be crucial that the right decisions were taken concerning the work in the vineyards. A feeling of relief only broke out shortly before the harvest, turning into one of jubilation after the musts had fermented. Now it was clear after all the stress that the wine in their cellars was of exceptional quality. There had probably never been such a strange vintage in Bordeaux ever before! The only appellation which surpasses almost all previous vintages in 2016 is Fronsac.
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	Soil types- clayey-limestone, Fronsac "mollasse"
Harvest	Manual harvesting plot by plot from September 26th to October 23rd 2016
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	Deep-crimson colour. The nose is open, presenting ripe strawberry and cherry notes. On the palate, a well-rounded wine, with fruits and spices. 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.
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2032. Peak 2025.
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2017</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>89-91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>90 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2016 de la Dauphine reveals notes of baked black cherries, dried mulberries, spice cake and tobacco with a core of blackberry compote and mincemeat pie plus a touch of dark chocolate. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers loads of savory accents to complement the ripe black fruits, framed by rounded tannins and finishing on an herbal note."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 la Dauphine, from the Famille Labrune, has a lifted and quite floral, almost Margaux-like bouquet that opens beautifully in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin, smooth in texture, tightening up towards the slightly attenuated finish. This will probably require two or three years in bottle but there is good potential here, even if it does not quite excite as much as last year's 2015."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A firm and chewy red with dark-berry, chocolate and walnut character with some salty, mineral undertones. Full body. Dense and driven for the vintage. A blend of 90 per cent merlot and ten per cent cabernet franc."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is extremely structured and dense yet agile and energetic at the same time. Medium to full body, flanked by a linear backbone of tannins."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This wine is structured, dark and concentrated. With powerful tannins, it is going to be a dense and solidly constructed wine. There is power here in the abundance of rich fruit and spice flavors. (RV)"</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"Michel Rolland consults. Dark purple. Quite rich and some exotic floral quality on the nose. Not as sappy as some. Just a bit heavy."</i></p> <p>- JH, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"This is probably the best wine ever produced at La Dauphine, loaded with brambly fruits and softly-spun minerality, taking it into the top tier of the appellation. They are now at 53ha of vines, making them a significant Right Bank player. Working entirely organically and biodynamically, this year a new plot has been included from up on the limestone plateau that was not historically biodynamic, so they have had to start the process of certification all over again. The blend this year is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. (JA)"</i></p> <p>- JA, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"With deep color, you catch the floral, blackberry, licorice and vanilla nose first. The lush textures, freshness and juicy fruits in the finish make this wine already delicious, and it should age for a few years too."</i></p> <p>- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p>

Reviews *“Black cherry, plum, chocolate, spice and licorice infuse the La Dauphine. Powerful and deep in all of its dimensions, the 2016 is super-impressive. It’s made in an especially dark, unctuous, concentrated style for the appellation. Tasted two times. (AG)”*
- AG, Vinous

“Black fruits, cedary spice, tobacco, and some chocolate notes emerge from the 2016 Château La Dauphine. it’s a powerful, medium to full-bodied Fronsac that delivers the goods. With sweet fruit, ripe tannins, and outstanding balance, drink it any time over the coming decade.”
- Jeb Dunnuck
