

# Château La Vieille Cure 2021

CSPC# 763549

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

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

## Appellation

AOC Fronsac

## Website

<https://la-vieille-cure.com/>

## Sustainability

Organic.

## 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.

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

Jean-Luc Thunevin consults.

## Vintage

The weather conditions were difficult. This is the most heterogeneous vintage in a generation, with a small crop due to frost and an extremely rainy June. Temperatures were cooler than normal in July and August, while warm September weather saved the day, barely. Yields lower than usual.

## 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. Harvest from September 30 to October 12.

## Winemaking

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

## Tasting Notes

At first, there is a hint of mint, which underlines the expression of freshness. Mineral aromas combine with truffle, sour cherry and plum. The scent comes from the depths and captivates you. A sensual, floral aroma floats above it, giving the wine a magical elegance. The delicate acidity gives it vibrant energy on the palate. Starting with delicious extract sweetness, it really lets the fruit flavors dance. It gets its creamy flow from its tannin structure, which gives it the ideal structure. With a delicately spicy finish, the fruit aromas gradually fade away and give way to the terroir again. A very refined wine.

## 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. Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, pasta.

## Production

8,000 cases made.

## Cellaring

Drink 2024-2032

## Scores/Awards

**90 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - February 2024

**88-90 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022

**86-88 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - May 2022

**92 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2024

**91-92 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022

**89 points** - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022

**92 points** - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022

**90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024

**88-90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022



**Scores/Awards** **89-91 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022  
**90-92 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022  
**89 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022  
**90 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022  
**91-92 points** - Vert de Vin - July 2022

**Reviews** *"Dark currant and cherry notes show a lightly steeped edge, while tobacco and roasted cedar notes weave around. The warm, earth-tinged finish has good flesh for the vintage. Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2032. 8,000 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Offering up aromas of cherries and berries framed by a generous application of creamy new oak, the 2021 La Vieille Cure is medium to full-bodied, fleshy, and ample, with lively acids and a vanillin-inflected finish. It's a creditable effort from this unabashedly modern-styled Fronsac estate."*  
- WK, Wine Advocate

*"Red berry fruit on the nose, with nutmeg, cardamom, and bark notes, too. Fresh and spicy on the palate with a medium body, bright acidity, and fine, elegant tannins."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A fine-textured red with blackberries, black olives, and hints of spice. Medium body. Creamy. Crunchy."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Blackcurrant and plum flavours are to the fore with dark chocolate, bitter orange zest, clove and cinnamon providing the hints of exotic spice edging the fruit and marking the finish though this also has a lovely cooling mint freshness on the finish too. Lots of elements going on - good potential here. Michel Rolland consultancy"*  
- GH, Decanter.com

*"Cloves, raspberry, chewy tannic structure, juicy and powerful, impressive in the vintage overall. Austere on the finish, tugs you back into the palate, this is easy to recommend. 40hl/h yield, 70% new oak, Jean Luc Thunevin consultant since 2013, continuing with new owner Jerome Pignard, who has been in place since 2018. Clay limestone soils. Harvest September 30 to October 12."*  
- JA, janeanson.com

*"Salty cherries, cocoa, licorice, and toasty oak are front and center here, in the nose, and in the round, soft, vibrant palate. The cherry-toned endnote is complicated by a squeeze of refreshing orange that shows up on the vibrant, backend. Drink from 2024-2032."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Medium-bodied, fresh, bright, and fruity, the palate is loaded with ripe, crunchy black raspberries and red plums with overtones of licorice, espresso, and cocoa. Drink from 2023-2032."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The 2021 La Vieille Cure has an open, expressive bouquet of red cherries and crushed strawberry. The oak here nicely integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins and fine acidity. A little chewy on the finish but with decent length. Give it 2-3 years in bottle - there's good "stuffing" here."*  
- NM, Vinous

*"A wine that always seems to deliver the goods is the 2021 Château La Vieille Cure, and even in a challenging vintage like 2021, it's well worth seeking out. Based on 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Sauvignon, it brings lots of richness and texture as well as more blue fruits, notes of chalky minerality, tobacco, and damp earth, ripe tannins, and a great finish. If the final wine comes close to this beauty, it's going to be a smoking success in the vintage."*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Dark ruby core, purple reflections, subtle brightening on the rim. Delicate tobacco aromas with blackberries, fine herbal savouriness, and nuances of plums. Medium red cherry concentrated body, balanced with a touch of minerality and a subtle mid-palate sweetness, will be great with food."*  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

**Reviews** *“The nose offers power, spiciness, and a racy quality. There are notes of boysenberry, ripe dark berries and more slightly morello cherry, combined with touches of pepper, almost a hint of herbs, and hints of liquorice and mocha. The palate is fresh, mineral and reveals fruit, a certain brightness, volume, and roundness on the palate. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/fresh cherry, blackberry plus a hint of violet combined with hints of lilac, fresh blueberry as well as hints of morello cherry, herbals, toast, tobacco, and a hint of cardamom. Good length.”*  
- Vert de Vin

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