

Château de Fieuzal Blanc 2013

CSPC# 780488

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

65% Sauvignon Blanc, 35% Semillon

Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

Classification

Grand Cru Classé de Graves

Website

<http://www.fieuzal.com/en/>

General Info

Chateau de Fieuzal is an historic property in the Graves region of Pessac-Leognan, dating back to the 1500s. Situated on the famous gravel of Pessac-Leognan and divided by the Eau Blanche stream, the vineyards of Fieuzal benefit from the minerality and stoniness of the well-drained soil. Heat is both retained and then reflected on to the vines, which are planted with equal parts Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc for its Bordeaux Blanc.

Chateau de Fieuzal is named in honour of the family that owned it at the start of the nineteenth century. After that, the Bordeaux wine property was owned by the Griffon family. The Griffon's, who were lucky to have connections to Pope Léon XIII in Bordeaux, were able to fill the Vatican's cellars with their wines from Pessac Leognan. de Fieuzal was purchased by the Ricard family. The Ricard's owned multiple Bordeaux wine estates including Domaine de Chevalier and Malartic-Lagravière.

In 2001, Lochlann Quinn, the chairman of Allied Irish Banks, purchased Fieuzal and brought in famed chateau owner Hubert de Bouard (of recently elevated Ch. Angelus in St. Emilion) as consultant. In 2012, the estate underwent a multi-million Euro renovation, including the creation of a new cellar and modernizing the winery to allow for parcel-by-parcel vinification.

Vintage

High quality white wine grapes need different conditions to grow from their red wine counterparts, so 2013 met the parameters for a very good dry white wine vintage thanks to fine weather in July and August, without excessive dryness. Great sweet white wines were also successful in 2013 thanks to the wet, mild autumn, much more favourable to the early, widespread development of *Botrytis cinerea* than 2012.

Vineyards

The Bordeaux wine vineyards are planted on sand and gravel soils. The 39 hectare vineyard is planted to red and white grape varieties. For the reds, 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 4.5% Cabernet Franc and 2.5% Petit Verdot. The white grapes are planted to 50% Sauvignon Blanc and 50% Semillon.

Fieuzal's 10 hectares of white vines are planted with the traditional grape varieties of Sauvignon, Sémillon and Muscadelle. The clay-limestone soil found in these plots helps to preserve the fresh tastes and aromas of the white grapes.

Harvest

At harvest time the grapes are collected into crates and sent directly to the press to keep the juice as cool and fresh as possible, ready for low temperature fermentation in stainless steel vats.

**Vinification/
Maturation**

Equipped with new stainless-steel tanks, the vinification of the white wine takes place in 50% steel and 50% new French oak barrels. There is no malolactic fermentation. The wines are aged between 16 to 18 months, depending on the style of the vintage.

Tasting Notes

Pale color. Lovely citrus and melon notes. Bright acidity focused and precise. Candied lemon, honeydew and lemongrass. Excellent.

Serve with

Seafood with Rich Sauce, White Meat, Soft Cheese.

Production

18,333 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2014-2034

Scores/Awards

89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014

94-96 points - Robert M. Parker Jr., Wine Advocate #214 - August 2014

89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2014

91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2014 (score only)

93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016

92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 4, 2014



Scores/Awards **89-92 points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - Aug 2014
15.5 points - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - April 2014
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 1, 2016
90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 21, 2014
90-92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2, 2014
88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
89 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2014
90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2014
87-89 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
91 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"A hint of talc gives way quickly to green melon, green apple and green almond notes. The finish is rounded and lush, but the flavors stay bright. Score range: 89-92"*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Possibly the greatest Fieuzal since the legendary 1985, the 2013 boasts a light straw color with a greenish hue as well as a stunning perfume of tangerine oil, orange marmalade, citrus and honeysuckle. Surprisingly full, rich, exuberant and borderline flamboyant, this is a stunning white Graves to consume over the next 20+ years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A blend of 65% Sauvignon Blanc and 35% Semillon, the bouquet attired upon the de Fieuzal Blanc has perfumed with tinned apricot and lemon sherbet that billows with aeration. The aromatics seem well integrated with the 40% new oak and the addition of acacia barrels adds another level of complexity (incidentally, all primeur samples of this particular wine were drawn from new acacia barrels.) The palate is fresh on the entry with a dab of spice on the tip of the tongue, the acacia component influencing the finish that is phenolic and effervescent. This will be interesting to examine after bottling. Tasted April 2014."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Ripe and tropical, this full-bodied wine conveys mango, quince and ripe white peach that accompany a rich texture. It's going to develop relatively quickly, so drink from 2018. Winemaker Stephan Carrier returned from Napa to take over winemaking after Irish businessman Lochlann Quinn bought the property in 2001. A new winery and barrel cellar opened in 2011. Hubert de Bouard of Château Angelus consults with Carrier. Fieuzal's newsletter is an accurate report on harvests."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"92-94. Barrel Sample. This wine is warm and ripe, with a fine balanced between the crisp acidity and tense citrus-fruit flavors. It shows the delicious tension of the vintage and will likely age well."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

'Deep straw-yellow. Aromatic lemon oil, tangerine and oak on the nose. On the palate, fresh citrus and yellow melon flavors are extended by bright acidity, with the finish showing a hint of tannic bite and a truffley nuance. This has enough stuffing to gain further depth with bottle age.'
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Lots of dairy character on the nose, but the citrus fruit dominates on the palate. Lovely dried-hay character on the finish. Floral and lifted. Medium length, great balance. (RH)"
- RH, JancisRobinson.com

"Showing better in bottle than it did in barrel, the wine is fresh, lively delivers a refreshing blast of stone, lemongrass, spice and vanilla."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *"Combining flowers, orange rind, vanilla bean and citrus creates a perfumed wine that is fresh and lively on your palate. 90-92 Pts"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Pale straw; peachy fruit tones; full on the nose and attractive; some candy peel too; full palate with a waxy feel"

but also freshness; good depth; candy peel again on the finish. Good length. Long-term. UGCB April 2012. 2018-2025. 90-92+”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“Precise and lifted with fresh herbs and gooseberry flavours. This wine dances on your tongue offering fresh, vibrant flavours. A fuller style from this lean vintage with oak and creamy lees influence on the palate. This vintage offers wonderful freshness and lift - a wine to enjoy in a few years’ time but it should keep for 4-5 more years after its peak. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (01-Apr-2014)”

- JCL, asianpalate.com

“A soft, supple white, the 2013 Fieuzal Blanc shows plenty of promise. Layers of generous fruit blossom on the palate, supported by a hint of spiciness from the oak. The 2013 is caressing and quite expressive from start to finish. (AG)”

- AG, Vinous
