

## Château Fleur Cardinale 2012

CSPC# 814415

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Emilion
<b>Classification</b>	Grande Cru Classe in 2006
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.fleurcardinale.com/en/">http://www.fleurcardinale.com/en/</a>
<b>General Info</b>	The estate was bought in 2001 by Florence and Dominique Decoster, and it has benefited from major investments which have made Château Fleur Cardinale one of the top names of the appellation. It is located to the east of the village of Saint-Émilion, on one of the high points of the appellation and it extends over 20 hectares. With its great value for money, and showing great consistency in its quality, Château Fleur Cardinale was promoted to "Saint-Emilion Grand cru classé" in 2006.
<b>Winemaker</b>	Consultant oenologist, Rolland Laboratory – Jean-Philippe Fort
<b>Vineyards</b>	The vineyard is planted in a clay-limestone soil in the middle of the plateau on a pleasant late producing terroir. The two properties owned by Florence and Dominique Decoster extend across a 23.5-hectare area for the Château Fleur Cardinale, and a 4-hectare area for the Château Croix Cardinale. The two vineyards are planted on clay-limestone soil in the middle of the hillsides and they enjoy an identical harvest, notable for its 75% dominance of Merlot together with 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Surface area in production: 44.46 acres (18 ha); Density of plantation: 6000 vines/hectare Average age of vines: 35 years old. Yield after sorting: 30 hl/ha
<b>Harvest</b>	100% hand-harvested from 22 <sup>nd</sup> October to 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2012
<b>Maturation</b>	Once in the vats, cold maceration at 5° takes place over 5 or 6 days followed by alcoholic fermentation then warm maceration for 2 to 3 weeks. All the pumping over is done by gravity, which avoids "stirring up" the musts and "stressing" the yeasts. The fermenting cellar was built ecologically and is equipped with 22 small thermo-regulated stainless-steel vats. This means the vinification can be done by plot, while in the ageing cellar the wine can be aged between 12 and 16 months in barrels of new French oak (the wood comes from the Forests of Tronçay, Bertranges, Jupille and Limousin). 100 % new French oak barrels
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The wine displays a deep, dense-coloured hue, while on the nose there are powerful ripe fruit aromas mingling with floral notes. Feminine in style, the wines have a seductive, rich mouthfeel, underpinned by elegant, silky tannins. The finish is long and harmonious, promising very long ageing potential in bottle.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Fleur Cardinale is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Fleur Cardinale is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Fleur Cardinale is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta
<b>Production</b>	8,583 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2015-2035
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<b>91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015 <b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013 <b>93 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015 <b>92-95 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013 <b>91 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015 <b>90-91 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013 <b>16 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013 <b>16.5 points</b> - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2013 <b>86 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)



**Scores/Awards** **90 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**92-94 points** - Jeff Leve, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com) - April 26, 2013  
**86-88 points** - Jeremy Williams, [winewordsandvideotape.com](http://winewordsandvideotape.com) - April 2013  
**84 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, [asianpalate.com](http://asianpalate.com) - April 2013  
**89-91 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)  
**14.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**16.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)  
**16-16.5 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)  
**15.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

**Reviews** *"A lovely core of plum and blackberry fruit is augmented with ganache, dried anise and roasted alder notes. The toasty frame keeps this a bit squared off for now, but there's a very solid core of velvety fruit here. Needs time. Best from 2018 through 2022. 8,583 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Features a core of dark anise, fruitcake, plum sauce and raspberry, with a fleshy texture that hangs through the finish. Has guts without the vintage's chewy, taut feel. Score range: 90-93 "*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The flagship wine from the Decoster family, this blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon has been a hugely successful wine since they acquired this 58-acre estate and revolutionized the level of quality. This is consistently one of the best St.-Emilions and over-achieving for its classification. The 2012 has pure, striking aromatics of blueberry, black raspberry, minerals and flowers. Medium to full-bodied, ripe and multi-dimensional, with a beautiful texture, this is stunning wine that completely dominates its classification and over-delivers in terms of quality and potential longevity. It should drink well for 15 or more years. Yields were a modest 34 hectoliters per hectare from an unusually late harvest – October 22 to November 2."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"This full-bodied beauty exhibits a dense opaque purple color in addition to copious notes of creme de cassis, kirsch, licorice and incense. It should drink well for 15-20 years. This will be a sleeper of the vintage. A superstar of the vintage (not surprising given how successful the proprietors, the Decoster family, have been over the last decade or more), this 58-acre vineyard located near the village of St.-Etienne de Lisse enjoyed yields of 34 hectoliters per hectare. The harvest took place extremely late — between October 22 and November 3. The final blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon came in at 13.5% natural alcohol. Every detail, both in the vineyard and the winery, is looked after by the meticulous owners. This will be a sleeper of the vintage as the Decosters have been among the most realistic proprietors in Bordeaux when it comes to pricing their wines."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"A fine and firm wine with blueberry, chocolate and walnut character. Full body and chewy tannins that are polished and long. Very pretty. Better in 2017"*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Plenty of fruit and velvety tannins. Full body, juicy fruit, and a wonderful depth for the vintage"*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Black as the ace of spades. Blackcurrant cordiale incarnate. Sweet, pure and ripe. Then unexpectedly thick tannins on the palate. A bit tough on the finish but might come around."*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*"Maintains an established modern style. Rich and plush with loads of fruit extract but balanced. Slight warmth on the finish. Good length."*  
- JL, Decanter.com

*"Truffle, earth, spice, blackberry, plum and cocoa scents open to a full bodied, sweet, round wine with character and ripeness. 92-94 Pts"*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

**Reviews** *“Saturated at centre; ripe fruit; some red fruits and some fig; almost unctuous; good palate; lots of ripe Merlot and really easy on the palate; ripe and fresh [ish]. Not that much tannin or length but pretty good, early drinking, fruity effort. 86-88+ Tasted blind at Cercle de Rive Droite Sunday April 7, 2013”*  
- JW, [winewordsandvideotape.com](http://winewordsandvideotape.com)

*“Forward, fairly simple St-Emilion that is disappointing given its status as a Grand Cru Classe. The flavours are ripe just lacking in depth and intensity. Moderate length. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (07-Apr-2013) “*  
- JCL, [asianpalate.com](http://asianpalate.com)

*“The 2012 Fleur Cardinale is a beautiful example of modern Saint-Emilion. Silky tannins and soft contours wrap around a core of red cherry jam, wild flowers, mint, cinnamon and white pepper. Dramatic and expansive on the palate, the 2012 shows remarkable nuance for such an intense wine. All the elements fall into place effortlessly. (AG)”*  
- AG, *Vinous*

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