

# Clos Floridene 2010

CSPC# 756501

750mlx12

13.0% Alc./Vol.

## Grape Variety

62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot

## Appellation

Graves

## General Info

An estate which has come under the wing of Denis Dubourdieu, one of the greatest exponents of White Bordeaux, and employed as a consultant by a growing number of properties.

Clos Floridène is a 31 hectares estate mostly located on the calcareous plateau of Pujols sur Ciron, near Barsac, in the Graves appellation. A few plots are also located on the pebbly terraces of Illats. Since 1982 Denis and Florence Dubourdieu have supervised the replanting of the vineyard.

Its name evokes the first names of its founders: Denis and Florence Dubourdieu. At the beginning in 1982, Clos Floridène is a small enclosed parcel planted with 2 ha of old white vines composed of Sémillon and Muscadelle, a wine-grower dwelling, an old cellar and 2 ha of fallow land which was planted, upon the acquisition of the vineyard, with Cabernet Sauvignon.

The vineyard acquired its present-day size through the successive purchase of neighboring parcels. In 1991, Clos Floridène was significantly enlarged through the adding of Château Montalivet, a 13 ha vineyard, contiguous for the most part with Floridène (refer to the technical documentation of Château Montalivet, Clos Floridène's second wine).

## Vintage

Like many great vintages, the 2010 Bordeaux wine vintage got off to a slow start.

With a lack of evenness in the flowering coupled with Merlot that was having problems, many chateaux started off the season nervous over the potential for the vintage. After a difficult, cold winter, bud break took place just a few days later than it started in 2009, about mid-April. The Merlot crop was hit by millerandage and coulure, two diseases leading to the need to eliminate damaged merlot berries at many estates. This condition reduced yields as well. A cool, damp June did not help the vintage either.

2010 Bordeaux wine is a product of draught conditions. 2010 is the driest year on record since 1949. But draught alone is not enough to shape a great vintage. The combination of warm days and cool nights helped produce wines with high alcohol, ripe, but strong tannins and low pH levels, giving the wines ample acidity to keep them fresh and vibrant.

The dry summer with warm and hot days coupled with cool nights was perfect for the grapes and turned things around. The lack of water and vine stress made for a good season for red and white wines. The changes in temperature, allowed the wines to develop levels of acidity which give the wines their vibrancy and freshness.

## Vineyards

From a geological standpoint, the soil of Pujols sur Ciron where most of the vineyard is situated is much like the one of Barsac. A thin layer of red clayey sands, rich in iron oxide, and known as "Barsac red sands", tops the limestone bed rock. This limits the roots depth of the vine to about 50cm. The water that got stored within the slightly porous rock throughout the summer is progressively dispensed to the vine during the winter, thus preventing excessive water stress. A small portion of the vineyard (3,1 hectares), on the commune of Illats, is planted on a graveled and clayey rump.

The 17.3 hectares red vineyard has a high 72 % Cabernet Sauvignon ratio combined with 28 % Merlot. The plantation densities range between 5,500 plants (1.8 x 1m) and 7,140 (1.4 x 1m) plants per hectare.

## Vinification/ Maturation

Ripened harvest is handpicked and undergoes 20 to 25 days maceration at moderate temperature (25°C to 30°C). Ageing is performed in oak barrels a third of which is new, for 12 months.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Clos Floridène Rouge is strongly marked by an unusual association in Bordeaux, Cabernet-Sauvignon on calcareous soil. With a bright and intense color, it has black-currant and wild strawberry aromas, with hints of mint, liquorice and smokiness. The fruit and tannin are powerful, silky and fresh.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink now to 2020
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011</p> <p><b>88-91 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2011</p> <p><b>88-89 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This is very pure, with a mix of damson plum, black cherry and red currant fruit all steeped together and backed by juicy bergamot, toasted spice and licorice notes. There's nice freshness through the finish, with a tarry edge hanging just in the background. Should age gracefully. Drink now through 2020"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This focused red delivers a pure beam of cherry and red currant fruit easily holding sway over mineral and sweet tobacco notes, with a very pure, fresh finish and lovely mouthfeel. Score range: 90-93"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This Clos Floridene is a little pinched at the moment with a pleasant herbaceous quality. Good definition. The palate is medium-bodied with attractive, harmonious dark berried fruit, good acidity and fine length. Nothing outrageous here...just very fine Pessac wine to accompany your meal."</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"Medium-deep straw-yellow. Dried lime, pear and grapefruit on the nose, complicated by a suave note of floral honey. Energetic citrus and orchard fruit flavors are softened by hints of smoke and custard cream. Turns sweeter and deeper on the long, bright finish, which features juicy grapefruit and melon qualities and maintains its focus."</i> - ST, International Wine Cellar</p> <p><i>"Fresh and bloody, lively, full of fruit. Sweet start and then fresh. Chewy end. Neat and polished and well mannered. Though only mid body."</i> - JR, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"Full cassis fruit with a lot of elegance, a very good wine for the medium term. Drink 2013-18. (16 points)."</i> - SS, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"Translated....My best score given to this wine en primeur. Beautiful color, beautiful fine nose, subtle and fruity. Mouth soft, smooth to the touch with very refined taste, density and a long complex finish fine grain. Long dominated by a little cold cabernet sauvignon on limestone expression, thought softened with the addition of new parcels of Cabernet Sauvignon planted on more gravelly soil."</i> - J-MQ</p> <p><i>"This is Denis Dubourdieu's wine with great precision of flavours. The wine has a fresh vibrant fruit profile with wonderful vibrancy. Denis' skill as a white wine maker is evident in the aromatic profile and in the elegance of the flavours."</i> - JCL, asianpalate.com</p>