

Château du Retout 2014

CSPC# 790269

750mlx12

13.05% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16.5% Petit Verdot, 7.5% Merlot

Appellation

Haut Medoc

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

Website

http://www.chateau-du-retout.com/nos-vins_rouge

General Info

The phylloxera crisis of the late 19th century wrought a great deal of damage to the Médoc. This was compounded by difficulties during the First World War and problems caused by French inheritance laws that often led to vineyards being abandoned. Some small estates disappeared entirely.

This is what happened to Château Retou-Rosset in Lamarque and Château Salva-de-Camino in Cussac-Fort-Médoc – even though both had been classified as Crus Bourgeois – as well as another small domaine, Château Moulina.

These estates only came back to life in the 1950s, when they were acquired by the Kopp family. While houses remained on the various domaines, many of the plots had lain fallow or been broken up and sold over the years. Only the cellars at Château Camino-Salva were in a fit state to be used.

The vineyards were reconstituted and replanted with infinite patience. The estate still belongs to the Kopp family: father, daughter, and son-in-law.

Vineyards

Château du Retout presently has 34 hectares of vines: 32 hectares in the Haut-Médoc appellation and 2 hectares of mixed white wine varieties.

The vineyard is mostly located on a gravelly rise. A mill dating from the 13th century is in the middle of the vineyard, at its highest point (altitude of 17 metres). The terroir consists of two main soil types: clay and gravel at the bottom of the rise and deep Garonne gravel on the top.

The vines (68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 7% Petit Verdot) are an average 30 years old and vine density is 6,666 per hectare.

Harvest

Merlot: the 29-30th of September and the 07th of October.

Petit Verdot: the 06th of October.

Cabernet Sauvignon: from the 08th to the 20th of October.

Cabernet Franc: the 21st of October.

Between 28 to 41 days

Maturation

In french oak barrels with 37 % new ones for 12 months.

Tasting Notes

With a high percentage of cabernet sauvignon, show a deep dark red color. The nose is very aromatic with black fruits notes like blackberry and "burlat" cherry. The mouth is structured and rich with a good volume and length. The tannins are concentrated but appear silky and persistent. The good balance between alcohol and acidity give at Chateau du Retout 2014 a long ageing potential.

Production

9,000 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2018-2028

Scores/Awards

90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017

90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015

89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017

90 points / Editors' Choice - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017

16.25 (87) points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - June 2015

92 points / Highly Recommended - decanterchina.com

83 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015



Reviews *“Delightfully ripe, with an inviting core of plum and blackberry preserves, picking up an anise edge on the finish. A solid alder spine runs throughout, adding length and definition. Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Merlot. Drink now through 2020. 9,000 cases made.”*

- JM, Wine Spectator

“Very solid, with a delicious core of plum, cassis and raspberry fruit, lined with a stony thread that gives the finish spine and definition. Savory and iron hints show in the background. Has range and character. Score range: 90-93”

- JM, Wine Spectator

“The 2014 Château du Retout has a potent blueberry and blackberry-scented bouquet with a strong floral element. The palate is medium bodied with saturated tannin, good depth and well-judged acidity to counterbalance the intensity here. It is a big, bold statement of a wine, one that the team manages to pull off because there is plenty of depth and freshness on the finish. I like the cut of its jib. Tasted September 2016.”

- NM, Wine Advocate

“With an unusually high proportion (nearly 17%) of Petit Verdot in the blend, this is both darkly structured and dark in color. It is weight, intense youthful acidity and black-currant fruits. It's also rich, full of tannins and in need of several years. Drink from 2021.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Florality and finesse – good lifted fruit and nice acidity.”

- SS, Decanter.com

“A little reductive at first but give it some air and a whoosh of clean blackberry fruit rides in on a bed of spicy and exotic apparent oak. No green notes at all, and ample depth and richness. The fruit density will carry the oak through.”

- Decanter china

“A light-bodied, easy-to-enjoy, upfront Bordeaux white with nice balance and finish. Lively citrus and herbal notes that finish quite short. Drink young.”

- JCL, asianpalate.com
