

Château Fonréaud 2016

CSPC# 813903

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot.

Appellation

Listrac-Medoc

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

Website

<http://www.chateau-fonreaud.com/version-anglaise-fonreaud/index.html>

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 12th 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.

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.

Winemakers

Jean Chanfreau

Vintage

The year 2016 started off with the water tables full, thanks to the heavy rainfall from January to March. Three difficult months for the vineyard workers but which saved the day for this vintage! The mild temperatures in March ensured an early budburst but the colder, rainy mornings in April slowed down the growth cycle. From mid-June to mid-October, rainfall was well below the seasonal average. During the first two weeks of August, the colour change was short and even on each of the properties. The grapes developed in radiant, dry weather conditions. Light showers appeared in mid-September to re-boost the ripening process on the terroirs offering less water retention, thus perfecting the maturation of the tannins. The absolutely perfect weather conditions during harvest time allowed us to pick grapes boasting remarkable quality.

Vineyards

32 hectares in a single block. 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 43% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot. 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.

Harvest

Mid-late October

**Vinification/
Maturation**

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 thermo-regulated 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. Maturing lasts around 12 months in merrian oak barrels. In 1999, the barrel cellars were rehabilitated and equipped with a very high-quality hygrometry and temperature control.

Tasting Notes

The classic-style Medoc wine immediately seduces by a beautiful deep ruby color and an elegant nose with fine notes of red fruits and spices. The rich palate reveals a round and racy wine with delicious fruit and vanilla aromas on well-melted, full and velvety tannins.

Serve with

Pair with most game, beef, veal, pork, lamb or duck dishes. Haut Medoc wines also pair well with roast chicken and a wide variety of other roasted or grilled meats, game, or with a variety of hard or soft cheese. Add some grilled bread and charcuterie and you are all set!



Production**Cellaring****Scores/Awards**

Drink 2021-2040

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017

91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019

92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019

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16.5 points - Julia Harding JancisRobinson.com - October 2018

16.5 points - Julia Harding JancisRobinson.com - September 2018

17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017

91 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019

90 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019

16-17.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - April 2017

Reviews

"The 2016 Fonréaud is certainly a Lustrac that is worth checking out. The bouquet is very well defined with supremely well-integrated oak that allows the terroir to show through. There is a subtle Margaux-like floral scent coming through. The palate is very well balanced with fine tannins and a very good backbone. This Fonréaud is one of the most precise that I have tasted and there is tangible tension all the way through to the refined finish. This Lustrac has produced some very fine wines recently and this 2016 could be the best yet."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"A delicate 2016 with hot stones, currants and hints of cedar. Medium to light body. Easy yet firm finish. A blend of 52 per cent cabernet sauvignon, 44 per cent merlot and four per cent petit verdot. Drink in 2020."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Situated at one of the highest points in the Médoc, this estate is one of several owned by the Chanfreau family. This tight, structured wine has dense tannins and smoky, toasty flavors from wood aging. Let this rich wine fully integrate and drink from 2023."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"91-93. Barrel Sample. This wine comes from one of the best-known and most reliable estates in Lustrac. This is juicy, with strong wood notes that are in balance with the fine fruit. Hold until 2025."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Peppery fragrance. Black fruit and cedar. Dry, tight and almost austere but in a nice way. A wine for bordeaux classicists not those who seek obvious fruit. Tannins are dry and very fine. (JH)"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot. Mid crimson. Sweetly oaky nose, the first wine in this section where I have smelt oak. Cedary cigar box. Some oak on the palate too but plenty of fruit to fill it out. All in harmony in a more oaky style. Fine chalky tannins and fresh finish. Elegant structure. (JH)"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Deep crimson. Rather gorgeously ripe and glossy on the nose. Very sweet black fruits on the palate followed by really quite a charge of ripe tannin. Maybe not the longest-laster, but overall well done! A delicate touch."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"The 2016 Fonréaud has a refined bouquet with blackberry, cedar and smoky scents, quite focused and poised yet classic in style. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, well-judged acidity, and silky smooth in texture. Tobacco and pencil shavings towards the finish. What a lovely Lustrac from Fonréaud this year."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2016 Château Fonréaud is a terrific Lustrac and is up with the top wines from the appellation. Showing the more medium-bodied, elegant style of Lustrac, with pretty mulberry and cherry fruits, it has hints of toasted bread and flowers, a rounded, supple texture, and is a totally charming, beautifully balanced 2016 to drink over the coming 8-10 years. It's far from a blockbuster but it's a great drink."

- Jeb Dunnuck
