

Château Fourcas Hosten 2010

CSPC# 765372

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety

55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot

Appellation

Listrac

Website

<http://www.fourcas-hosten.fr/>

General Info

Fourcas-Hosten is arguably the finest producer in Listrac, one of the 6 village wine appellations of the Haut Médoc. From 1971 to 2006 it was owned by Schröder & Schÿler, the Bordeaux négociant firm that also owns Château Kirwan. In 2006 Château Fourcas Hosten was sold to two members of the Hermès luxury-goods family, the brothers Laurent and Renaud Mommeja.

A lovely country manor house on 3 hectares of magnificent grounds beside a Romanesque church, Château Fourcas Hosten is located in the heart of Listrac, a peaceful village that gave its name to the appellation.

In 1810, Monsieur Hosten sold the estate to the de Saint-Affrique family, who created Château Fourcas Hosten and gave it an international reputation. The brothers Renaud and Laurent Momméja acquired the château during the 2006 vintage and were determined to breathe new life into this beautiful two hundred year old estate: "We fell in love with this wonderful property and its fine wine, and wanted to write a new page of our family's history - one including Château Fourcas Hosten". It is in this spirit that they undertook an ambitious renovation project including a new vat room with concrete, wooden, and stainless-steel vats as well as new cellars and major restructuring of the vineyard.

The wine-estate manager is Caroline Artaud with assistance from Oenologist Eric Boissenot. Until 2010 Fourcas-Hosten produced classic, muscular, broody and remarkably age-worthy wines that appealed particularly to claret traditionalists. The style is now evolving into becoming earlier approachable. The wine always offers terrific value for money.

Vintage

The sunny summer and the exceptional late fall played a large part in this successful vintage. The climate was fully favorable for the optimal maturity of the grapes and for the excellent sanitary conditions. We harvested stressless, waiting for the best dates to pick grape by grape, plot by plot, to optimize the maturity of the harvested grapes, waiting for the latest vines.

Vineyards

There are 47 hectares of vines altogether. The vines include Merlot, largely confined to the clay soils, whereas the gravel is favoured by the two Cabernets, with Cabernet Sauvignon covering 23 hectares and 2 hectares of Cabernet Franc.

Soils 60% Pyrenean gravel over a clayey subsoil, limestone shelf, 40% clayey limestone

56% Merlot, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc

Average vine age is 25 yrs old

Harvest

The harvest of the Merlots started October 1st, first with the old vines on the Pyrenean gravels, then on the Fourcas plateau with the hottest zones. From October 11th, we harvested the Cabernets Francs, followed by the Cabernets Sauvignons to end October 19th.

75% hand-picking – 25% mechanical

Maturation

vinification: vats filled via semi-gravity flow / 41 fermentation vats (concrete and wood) holding 25, 50, 80, 95, and 100 hl. Grapes from each part of the vineyard are separately fermented

maceration: between 21 and 28 days according to the quality of the wine in each vat.
2 new winepresses (one vertical and one horizontal)

fermentation: yeast-bacterial co-inoculation at an early stage: 50% of the crop is inoculated with malolactic bacteria 24 hours after it is put into vat

Ageing: aged for 12 months in French oak barrels (38% new barrels, 39% barrels used for one previous vintage, 13% barrels used for two previous vintages, 10% in vat)



Tasting Notes	Very dark red violet color; menthol, tart currant, olive, pencil lead nose; light, tart currant, menthol, olive palate; medium finish
Production	155000 bottles
Cellaring	Drink 2013-2020
Scores/Awards	<p>87 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013</p> <p>86 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013</p> <p>89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2014</p> <p>89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2013</p> <p>85-87 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011</p> <p>90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2013</p> <p>91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011 (score only)</p> <p>89-91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011</p> <p>86-88 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - November 2012</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011</p> <p>16 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011</p> <p>92+ points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012</p> <p>88 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - May 2011 (score only)</p> <p>87+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - February 2011</p> <p>86-87 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2011</p> <p>16 points - Gault & Millau - April 2011 (score only)</p> <p>14.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)</p> <p>17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>Gold Medal - Concours General Agricole Paris 2013</p> <p>Silver Medal - Decanter World Wine Awards 2013</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Taut, with a lightly chalky frame to the core of tobacco leaf, plum skin and steeped cherry fruit. Keeps a sinewy edge through the finish. Drink now. 1,200 cases imported."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Slightly deeper than its sibling namesake, Fourcas Dupre, the 2010 Fourcas Hosten's exhibits some notes of cigar smoke, red currants, roasted herbs in a straightforward, slightly deeper style. Drink it over the next 5-7 years."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The Fourcas-Hosten 2010 has an attractive bouquet with blackberry, warm gravel and cedar scents that are nicely defined. The palate is medium bodied with plenty of supple black fruit on the entry, nicely judged acidity and a pleasing rounded finish with good weight and structure. Tasted January 2014."</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"The Fourcas Hosten has a light leafy bouquet that is tertiary but fresh. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins, fine minerality and though showing a little attenuation towards the finish, it is fresh and displays great fruit intensity. This has turned out better than I expected after the barrel showing. Tasted November 2012."</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"Tasted at the Cru Bourgeois primeur tasting. A blend of 56% Cabernet Sauvignon and 44% Merlot, this Fourcas-Hosten has some over-ripe Merlot on the nose lending some prune/fig-like scents. The palate is full-bodied and toasty, lacking a little freshness and tension towards the rather overdone, savoury finish. Tasted April 2011."</i></p> <p><i>"Lovely aromas of flowers and berries follow through to a full body, with fine tannins and a fresh finish. So drinkable now but better in 2016."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Excellent intensity here, with spice, dark fruits and roasted coffee. Full and velvety. Long finish. Best ever?"</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"89-91 Big, bold, tannic wine, the dry core of tannins leavened by the black currant juice acidity. There is some extraction and a strong wood element, although the wine does profit from its freshness."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p>

- Reviews** *"Note that some of these wines were grown on land only just outside the blessed appellations Margaux, St-Julien, Pauillac and St-Estèphe. Blueish tinge. Amazingly intense. Lifted and perfumed. Something a bit floral on the nose. Lots of zest and great structure plus masses of ripe fruit. More embryonic than some. Dry finish. Lots in reserve here. Lovely youthful wine. Real freshness"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Blackcurrants, cherries, crunchy. Tight knit yet fleshy enough. Satisfying, balanced."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Opaque inky-purple. Delicate floral aromas of violet and lavender perk up richer black cherry, licorice, and graphite elements. Fresh and juicy, with a rather cool character and good definition to its gently extracted cherry flavor. Finishes moderately long and firm, with mounting but fine tannins."*
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- "Good upfront fruit, better depth and more stylish than expected, recent investment has had good results. Drink 2014-20."*
- SS, Decanter.com
- "Darker velvety red than some of its neighbours. A more classic structure, with the whoosh of fruit, tannins and acidity. Good length, well balance, all in check, successful. This bodes well for the new cellar and other investments recently carried out at this property. 92+/100. Drink 2018-2030"*
- JA, The New Bordeaux
- "Deep and glossy looking; more blackcurrant purity here than Dupre, some spice, chocolate and coffee highlights; nicely balanced palate, a little sinewy maybe but nice tension between the fruit and the sappy qualities. Needs three to five years. 87+"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "This is a very tannic, densely packed wine with flavours of black plums, cocoa and cassis. The tannins are tough right now but should be approachable in about five years. This is not a complex, contemplative wine but offers good drinking pleasure for those who enjoy full-bodied tannic reds."*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
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