

Château Faugères 2010

CSPC# 749553

750mlx12

15.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

St Emilion

General Info

Château Faugères is a St Emilion Grand Cru that is now producing textbook new wave St Emilions. In 1823, the Esquissaud family acquired the estates of Châteaux Faugères and Péby Faugères. Then in 1987, the land was inherited by Pierre-Bernard Guisez. Up to then, all the wine produced had been sold to a single local merchant. P. Guisez and his wife Corinne wanted to become more involved in the vineyards, setting out on a quest for the finest quality. Their wish was to see these exquisite terroirs become jewels in the crown of the Saint-Emilion Grand Cru appellation, a desire that was to be fulfilled in a short time with the help of Michel Rolland. Since 1997 the property has been owned by the film producer, Péby Guisez and his wife Corine and they have energetically breathed new life into it.

Vintage

The 2010 vintage was marked by two important features in terms of climate: as in 2005, it was very dry (the same overall rainfall, but different distribution), the variation in temperature (between day and night) was around 15°C throughout the summer. Temperatures during July, August and September were constant and close to the seasonal averages. This meant that ripening was relatively slow, commencing around 14 July at Faugères, which is around the mean for the past five years. The main characteristic of this year's weather was the absence of very hot temperatures and the coolness at night, particularly in August. The water deficit, particularly during the late season, was the main reason behind this vintage's low average yield of 28 hl/ha. The water balance was similar to the levels recorded in 2005 and lower than in 2009. The vintage benefitted from a very low level of phytosanitary pressure thanks to the perfect weather conditions throughout the year.

Vineyards

There are 20 hectares of vineyards planted with Merlot (70%), Cabernet Franc (25%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (5%). Surface area : 37 hectares ; Soil : limestone plateau (asteria limestone subsoil) dating back to the upper Oligocene; limestone and clay slope (limestone soil on clay-limestone molasse) dating back to the upper Eocene and Oligocene. ; Grape varieties : 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon ; Average of vines : 35 years ; Planting density : 6,000 vine stocks per hectare

Harvest

Harvesting began on 30 September for the Merlots and finished on 21 October for the Cabernet Sauvignons.

Maturation

This was the second harvest to be vinified entirely in the new cellar, designed by Mario Botta and known as the "cathedral of wine", using all the latest processing technology, such as cold storage rooms, visual sorting, gravity flow on three levels, pneumatic crushing and automatic density control. The grapes are fermented in temperature-controlled stainless-steel tanks and the wines are matured in barriques for 15-18 months.

Tasting Notes

This is a ripe, rich, expressive 2010 without the slightest heaviness but with fruity bouquet, vigour and good length. With 15% of Cabernet (10% Franc), the style gains in freshness, tension and balance.

Cellaring

Drink 2016-2031

Scores/Awards

92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013

91-94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010

92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013

91-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011

86-88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011



Scores/Awards **92-94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011
95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013
88-91 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011
16.5 points/4 stars - Decanter.com - April 2011
90-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 22, 2011
88-90 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011
90-92 points - Chuck Haywood, JJBuckley Wines - April 2011

Reviews *"Solid, if a touch chewy along the edges right now, as briar, cocoa and licorice snap notes are out in front of the core of pastis-soaked plum and blackberry fruit. There's lots of sweet, roasted wood spice on the finish, with the briary edge lingering as well. A bit exotic, but the structure is legit, and cellaring should tame this. Best from 2015 through 2027."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This delivers a pure beam of raspberry and blueberry fruit that's nicely rounded, with plenty of stuffing on the back end. Violet and anise notes flutter through with buried minerality. Score range: 91-94."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The estate's most abundant cuvee of about 5,000+ cases is the 2010 Faugeres, a blend of 85% Merlot with the rest mostly Cabernet Franc and just a small quantity of Cabernet Sauvignon, all bottled unfiltered. It is another St.-Emilion hitting 15% natural alcohol. Tiny yields of 22 hectoliters per hectare and a late harvest that went into the third week of October have resulted in a stunningly concentrated wine with notes of crushed rock, blue and dark red/black fruits, some camphor, incense and, for lack of a better description, a smell of acacia flowers. A sexy, opulent and full-bodied wine that seems to have more in common with the 2009s than most 2010s, this wine can be drunk out of the gate, but will certainly hit its stride in 3-4 years and last for up to 15. Acquired by Swiss native Silvio Denz a number of years ago, this property continues to overachieve in virtually every vintage. Behind the scenes, Stephan von Neipperg, the proprietor of La Mondotte, Clos de l'Oratoire, and a number of other properties, consults on viticultural matters, while harvesting, winemaking and élevage are guided by Michel Rolland."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"This estate, which was purchased a few years ago by Swiss entrepreneur Silvio Denz, continues to push the envelope and improve on what was already an impressive group of wines from previous proprietress Corinne Guisez. From a 50-acre vineyard in the commune of St.-Christophe des Bardes, the 2010 is a blend of 85% Merlot and the rest mostly Cabernet Franc and a small amount of Cabernet Sauvignon. Perhaps the most powerful wine ever made at Faugeres, it tips the scales at 15% alcohol. Both Michel Rolland and Stephan von Neipperg consult at this estate. The 2010's dense blue/purple color is followed by notes of creosote, toasty new oak, licorice, blueberry liqueur and cassis. This dense, opulent, full-bodied, massive effort is surprisingly civilized and intense. It should drink well for 10-15 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"This is very ripe with a veil of glycerin on the nose, sweet vanilla and a touch of macerated dark cherries. The palate is very sweet, almost cloying on the entry, the new oak prominent and dominant towards the alcoholic finish. Tasted April 2011."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Very fruity and rich wine with dried strawberries and blackberries. Full body, with an opulent palate of ripe fruit and toasted oak. Yet racy and refined with a beautiful balance. It's fresh and racy. Try after 2018."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"92-94 Spice and mint aromas with blackberry fruit, new wood and a polished character. The acidity is delicious, refreshing."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep inky-ruby Good lift to the aromas of plum, Asian spices and flowers. Supple and intensely flavored, with a silky texture to its red fruit and spice flavors. This graceful wine finishes subtle and long, with a lingering tarry presence."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

- Reviews** *“Fragile, racy nose, with good fruit concentration than almost masks the tannin. Well done! Good balance. Sleek and modern style but without exaggerations. Not that concentrated but harmonious.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “For lovers of modern Saint-Emilion. Dense, rich, ripe and modern with oak clearly apparent. Suave texture and tannins and zesty acidity for balance. Will need some time in bottle. Drink 2017-2025.”*
- Decanter.com
- “From a blend of 85% merlot, 10% cabernet franc and 5% cabernet sauvignon, the wine will be aged in 50% new oak for about 14 months. Licorice, bitter chocolate, boysenberry aromatics, plush, soft, round textures and a ripe, chocolate and black cherry finish are found in this wine. 90-91 Pts”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Solid black; deep; sweet and open nose; coconut oak; very sweet and ripe palate; lashings of fruit and oak; lacks complexity but really seductive fruit. 88-90/100. Tasted 6 April Le Cercle Rive Droite”*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “Darkly colored, the aromas on this release are ripe scents of prune and blackcurrants. The ripeness on the bouquet can also be found in the palate where the soft flavors are getting interesting and offer a touch of elegance. The lasting palate impression is one of good length ending with some integrated tannins. A modern wine. Needs 3-5 years to gain complexity and can be enjoyed over the following 5-15 years. Stephan von Neipperg and Michel Rolland consult.”*
- CH, JJ Buckley Wines
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