

Château La Vieille Cure 2014

CSPC# 763549

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

75% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

Fronsac

Classification

Website

http://www.la-vieille-cure.com/ENG/propriete_ENG.html

General Info

With its 20 hectares (50 acres) in one single plot, Château La Vieille Cure appears on a famous map of the Guyenne region, known as the Belleyme map, dated 1780. Parish records show grapes were grown there in the 17th Century. The vines occupy a privileged location on plateaus and slopes that are oriented to the southeast. The estate runs along the River Isle at an elevation of 65 metres, where it soaks up the sun, while enjoying perfect drainage. This situation favors the growth of grapes that ripen generously and under ideal physical conditions.

The property has been greatly renovated since 1986 when it was bought by American friends: Bordeaux lovers who recognized the exceptional potential of the estate.

Parts of the vineyard were extended and replanted, without of course touching the very old vines, some of which go back over 75 years. A new winery was built, housing the latest equipment, and aging in oak casks was begun. The overall objective of these investments was to make high quality wines worthy of worldwide distribution.

The new owners launched a new marketing program for the wines, based on bottling exclusively at the chateau. Château La Vieille Cure had been little known outside Fronsac but is now exported to more than 25 countries. The main markets remain France, the United States, China and Britain.

Improvements are still continuing. The owners are driven by perfectionism and intend to continue their efforts to make the wine amongst the highest ranking in the Libourne area of the Right Bank of the Dordogne.

Vineyards

A plateau of limestone; bordering slopes with chalk and clay soils. 20 hectares comprising Merlot 74%; Cabernet Franc 22%; Cabernet Sauvignon 4%

Harvest

The harvest is 100% manual. After automatic de-stemming, the grapes are sorted by hand. Only perfect grapes are sent to the temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats.

Vinification/

Maturation

Fermentation in stainless steel vats for three weeks with built-in temperature controls. Aged in oak barrels – 30% new oak

Production

4,500 cases made."

Cellaring

Drink 2017-2022

Scores/Awards

92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017

89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015

86 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017

86-88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015

91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017

90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017

16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015(score only)

16.75 (89) points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2015

89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015

94-96 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015

88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

89 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015

90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015

14.5-15 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

15 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)



Reviews *“Ripe and structured, this sports a vivid core of cassis and plum that races along, with fine-grained structure and light anise, bay and chalk notes hanging in the background. The long finish has cut and drive, with the cassis accent pushing through with determination. Rock-solid. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2018 through 2026. 4,500 cases made.”*

- JM, Wine Spectator

“Solid, featuring a kirsch core, framed with licorice and violet notes. Offers ample toast, but this is polished and integrated. Score range: 89-92”

- JM, Wine Spectator

“The 2014 La Vieille Cure felt very backward on the nose, broody and masculine, and lacking the fruit of say the 2014 La Dauphine that I tasted alongside. The palate is medium-bodied with dry tannin. It feels dense and masculine, a little gritty in the mouth with the oak not sewn into the fabric of the wine as well as it should. There are better Fronsac wines out there this vintage, but it is the kind of Fronsac you would happily pop open during the week.”

- NM, Wine Advocate

“The Château la Vieille Cure 2014 feels overripe on the nose, raisin and prune scents rendering the aromatics a little predictable and simplistic. The palate is high-toned, full-bodied, dense and assertive with heady black fruit and plenty of glycerin on the licorice-infused finish. It a turbocharged Fronsac that feels a little labored in comparisons to its peers.”

- NM, Wine Advocate

““This is a pretty serious wine for Fronsac with rather bold tannins that are well judged and give the wine warmth, power and ageing potential! Drink or hold. ”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“With signs of its wood aging that are balanced with firm tannins and concentrated black fruits, this is a solid wine, packed with tannins. There is a touch of dark chocolate as well as the ripe fruit. It is a fine wine, ready to drink from 2020.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Creamy, dark fruit notes with a hint of cassis. Toasty oak apparent on the palate but explosion of juicy fruit behind. Tannins fine and firm. Sure-fire value this year.”

- JL, Decanter.com

“Lush, round, polished and packed with plenty of fat, juicy, round berries, licorice and chocolate. 89-91”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Mid depth; dark at centre; blackcurrant; little reduced at first but this dissipates on aeration to show vivacious fruit; has purity and feels linear; nice purity again on the palate; blackcurrant tones; very good and nicely balanced; nice texture and balance between the texture, the flesh and the grip. Moreish and very good. This will settle nicely. Drink 2018-2025. 88-90+”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“Beautifully made with lovely dark berry fruit flavors accented by savory herbs. The wine has freshness, lift and supple, firm tannins. An impressive Fronsac red ready to drink in 2 to 4 years.”

- JCL, asianpalate.com

*“The 2014 Vielle Cure is a real standout. Dark, fleshy and beautifully resonant on the palate, the 2014 offers gorgeous textural depth. Dark red cherry, iron, smoke, chalk, tobacco, cedar and a host of savory/ferrous notes come together in a powerful, sumptuous wine loaded with personality. The bold style will appeal most to readers who seek opulence and density. Best of all the 2014, should be a fabulous value. **Barrel sample:** 90-92 points.”*

- AG, Vinous
