

Château Ferrière 2012

CSPC# 742341

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Margaux
Classification	Third Growth. Troisième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.
Website	http://www.ferriere.com/index.html
General Info	In the middle of the XVIII century, the property belonged to Gabriel Ferrière, illustrious member of the court of Louis XV. It remained in the FERRIERE family until 1914, when it was sold to Armand Feuillerat, the owner of Chateau Marquis de Terme, another Grand Cru Classé of Margaux. From 1952, the property was rented, and the operations were directed by Alexis Lichine. The wine was vinified at Chateau Lascombes. In 1988, the Villars family bought the vineyards and the château, but the long term rent only ended in 1992. The family then took over the operations of the vineyard and winemaking. With its 10 hectares of vineyards, Chateau Ferriere has the smallest property of the Grands Crus Classés in 1855. Today, Claire Villars is the supervisor of this revival. She works with the greatest fineness and succeeded to reveal in her wine the exceptional terroir of Chateau Ferriere.
Vintage	In 2012, Spring was particular difficult, and the weather became favorable from mid-July. Indeed, the winter was very cold and dry, with a significant rainfall deficit. The Merlots sagged and their yields were low. The control of fungal diseases was possible thanks to the prophylaxis and healthy vines. Finally, the favorable temperatures in July helped to recover the delays. And the rains of September drove to the evolution of the skin and accelerated the ripening. The distribution of the bunches on the plant (low yields) and the same status of the vineyard, added to a rigorous sorting of the berries were capital to optimize the quality of this difficult vintage. The Merlots had a remarkable flesh and the Cabernets Sauvignon were both sweet and rich of elegance.
Vineyards	10 hectares. 65% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot, 5% cabernet franc. Soil is deep fine gravels and sand on clay. Average vine age is 45 years. 10 000 plants / ha. 700 gr / plant
Harvest	By hand from 1 - 10 October
Vinification/ Maturation	Traditional, in concrete and wood vats, whose volumes are proportional to plot, temperature control. Fermentation on the skins 19 to 24 days. Aged in oak barrels during 18 months. New ones at 40%.
Tasting Notes	The nose shows some blackcurrant, vanilla and hint of wood. On the palate, the typical nice freshness of Château Ferrière and some power. The wine has great potential and will need time to reveal itself.
Production	5,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink now - 2019
Scores/Awards	88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015 88-91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013 86-88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013 90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013 90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 12, 2013 88-91 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2013 15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013 (score only) 16.75 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013 92 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013 88 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) 87-89 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013 82 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013 87-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2013 86-88 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)



Scores/Awards **18 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

15.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews

"Inviting, with a minty hint giving way to rounded plum and black cherry fruit. The finish is slightly toasted, but stays caressing, letting the fruit glide along. This has softened since the barrel tasting and should be ready to drink in the near term. Drink now through 2018. 5,000 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"On the tangy side now, with pomegranate, bergamot, red currant and cherry fruit wrapped in briary tannins. A bit chewy on the finish but displaying good purity and density. Score range: 88-91

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Tasted from a barrel sample at en primeur. A blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc picked from 1 until 10 October, the Ferriere has a light earthy bouquet that needs to muster more vigour once in bottle. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins and pretty, light redcurrant and strawberry fruit that lead to an almost Burgundy-like fleshy finish. This may merit a higher score after bottling. Tasted April 2013."

- NM, Wine Journal

"90-92. Barrel sample. This wine has very dark, extracted tannins. It is densely structured, and at present tasting tough, although with plenty of wonderful ripe fruit, there's a refreshing acidity on the finish."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Medium-deep red. Bright aromas of red berries, tobacco and flowers. Sweet, silky and rather small-scaled, but with very good balance to the sappy red fruit and tobacco flavors. Finishes easygoing and uncomplicated, with decent length and a complete absence of rough edges. Ferriere may never be the last word in concentration or complexity, but owner Claire Lurton is amazingly adept at fashioning a charming, easy-to-drink wine from this estate virtually every year"

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Dense colour, good solid extraction of fruit, more robust than in the past, a bit raw now, but good future. "

- SS, Decanter.com

"Attractive en primeur flush of purple, some lovely vibrancy on the colour, excellent fruit on the nose, this has raspberry, blackberry and cassis. Excellent precision, some cocoa sugared almond dusting, well-worked tannins that are present but ripe, nothing harsh about this, but enough acidity to offer clear structure. You could feel confident of this wine going some way, but being able to drink fairly young as well, I think a good six to eight years to open and soften, but then 15 to 20-year drinking window. Like this a lot, lovely gourmet but elegant aftertaste. 92 / 17.75. Highly recommended. Drink 2019-2030."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Deep and saturated look; glossy; elegant and fresh notes; Cabernet feels ripe; some layers [oak at the back]; perfume; some black fruits; grip and structure; density with lots of material; chewy finish. Better sample than before. Tighter styled Margaux but pent up and should open nicely. 89-91+ UGC Thursday April 11, 2013 [Earlier note] Saturated and deep; some lift; quite fragrant and elegant if tight on the palate [as ever] but there is attractive fragrance and enough fruit. 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. 87-89 UGC Tuesday April 9, 2013. Drink 2018-2025"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"The cassis that dominates the nose is backed by fresher bilberry and the start of the palate is bright and fresh fruited. There is a greater depth and weight of fruit in the middle with ripe feeling tannins a combination that gives more depth and richness on the finish. 2020-30 87-90"

- Derek Smedley MW

"Elegant, perfumed with nice aromatics but weak mid palate and finish. Simple, lean flavours with tannins that are light and soft. Enjoy young. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Drink. (06-Apr-2013)"

- JCL, asianpalate.com
