

Château Fombrauge 2016

CSPC# 811817

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

93% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

Grande Cru Classé in 2006

Website

<http://www.bernard-magrez.com/en/wines/chateau-fombrauge>

General Info

While wine making at Fombrauge dates back to the 15th century, the wines made back then, I can assure you, do not share any resemblance to the wines produced by the Bernard Magrez owned St. Emilion estate of Magrez Fombrauge today! The history of Magrez Fombrauge does not back nearly that far, in fact 2000 is the debut vintage for Magrez Fombrauge. Bernard Magrez purchased the Saint Emilion estate back in 1999.

One of the first moves Bernard Magrez made after buying Fombrauge was to hire the famous Bordeaux wine consultant, Michel Rolland. With a commitment from Michel Rolland, and the willingness, coupled with the ability to spend any amount of money to make the best wine possible at this Right Bank estate, they have done a lot with this unique terroir.

All vineyard management techniques is self-sustainable. At Chateau Magrez Fombrauge, horses are used to work the soil for the red wine grapes, exclusively. Chateau Magrez Fombrauge is a modern styled Bordeaux wine indeed. It is also powerful, deep, concentrated, rich and complex and in the top vintages, it demands 10-15 or maybe even 20 years to come around.

Winemaker

Michel Rolland

Vintage

The winter was mild and wet, causing the buds to sprout a week earlier than expected. Early spring was cool and humid. In April, the excess water slowed the development of the grapes. Late May was the beginning of the flowering period, occurring rather late. From June 24-September 12, the summer was incredibly hot and defined by droughts. The clay-limestone soil performs well under these conditions. The grapes appeared on August 4th.

Vineyards

Picked from 30 September to the 22 October

Harvest

Parcel selection per terroir, grape variety and age of the vines. Selection inside the parcels thanks to relevant information on maturity and vine strength provided by the drone. Harvest in small crates. Picked between 2 and 20 October

Maturation

Sorting on a table before and after destemming by 20 qualified people. Vatting in small capacity wooden tanks (70 hectoliters) by gravity flow. Pre-fermentation maceration for 4-8 days at 8°C. Manual punching down. Maceration for 28-32 days for the Merlot, 26-28 days for the Cabernet. Aging for 18 months in 45% new oak barrels, 45% one-year-old barrels, 10% in state-of-the-art cement tanks.

Tasting Notes

It's magnificent dark red colour with purple tears. Chateau Fombrauge 2016 releases enamouring fragrance of red fruits, and beautifully ripe tannins in the mouth. The wine is well-balanced and has a fantastic length.

Serve with

Chateau Magrez Fombrauge is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.

Production

24,583 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2022-2032

Scores/Awards

92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2019

87-90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - November 2017

92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 29, 2017

94 points - James Suckling, Jamessuckling.com - February 2019

93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017

91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019

91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018



Scores/Awards **94 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019
91 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019
94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2017
14.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2019
16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

Reviews *"Big and broad in feel, with a cocoa lacing from start to finish that weaves around dark fig and blackberry preserve flavors. Roasted apple wood and tobacco notes score the finish, leaving a touch of woody grip echoing."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"A bit bulked-up in feel, with a warm cocoa frame around plum skin and warm currant confiture notes. More breadth than depth. Score Range: 87-90"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Medium garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Fombrauge sings of lively kirsch, baked black cherries and warm plums notes plus touches of potpourri, cigar box and garrigue. Medium to full-bodied, it fills the mouth with decadent red and black fruit preserves, structured by velvety tannins and finishing with fantastic length."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 Fombrauge is a blend of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc picked from 30 September to the 22 October, clearly more expressive on the nose compared to the 2016 Magrez-Fombrauge with attractive blackberry, raspberry coulis and cold stone aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, linear but fresh with a grippy, slightly tarry finish that lingers in the mouth. It needs to find a little more "lightness" in terms of personality rather than intensity, perhaps not take itself quite so seriously. But I still find much to enjoy here, and I look forward to tasting it in bottle. Tasted twice with consistent notes."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"There's a very rich and powerful core of red-plum and mulberry aromas and flavors here, delivering an assertive and very shimmering, polished palate. Great tannin texture. Long and regal. Every bit as good as the 2015, but more lively in 2016. Try from 2023."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a perfumed wine, likely thanks to a dollop (7%) of Cabernet Franc. It has ripe fruit characters, pleasant richness and a firm structure."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Smoke, licorice, incense and ripe red fruits let you know you are in for a treat. The wine is round, spicy, lush, polished, sweet and silky, with a chocolate covered cherry and licorice finish. Drink this now, or age it for 5 years, drinking it over the following decade."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Round, forward, soft, lush and polished in character, there is a sense freshness that keeps the wine on its feet, allowing the black cherry, cocoa, licorice, smoke and espresso filled wine to stand out in a crowd."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2016 Fombrauge has come together beautifully during its aging and is now a much more refined wine than it was from barrel. Sweet red berry fruit, mocha, espresso, mint, and floral notes all grace this exquisite, mid-weight Saint-Émilion. The 2016 is simply impeccable, not to mention incredibly delicious. There is not much more to it than that."

- AG, Vinous

"Leafy herbs, black fruits, and damp earth notes all emerge from the 2016 Château Fombrauge, which is aged 18 months in 45% new oak. Falling under the Bernard Magrez umbrella, it's a totally charming, forward, medium to full-bodied 2016 that has notable complexity, good (not great) mid-palate depth, no hard edges, and loads of character. Drink it over the coming 10-15 years or so."

- Jeb Dunnuck
