

Château Angélu 2016

CSPC# 813873

750mlx6

14.9% alc./vol.

CSPC# 866157

750mlx3

14.9% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classé "A"

Website

<https://www.angelus.com>

Sustainability

HVE3 certified in 2021. Château Angélu places a strong emphasis on sustainability and environmental stewardship in its vineyard management practices. The estate employs organic farming methods, minimizes the use of pesticides and herbicides, and implements eco-friendly initiatives to preserve the biodiversity of its vineyards.

General Info

Michel de Boüard, historian, chartist and rector of the Academy of Caen explored the origins of his family. The earliest reference he found to his family tree was with Georges Boüard, born in 1544, a Bourgeois and Jurat of the city of Bordeaux.

At the end of the 18th century in 1782, Jean de Boüard de Laforest, a King's bodyguard, settled in Saint-Emilion. His daughter, Catherine-Sophie known as Sophie de Boüard de Laforest, married Charles Souffrain de Lavergne in 1795 and set up home on the Mazerat estate, which belonged to her husband.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Maurice de Boüard de Laforest inherited the estate. He extended it, adding in particular a 3-hectare (7½-acre) enclosure named Angélu in 1920. He left it to his sons in 1945.

Jacques and Christian de Boüard de Laforest continued their father's work and that of previous generations. They ran the estate until 1985, when Hubert de Boüard de Laforest took over and was joined in 1987 by Jean-Bernard Grenié, then by Stéphanie de Boüard-Rivoal in 2012 and by Thierry Grenié de Boüard in 2016.

Less than a kilometre from the famous Saint-Emilion bell tower, situated on the much-vaunted south-facing "foot of the hill", Angélu has been the life work of eight generations of the Boüard de Laforest family.

Hubert de Boüard de Laforest is the winemaker

Winemaker

Stéphanie de Boüard-Rivoal

Organic Status

For over 15 years now, Château Angélu has endeavoured to protect its magnificent eco-system, limit its sprays, and establish an approach to ensure that a preserved natural environment is passed on to future generations. All of this backed up by scientific reasoning and technical follow-up. Three years ago, Château Bellevue, a Saint-Emilion Grand Cru Classé adjacent to Angélu and jointly owned by the de Boüard de Laforest family began conversion to organic status.

Today, Stéphanie de Boüard-Rivoal and Thierry Grenié de Boüard, the current owners of the estate, have begun the process of organic conversion for Château Angélu. Press release 12th March 2018.

Vintage

3 months of summer without water: never before seen in the living memory of winegrowers! This surprising weather, and these incredible conditions, promise us a great, unpredictable and unexpected vintage. Until 20 June, the weather did not spare us, inflicting very heavy rainfall of about 750 mm, which corresponds to the total annual rainfall for a dry year in Bordeaux... In spite of these conditions, flowering went well. Fine weather set in from the last week of June and, quite remarkably, remained right up to the harvest. We had a sunny but rather cool July, with cold nights. By the end of July, the sea temperature was much lower than usual for this period. And not a drop of rain. August saw temperatures climb, with heatwaves of over 35 degrees some days. Nevertheless, the day / night temperature ratio was 2 to 1 throughout the month, highly favourable for aromatic expression in our grapes and maintaining freshness in the fruit. To this can be added the almost complete absence of rain, only 5 to 8 mm, or the strict minimum to allow the vine to rehydrate. And that is why the very young vines began to suffer. The oldest vines, especially on clay and/or limestone soils, resisted magnificently (the limestone and clay work like sponges, absorbing water when it rains and redistributing it during drought). "In more than 35 years of observing the vineyard, I have always been accustomed to storms on 14 July and 15 August. This year, not a bit! The summer continued through September, and with it the heat: daily temperatures.



Vintage	of 28, 30 degrees. A severe storm was forecast for mid-September. We were all quaking in our boots. But the menacing white and grey clouds finally turned into beneficial rain, first 19 then 4 mm. This rain fallen from the heavens gave back energy, strength and breath to our vineyard. Then the good weather quickly returned. The tannins are ripening slowly and picking begins at the start of October for the grands vins. The cool nights have preserved the aromas and the acidity. The weather forecast for the coming two weeks lets us look forward to a calm harvest, picking as we wish, and allowing us to hope for and expect another great vintage at Angélu! A radiant vintage in the image of this three-month summer that fixed its destiny and shaped its identity."
Vineyards	The vineyard at Angélu resides in a natural amphitheater on a south-facing slope of Saint-Emilion and at its foot, where the summer temperatures are concentrated and where growth starts earlier. The soil is naturally drained by the slope. A good distribution of limestone and clay (between 8 and 20%) provides a regular supply of water and minerals. The vines' rootstocks are ideally suited to this "terroir" and the vine varieties are distributed according to the soil types: Merlot on the hill, where there is more clay and Cabernet Franc on the sandy clay-limestone soils at the foot of the hill. 27 hectares (67 acres). 6,500 to 8,500 vines per hectare. Grape composition is 53% Merlot, 46% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. Average age of the vines is 38 years
Harvest	Harvest: 4th to 21 October
Vinification/ Maturation	Fermentation In stainless steel, concrete and oak vats. Transfer to barrels Immediately after running the wine off the skins. Ageing 18 to 22 months in new barrels and foudres
Tasting Notes	With a very dark inky colour, the 2016 Chateau Angelus displays on the nose sensual and dark notes of cedar and bitter orange peels, and a powerful sensation of freshness and tension. Aeration in the glass develops luscious (but not excessive) fruit notes of ripe blackberries and blueberries, with a bright and inviting purity. Smelling this wine is like biting into the ripe grape. Yet, at this time, the nose still hides the richness and depth that this wine will one day provide. The palate is precise and dynamic, with a meaty mid-palate, and silky with creamy tannins. The structure of the wine is impressive, with excellent balance, and it nearly seems to be drinkable now. The whole is impressive and superb, making Angelus among the most exceptional wines of the vintage, with extraordinary ageing potential.
Serve with	Chateau Angelus is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Angelus is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Angelus is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta.
Production	8,333 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2021-2065
Scores/Awards	<p>96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>98+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - March 2019</p> <p>96-98 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>99-100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>100 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>99 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2018</p> <p>97-99 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>17++ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>18.5 points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>93-96 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>94-97+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This goes for the gusto, with a deep and broad swath of well-roasted tobacco, espresso and loam out front. The core of dark currant and fig fruit will have to catch up, but this red has the energy and juicy drive to eventually do so. When it melds fully, this will be a smoky, alluring, tobacco-fueled wine. Best from 2024 through 2040."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, it drifts effortlessly out of the glass with sensuous notes of lavender, candied violets, garrigue, Ceylon tea and iron ore with a core of warm black cherries, mulberries, ripe plums and aniseed plus wafts of cedar chest and cloves. Medium to full-bodied, the perfumed fruit whispers of great intensity and</i></p>

Reviews *depth, with the vivacious fruit well-knit into the plush, seductive frame of velvety tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and mineral laced. Still very tightly wound with amazing tension at this stage, it truly needs a good 6-8 more years in bottle to deliver the fully expressed layers that this soft-spoken, profound beauty promises.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“The 2016 Angelus is a blend of 40% Cabernet Franc and 60% Merlot with much of the production zoning in on the more clayey soils that are ideal in a dry growing season like this. Picked from 4 to 21 October and matured entirely in new oak, it has a very intense bouquet with multilayered blackcurrant, blueberry and floral notes, very refined and precise, not unlike the 2010 in some ways, but I would argue this is more sophisticated. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, crisp acidity, symmetrical in terms of focus with just the right amount of sappiness on the saline finish. It is a superb Angelus from the de Boüard family, destined to give pleasure over many, many years. Once in bottle, I expect it to land towards the top of my banded scale.”
- NM, Wine Advocate

“Subtle and profound aromas of blackberries, wet earth and sweet tobacco. Hints of spice, too. Full-bodied and so deep. It’s incredibly vertical and long. Just like looking down a well. Firm and powerful tannins, yet polished and balanced. Goes on for minutes. One of the greatest ever. Try after 2025.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Incredible depth of fruit. Dense yet agile and energetic. It has so much dynamic fruit and tannin structure. Makes you want to taste and taste. What a young wine! We will see if 2016 is better than 2015. Both are great.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is a rich, perfumed wine, with dense tannins and intense layers of black plum and spice. The palate is firmly built yet broadened out by plump dark-fruit tones and honed by a solid, dry core. Drink from 2025.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“This wine is certainly structured, but it is the fruit that gives it its greatness. Beautiful ripe berries and plums burst from the glass. They are backed by ample tannins on the palate, as well as great acidity that gives the year its freshness. It is a very fine wine, packed with fruit and with everything it needs to age for many years.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Strong balsam notes. Rather luscious fruit and lots of life and interest. Real vivacity. In this wine, in this stable, although it has a drying finish, the fruit is so overwhelming that it distracts from the drying finish. Well done in a distinctly modernist style. Though the finish is a little weak.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“A wonderful Angélu, rich in the character of this vintage. Stunning length on the silky tannins. This extends outwards, and the architecture is very much more linear than circular (as it is in some vintages), with a lovely freshness and power. I just love how effortless this feels, with deeply intense black fruits and a dried herb edge. The flesh isn’t overt but absolutely present. Likely to take on some more weight over time and it will certainly take its time to reach its perfect drinking window. Wonderful sense of energy, power and intensity, yet it’s so drinkable now. The 100% new oak is very well-integrated, a brilliant success. Blend is 60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc, with the lowest pH for many years at 3.7 (the 2009 more like 3.9), mainly because the wide temperature differences between day and night slowed down the maturing process and kept freshness. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050”
- JA, Decanter.com

“With deep color, the wine offers some truffle, earth, florae and dark, red pit fruits in the incense. On the palate, the wine has the feel of well-worn, fine hotel linen with refined, sexy fruits and concentration. There is vibrancy to the fruits and velvetiness to the texture, coupled with depth, complexity and length. The wine was made from a blend of 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc. The Grand Vin represents 67% of the harvest.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Angélus is in a rich vein of form at the moment, with the quality of the wines living up to the ambitions of the owners. Dense, powerful and concentrated, with plum, damson and black fig flavours, some Asian spices, rich, scented oak and a long, refreshing finish. A wine to tuck away for a decade or more. 2028-40”

- TA, timatkin.com

“Under the leadership of Hubert de Bouard since the mid 1980's, Angélus has been one of the superstars of Saint Emilion, producing modern-style, deep, concentrated and ripe wines full of richness and fruit. In 2012 Angélus (along with Pavie) joined Ausone and Cheval Blanc in achieving first growth status. A fitting achievement for the hard work and consistent results here recently. The vineyard is planted 50:50 Cabernet Franc and Merlot. This year the blend is 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc. Though the total production is up 25% at the Chateau, Angelus will be produced in the same volume as 2015. Deep in colour with a rich, powerful cassis purity and well-integrated, subtle toast from the oak. Rich and powerful with mouthcoating, ripe tannins, there is a purity and refinement here that brings great harmony and balance to the palate. The black cherry and blueberry fruit are fleshy but precise and complemented by subtle spice of high-quality new oak that has already knitted into the structure of the wine. A very impressive Angelus and one to watch.”

- Farr Vintners

“The nose has brooding richness the palate is fleshy and supple with ripe black fruits concentrated and rich. The tannins are fine wrapped round with fruit the sweetness at the back underpinned by fresher fruits a lovely complex mix of flavours. 2027-40”

- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2016 Angélus has a very well-defined bouquet featuring blackberry, melted tar, pencil box and floral notes, though they are less pronounced than they were from barrel. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins. This is well balanced with plenty of freshness and fine grip, and quite dense in the mouth compared to its peers. Notes of blackberry laced with sea salt and a touch of licorice govern the finish to this substantial Angélus, which will benefit from several years in bottle. Patience will be undoubtedly rewarded. Drink 2025-2048.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Angélus is a total stunner. Despite its late bottling in September 2018, the 2016 is simply magnificent. Soaring aromatics and layers of bright, vibrant fruit are two of the main signatures in the 2016. The tannins, so often hard in young Angélus, are almost impossibly refined. Pomegranate, blood orange, raspberry jam, wild flowers and mocha are some of the many notes that race through the 2016. All the elements fall into place in a memorable, exquisite Saint-Émilion that is clearly one of the wines of the year. Don't miss it! (AG)”

- AG, Vinous

“One of the more surprising wines of the vintage, the 2016 Angélus shows a level of finesse that has not exactly been the norm here in recent years. Persistent and energetic on the palate, the 2016 Angélus boasts tons of nuance, with plenty of detail in all of its elements. A closing burst of Cabernet Franc-inflected floral and spice overtones give the wine an exotic flair. The 2016 is a fabulous Angélus. It's as simple as that.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2016 Château Angélus is incredibly elegant and finesse-driven, with a soaring perfume of crème de cassis, white flowers, crayon, forest floor, and spice. Compared to the 1996 by the Angélus team, it has a deep, layered style, its oak is beautifully integrated, there are ample tannins, and despite leaning toward the finesse-driven side of the spectrum, it has thrilling depth of fruit and length. It's a brilliant wine from this estate that will benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age and keep for 30+ years or more. The blend of the 2016 is 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc, brought up all in new French oak. 2023 - 2053.”

- Jeb Dunnuck
