

Château La Fleur Morange 2000

CSPC# 756594

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

St. Emilion

General Info

Owned by Jean-François Julien, Chateau La Fleur Morange owns some of the oldest vines in St. Emilion. Many of the vines are over 100 years old! These old vines, which offer only a small amount of fruit, but very concentrated fruit, give this wine a unique character. The estate produces another St. Emilion wine, La Fleur Morange Mathilde, which year after year produces one of the top value wines in all of Bordeaux.

Vineyards

The sandy clay with limestone and crasse de fer subsoil is planted to 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. Extensive work goes into the production of this St. Emilion wine, located in the extreme eastern portion of the appellation. The effort begins like all great wineries in the vineyard. At Chateau La Fleur Morange, debudding, crop thinning up to four times, two deleafings all take place in an effort to reduce yields. It is the goal of the estate to try and pick fruit when it's fully ripe. At that point, the grapes are hand-harvested, table-sorted and entirely hand destemmed, which is an arduous task. Yields are often low at Lafleur Morange. For example, in 2009, they were only twenty-five hectoliters per hectare!

Maturation

After harvest, the wine endures a six-day cold soak at 3 degrees Celsius. Next, the wine must is fermented in unique, 50 hectoliter, truncated, stainless steel tanks with dual insulated walls. These vats isolate the wine from eventual temperature swings in the cellar. They were the first of their kind in the Bordeaux region. The wine enjoys a 30-day maceration. Pigeage, malolactic fermentation and sur lies aging all take place in 100% new, French oak barrels. Aged in 100% new French oak for about 18 months. The amount of aging varies depending on the vintage. Production of Chateau La Fleur Morange is on average 5,000 bottles per vintage.

Tasting Notes

Opulent aromas of ripe cherries, lava rock, vanilla, and shadings of cedar and rosemary. Fat and fleshy on the palate with notes of cherry reduction and sweet tobacco. Chewy tannins and a touch of heat on the finish. Quite an extroverted wine.

Cellaring

Drink 2002-2020

Scores/Awards

93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #189 - June 2010

91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003

89-91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 2002

89-91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 2001

16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

"This is a property I first started watching very carefully with this vintage, and I have loved just about everything that has been produced. Dense ruby/purple, the wine is a modern style of St.-Emilion, with superb ripeness, lots of color, and rich, heady black fruits intermixed with some toasty oak, licorice, and spice. Its expansive, multi-dimensional mouthfeel is opulent, sumptuous, and just beginning to hit full maturity. Drink it over the next 20 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Showing even better from bottle than it did from barrel, this opaque purple-colored wine offers up notes of black raspberry liqueur intermixed with graphite, licorice, smoke, and cassis. It resembles a full-bodied, powerful, concentrated hybrid style between something artisanal and progressive. The sweet, expansive mid-palate leads to a tannic, structured, muscular finish with tremendous persistence (about 45 seconds). Anticipated maturity: 2008-2020+."

- RP, Wine Advocate



Reviews *“A limited production garage wine, this offering was fashioned from 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. A dense purple color is followed by layers of fruit and glycerin, sweet black currant and black raspberry notes, and a deep, layered, impressively pure, concentrated personality. It receives such state-of-the-art treatments as malolactic fermentation in barrel, micro-oxygenation of the lees, and only the highest quality Taransaud and Darnajou barrels. Not surprisingly, it is bottled without filtration. Sadly, there are less than 500 cases. Anticipated maturity: 2003-2016.”*
- RP, Wine Advocate

“A new discovery, this 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc garage wine, made from a 5-acre parcel of 60-year old vines, has been aged in 100% new oak, and subjected to such creative qualitative treatments as extensive crop thinning, micro-bullage, pigeage, and aging on its lees. The result is an impressive, medium to full-bodied, layered, concentrated, unevolved, grapy wine. There is admirable depth, sweetness, glycerin, and concentration to this opaque purple-colored effort. I would not be surprised to see it burst forth over the next 6-12 months. Readers should pay close attention to La Fleur-Morange. Anticipated maturity: 2005-2020.”
- RP, Wine Advocate

“Deep, dark crimson with a little development at the rim. Not much nose, but great intensity. Rather furry edges on the palate – not pure – though certainly with lots of meat and substance. Sweet start and the oak not too dominant. Acidity a little obvious on the palate and the finish is a bit sudden. Interesting if a little brutal but not fine.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
