

# Château La Vieille Cure 2019

CSPC# 763549

750mlx12

15.0% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

## Appellation

AOC Fronsac

## Website

[http://www.la-vieille-cure.com/ENG/propriete\\_ENG.html](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.

## Winemakers

Michel Rolland (renowned oenologist who also works at Clinet, L'Evangile, Nénin, Beau-séjour Bécot, La Dominique...) accompanied by Jean-Luc Thunevin.

## Vintage

The weather statistics in 2019 were close to ten-year averages, despite the heatwave in July. 2019's hydric deficit was only 10% off ten-year figures. However, these averages do not report the varying, individual challenges that vines underwent depending on their age, the variety and terroir, where every winegrower had to take decisions to suit the needs of each parcel. This is what constituted the appeal of this vintage, which was unpredictable, worrying, disconcerting and in the end an exhilarating reward for all the hard work carried out.

### Some technical highlights:

- The growth cycle began very early with budburst around 30th March, one of the earliest and fastest in the last ten years, close to 2016.
- The first highlight was the frosty cold snaps on 13th April and 5th & 6th May, which slowed the vines' phenological development and caused damage locally.
- The second highlight was the rainy episode at the beginning of June during flowering, which caused poor fruit set and hens and chickens (millerandage) to a greater or lesser degree.
- The third highlight was the extreme heat and drought between 23rd June and 23rd July with peaks on 26th June and 23rd July, temperatures regularly above 30°C (86°F), between 4 and 20 mm of rainfall and a short episode of hail.
- We were saved by rain in August and a rapid onset of ripening around 7th August that finally put all doubts and uncertainties behind us.
- The last fears about quantity and quality for this vintage were finally dispelled by the perfect conditions for ripening and harvesting that ensued with alternating cool nights and warm days. The varying impacts caused quite significant irregularity, so different harvest strategies had to be developed from one parcel to another. In both early- and late-ripening areas, 2019 was a clear illustration that vines adapt extraordinarily to conditions and that dry years always yield great vintages.



**Vintage** – With this vintage that was sometimes brutal, an auspicious outcome such as this would not have been possible if our winegrowers had not displayed a very finely tuned sense of anticipation and when to take action.  
– Medium to small grapes with thick skins. Relatively high alcohol content, often above 13.5% ABV, with the Merlot and Cabernet varieties and balanced acidity. Magnificently fresh Cabernet.

**And the wines are crafted to perfection!**

– These differences in grape ripeness produce incredible complexity: plenty of colour with highly concentrated anthocyanins, a sliding scale of aromas ranging from notes of fresh fruit to hints of ripe fruit, sweetness, structure, and lovely balance.  
– These 2019 wines are just beginning their ageing; they are clean-cut with great purity, elongated and breathtakingly elegant.

**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** 5,180 cases made

**Serve with** Chateau La Vieille Cure is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau La Vieille Cure is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.

**Cellaring** Drink 2023-2032

**Scores/Awards** **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2022

**91-93+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020

**93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2022

**92-93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - June 2020

**94 points** - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022

**91-93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020

**90-92 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020

**91-93 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020

**92-94 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020

**87 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020

**92-93 points** - Vert de Vin - April 2020

**92 points** - Falstaff Magazine - December 2019

**Reviews** *“Stylish, with crushed plum and lightly warmed cassis flavors infused gently with dark earth and tobacco accents, followed in the end by a hint of cast iron. Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2023 through 2032. 5,180 cases made.”*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*“The deep purple-black colored 2019 La Vieille Cure comes prancing out of the glass with regal scents of boysenberries, warm black plums, black cherry preserves and kirsch plus nuances of violets, espresso, and camphor with a waft of black olives. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is laden with bright, pure black fruit layers, framed by wonderfully ripe, finely grained tannins and bold freshness, finishing long and fragrant. Stunning!”*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“Vibrant nose of wild raspberries, bramble berries, lemon zest, thyme, and sandalwood. It’s medium-to full-bodied with firm, tight-grained tannins, and bright acidity. Vibrant and fragrant. Firm yet elegant finish. Drink after 2024.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This is rich and decadent with lots of blackberry, chocolate, and walnut character, as well as pine needles. Full-bodied, yet framed and tight with a beautiful, rich structure.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

**Reviews** *“New owners since 2018, still one of the clear go-to wines in Fronsac. Great texture, tons of brambly berry fruits, with the gourmet, chocolate edge that is so loveable in La Vieille Cure. Dark spice adds shape and focus to the finish, and this is a clear signpost to quality potential in 2019. A yield of 42hl/ha. 70% new oak. (Drink between 2024-2036).”*

- JL, Decanter.com

*“Deep in color, with lush, plush, opulent polished textures. The wine has layers of fruit, sexy, silky tannins, and a hedonistic finish. But this is no fruit-only bomb, it is a refined, sweet, and hedonistic wine that should be great to taste early in life and age for at least a decade or more. The next time someone says Bordeaux is expensive, pop a bottle of this.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2019 La Vieille Cure has a palpable “strictness” on the nose, not quite as expressive as other Fronsacs at this nascent stage. The palate is succulent with supple tannins, bitter black cherry mixes with sage and salted liquorice that segues into a persistent finish. If the aromatics improve it will land at the top of my banded score.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2019 La Vieille Cure dazzles from start to finish. Inky dark fruit, lavender, licorice, and espresso infuse the 2019 with striking depth and textural resonance. Vieille Cure has tremendous presence and pedigree to burn; it is one of the under-the-radar gems of the vintage.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The smaller appellations on the Right Bank did beautifully in 2019. The 2019 Château La Vieille Cure reveals a saturated purple color as well as a big, smoky bouquet of ripe black fruits, tobacco, and crushed rocks, with an almost Pomerol-like opulence and richness on the palate. It's a big, blockbuster Fronsac offering ripe tannins, terrific depth of fruit, and a great finish. It will be another gem in this vintage that's going to represent a great value. It should easily evolve for 10-12 years, if not longer. Barrel Sample: 92-94”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Deep dark ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, discreet ochre rim. Nuances of plums, fresh figs, dark forest berry jam, discreet herbal savouriness. Juicy, powerful, pleasant fruit expression, elegant, ripe tannins, mineral finish, has future potential.”*

- Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is fruity and offers a fine concentration. It reveals notes of blackberry, Gariguet strawberry, small notes of blueberry associated with fine touches of racy minerality, vanilla and nutmeg. The palate is mineral, racy and offers a fine grain and a good definition. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy raspberry, cornflower, fleshy blackcurrant associated with fine touches of fleshy raspberry as well as small touches of small blue fruits and chocolate. Tannins are gourmand, structuring and well-built. A very discreet hint of coffee on the persistence.”*

- Vert de Vin

---