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## Château Fonréaud 2014

CSPC# 790274

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot

**Appellation**

Listrac-Médoc

**Classification**

Cru Bourgeois Supérieur

**Website**

<http://www.chateau-fonreaud.com>

**General Info**

Château Fonréaud is well-known for its historic vineyard and the quality of its wines. Its name comes from a legend, and it enjoys a privileged location on the highest point in the Médoc. Fonréaud, was formerly called Font-réaux, meaning “royal fountain”. A legend tells us that in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the King of England (probably Henry II Plantagenet, the husband of Eleanor of Aquitaine) quenched his thirst from a spring he found on the grounds. The chateau was built in 1855 by Henri Le Blanc de Mauvesin according to plans drawn by the architect Louis-Michel Garros. It will charm you by the elegance of its architecture. Leo Chanfreau bought the estate in 1962. Today, Jean and Marie-Hélène Chanfreau are carrying his work.

**Vintage**

Summer 2014 was challenging but led to an incredibly long Indian summer. Each grape-variety reached an optimum ripeness and were skillfully treated: these are the conditions to produce a serious wine.

**Vineyards**

Year after year the vineyard has been improved: The Cabernet Sauvignon produces a very intense wine, the hint of Petit Verdot adds spicy notes and intensify the fruity taste of the Merlot. Thanks to a subtle blend of grape varieties, the terroir comes through beautifully in round wines with ripe tannin, fine structure that develops beautifully on the palate.

Surface area: 32 hectares in a single block

Terroir: Pyrenean gravel with a clay limestone sub-soil

Grape varieties: 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 43% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot

Vine Growing: Vine care constantly ensures that a balance is maintained between the plant and its environment in view of achieving well-aired foliage and a regular load of grapes which gradually ripen in the sunshine. Depending on their nature, the parcels are ploughed or grassed over between the rows.

**Vinification**

A strict selection of the parcels and the grapes takes place during the harvest.

After a gentle crushing and destemming of the grapes, the must is put into small thermoregulated vats ensuring that the fermentations are perfectly controlled, bringing out the expression, the richness and the nuances of each plot. The vatting period lasts 20 to 25 days depending on the vintage.

**Maturation**

Maturing lasts around 12 months in merrian oak barrels

**Tasting Notes**

The 2014 Listrac Fonréaud offers a good structure with a both large and elegant tannic backbone. 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Petit Verdot (wonderful this year) give substance to this Cru Bourgeois. The purple-tinted dark red Listrac intensely expresses fresh black fruit aromas (fresh night and summery days contributed to the fruit vibrancy and purity). The attack is vibrant, and the mid-palate offers a distinguished and refreshing sap. The finish is long. This is a serious and vibrant wine.

**Production**

1,200 cases made

**Cellaring**

Drink 2019-2030



**Scores/Awards** **85 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017  
**90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017  
**89-91 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015  
**90 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017  
**92 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2017  
**87-89 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015  
**15 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015 (score only)  
**16 (86) points** - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - June 2015  
**86-88 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015  
**91 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015  
**14.5 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)

**Reviews** *"Direct, with a mix of lightly steeped red and black currant fruit inlaid with singed cedar and licorice root notes, ending with a modest finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now. 12,000 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The 2014 Fonréaud has a tightly wound bouquet with well-defined red berry fruit mixed with cedar and tobacco, although it needs a couple of years to fully unwind. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin and well-judged acidity. This lacquers the mouth with tannin, though it does not feel overbearing and it has plenty of stuffing on the finish. Give this some bottle age and you'll have a great Cru Bourgeois/Listrac. Tasted September 2016."*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"The Château Fonréaud 2014 has an easy-going, but attractive red cherry and wild strawberry-scented bouquet with touches of cedar coming through with aeration. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, a little oak to be integrated, but I like the weight and fruit intensity shown on the finish. This is one of the best Listrac wine of the vintage and is worth checking out."*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"Ripe yet fresh, showing a lot of cassis fruit and bright acidity. Medium-bodied with excellent balance and good length. Drink now or hold."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is a rich stylish wine from the Chanfreau family. It has fine tannins and signs of wood aging, both of which will meld into the juicy black-currant fruits. It has a predominance of Cabernet Sauvignon that gives the wine its structure and aging potential. The aftertaste is ripe and still crisp, still young. Drink from 2020."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"87-89. Barrel Sample. Strong black currant flavors drive the acidity which cuts through tough tannins. A slight rusticity is balanced by plenty of fruitiness."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Ripe black summer fruits of smoothness and depth with a touch of robust earthiness."*  
- SS, Decanter.com

*"Deep looking; fragrant aromatics; spices and some oak influence; soft entry on the palate; good texture; supple; not too grippy but has bite and freshness. Elegant Listrac with fresh finish. [55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot]. Tasted 31 March '15 at UGC. Drink 2019-2025. 86-88+"*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

*"Polished and quite sophisticated with lifted flavors of ripe red currant, cherry and sweet spices. Expressive and well composed with freshness and focused acidity. A well-crafted red with a fairly long finish."*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com

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