

# Château de Fieuzal Blanc 2021

CSPC# 102918

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/>

## Sustainability

A conversion to Organic Agriculture is in progress, meaning that preserving Fieuzal's natural resources comes before all else; flowers, fauna and woodland surround the various plots, adding charm and diversity. The 85 hectares of vines are sensitively tended using sustainable agriculture and careful attention to detail.

## 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.

The wines of Château de Fieuzal have a distinct allure that is inseparable from the place from which they are grown. Every bottle enables us to share Fieuzal's unique energy, bringing to life every aspect of our complex terroir in an intense but precise balance. Fieuzal has the intriguing ability to hold one's attention, by combining flavour and feeling; the senses and the sensual. Extraordinary freshness, naturally provided by our soils, holds the wines together with remarkable tension right to the finish. Fieuzal white is an enchanting balance between our Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon fruit.

## Winemaker

Stephen Carrier – winemaker. Thomas Duclos consults.

## Vintage

2021 is atypical, following the pattern of "1" vintages.

The climatic conditions were totally extraordinary, with a very challenging and highly stressful growing season leading up to the late harvest.

Coming out of winter, conditions were calm and mild with budburst occurring between 24th March and 1st April across all of our plots.

We had to endure 9 nights of frost between 28th March and 19th April, and this impacted our yields – in addition to the unusually long flowering period which lasted all through June due to an unusually wet spring. Very warm temperatures combined with relatively high rainfall created almost 'tropical' conditions, leading to wild vegetative growth. This required us to employ significant manpower and intervene quickly to keep our trellis in optimal condition. By doing so, we were able to control the ripening of our grapes by pushing back the harvest, overcoming some rainy spells between the 18th and 29th September in the process.

There was constant pressure and suspense right up until the last moment, meaning that I certainly won't forget the birth of this unique vintage.



<b>Vineyards</b>	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.
<b>Harvest</b>	The Sauvignons were harvested between the 1st and 8th September and the Semillons between the 8th and 13th September.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	Aged for 12 months in French Oak barrels, the wine grows to fill the entire palate whilst providing a teasing combination of zesty, fruity and floral notes. 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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>Fieuzal white 2021 has all the characteristic aromas of very fine, pure Sauvignon. After a few months of ageing, we find notes of white flowers, freshly cut herbs and a very intense, dense gunflint touch. The wine is bright and perfectly pure in colour. The palate has a precision and length rarely observed since my first vintage in 2007.</p> <p>The 65% of Sauvignon offers structure to the blend; it is the backbone of our wine. The 35% of Semillon softens and counterbalances the lively, tense character of the Sauvignon.</p> <p>We have tried to preserve the precision of this vintage while integrating enough Semillon to give the wine a 'patina' and enable it to age alongside the finest vintages of Château de Fieuzal.</p>
<b>Serve with</b>	Seafood with Rich Sauce, White Meat, Soft Cheese.
<b>Production</b>	1200 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2024-2040
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95+ points</b> - Yohan Castaing, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>86-88 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2024</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>15.5+ points</b> - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - May 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p><b>92.5 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"The 2021 Blanc is turning out beautifully, evoking aromas of mint, spices, peach, lemon oil and spring flowers. Medium to full-bodied and perfectly balanced, it's tense and fleshy, crystalline, and seamless, with a fresh, saline and pure finish. It feels reassuringly persistent and could age well over the next two decades. his 90-hectare estate in Pessac-Léognan is undergoing a renaissance under the guidance of winemaker Stephen Carrier and consultant Thomas Duclos. Readers who have tasted old wines from Fieuzal will know that there's potential here, but Carrier feels that the estate lost 20 years due to the viticultural mistakes of the late 1980s—20 years he's determined to catch up. Today, replanting is at high density (9,000 vines per hectare versus 6,000 in the estate's older plantings), and the varietal balance has been adapted to the soils (some 60% of the vineyard, incidentally, is gravel, with more sandy-clay soils to the southwest). Today, that means around 35% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc and fully 10% Petit Verdot. Organic farming has been pursued, but it had to be abandoned in 2018, as the necessary doses of copper to control mildew were becoming too high. Today, reds are fragrant and pure, with discreet tannins and lively fruit tones. Whites (less than 10% of the production) are making obvious progress too: less varietal and more textural, they're waxy and incisive, well-worth seeking out. In short, de Fieuzal is an estate to watch."</i></p> <p>- YC, Wine Advocate</p>

## Reviews

*“The 2021 de Fieuzal Blanc shows considerable potential, unwinding in the glass with aromas of crisp nectarine, mint, pasty cream, citrus oil, and freshly baked bread. Medium to full-bodied, seamless, and tensile, with tangy acids, chalky dry extract, and a long, saline finish, it will be bottled under Diam 30. This Sauvignon Blanc-Sémillon blend is rapidly establishing itself as one of Bordeaux's most interesting dry white wines. Tasted three times.”*

- WK, Wine Advocate

*“The 2021 de Fieuzal blanc offers notes of spiced pears and ripe apples with hints of fennel seed, straw, and dried herbs. Light to medium-bodied, the palate is crisp and clean with a chalky finish. 2024-2030.”*

- LPB, Wine Independent

*“Pretty nose of gooseberries, sliced apples, lime curd and nutmeg. Touch of jackfruit. Fresh, bright, and balanced with a medium body and delicious layers of fruit, spice, and minerals.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“A creamy and fruity white with notes of star fruit, kiwi, peach, and lemon. Some buttercream. Fresh and medium-bodied. Pretty finish.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“65% Sauvignon Blanc, 35% Sémillon. Cask sample. Light nose. Lots of acidity and considerable tightness on the palate. A bit mean and tart overall. With some traces of low-temperature fermentation. Drink 2024 – 2028.”*

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

*“A lovely intense florality on the nose. Crunchy green apple and bright zesty lime on the palate with elements of brioche and lemon meringue pie. Supple and taut with both sweet and sour elements - the fruit and acidity really to the fore, but well packaged with excellent energy and overall structure. This is shaping up nicely, showing lots of promise with crispness and a salty touch to the finish.”*

- GH, Decanter.com

*“Gorgeous depth here, saline grip, hints of salted caramel add to the rich mouthfeel. Welcome fresh acidities of crab apple, lemongrass and citrus zest give a sense of contrast and momentum, as does the slate texture that draws out the finish. Tasted twice.”*

- JA, janeanson.com

*“Orange rind, flowers, honeysuckle, yellow citrus, lemon peel, spice and grapefruit aromas get you focused on the nose. On the palate, the wine is fresh, vibrant, slightly chalky, and packed with candied oranges, white peaches. Drink from 2024-2034.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Flowers, yellow citrus, grapefruit, lemon rind and honeysuckle, with a hint of orange tropical fruit in the background gets the perfume started. The wine is sweet, juicy, vibrant, and fresh on the palate, finishing with a touch of salt in the energetic, fruit-filled endnote. Drink from 2023-2032.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Pale lemon in colour. This is herbal, fresh, and very vibrant; full of citrus peel, apple skins and a hint of cut grass. The palate is lively and fine, with waves of refreshing acidity washing over fresh lemon and lime fruit. Hints of passionflower and riper citrus oil build to the finish. Very pure; this is all about acidity and finesse. It should appeal to all lovers of white Bordeaux.”*

- TP, Farr Vintners

*“The 2021 Château de Fieuzal Blanc has a lovely lime, white peach and orange pith bouquet that blossoms in the glass. The palate is well balanced, with pear, red apple and orange peel on the entry, fine depth, and good acidity and bite on the finish. Promising.”*

- NM, Vinous

**Reviews**

*“The 2021 Château De Fieuzal Blanc (65% Sauvignon and 35% Semillon) is terrific and shows the quality of the vintage. Giving up ripe tropical and melon fruits as well as notes of honeyed flowers and chalky, mineral-like nuances, it hits the palate with medium-bodied richness, a bright, vibrant, chiseled texture, and a great finish. It's beautifully done and well worth seeking out.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Fieuzal is a little too pine-needle-dominant for my tastes this year, and this suggests that the oak is just that bit too forceful, and it marks the wine too much, sending it out of proper balance. I know that this is de Fieuzal's style, but in a vintage where the fruit is so pure and linear, this oak intensity is unnecessary.”*

- Matthew Jukes

*“Very pale yellow-green, silver reflections. Delicate meadow herbs, a touch of lime zest, white apple, and some gooseberry notes. Juicy, tightly meshed with a mineral-lemon edge and a touch of fresh pear, an attractive food companion.”*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is fresh, fruity and reveals good definition, a fine volume, a nice finesse/precision in its volume as well as a subtle almost smoky hint of the grease. There are notes of fleshy vine peach, lychee and more slightly quenette combined with touches of white flowers, a hint of passion fruit as well as fine saline notes, discreet vanilla notes and an imperceptible almost acacia flower note. The palate is fruity, balanced and reveals a nice acidic structure, gourmandize, sapidity, good acidity, tension, stretch, finesse, energy, and a fine pulpiness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of tart quenette, lychee and more lightly zest combined with a touch of yuzu, kumquat, hints of passion fruit, fine saline notes as well as subtle hints of gunflint and almond. Nice salinity and definition on the palate. A wine that is all finesse and attention to detail! Good length.”*

- Vert de Vin

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