

Château Fombrauge 2021

CSPC# 811817

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Saint Emilion
Classification	Grande Cru Classé in 2006
Website	http://www.bernard-magrez.com/en/wines/chateau-fombrauge
Sustainability	All vineyard management techniques are self-sustainable. At Chateau Magrez Fombrauge, horses are used to work the soil for the red wine grapes, exclusively.
General Info	<p>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 go back nearly that far, in fact 2000 is the debut vintage for Magrez Fombrauge. Bernard Magrez purchased the Saint Emilion estate back in 1999.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Winemaker	Michel Rolland
Vintage	Autumn: Mild and wet. Winter: Warm and wet. Spring: Chilly and rainy with some frost. Summer: Chilly and wet
Vineyards	<p>The tiny, 3.5-hectare vineyard of Magrez Fombrauge is planted for red and white wine grapes. For the red wine, the vineyard is planted to 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc. Located on the Cotes of St. Emilion, the fruit source comes from a specific section of the much larger, vineyard of Chateau Fombrauge.</p> <p>Even though this is not a sizable block of vines, the roughly 3 hectares here are divided into 3 separate parcels of vines. The vines are old. The vines range in age from 60 to 70 years of age. Yields are kept low at the property. They can be close to 20 hectoliters per hectare. The terroir consists of chalk over limestone soil.</p>
Harvest	<p>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.</p> <p>Merlot: from 30th Sept. to 7th Oct. Cab. Franc: from 7th to 18th Oct</p>
Winemaking	<p>Château Fombrauge has embodied the elegance of the Grands Crus Classés of Saint Emilion for six centuries. Château Fombrauge boasts an exceptional terroir that brings elegance, complexity, and distinction to its wines. Château Fombrauge is aged using traditional methods combined with innovative, environmentally friendly techniques that provide charm and complexity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Plot selection according to terroir, grape variety and age of the vines.- Intra-plot selection thanks to vigour and maturity maps provided by the drone.- Grapes hand-picked into small crates- Sorting on a table before and after destemming.- Gravity-flow into 70-hectolitre wooden, stainless steel and concrete vats. Pre-fermentation maceration for 4 to 8 days at 8°C.- Gentle extraction by pumping over.- Malolactic fermentation in new barrels, second life or in tank according to the tasting.



Tasting Notes	Purple in colour. The nose is open, and fruity with lots of ripe raspberries, licorice, pomegranate, fine roasted notes. Accessible on the palate at the start, then grabs hold, shows polished tannins, delicate fruit and a lot of drinking flow, the wine has charm, appears balanced and not overloaded. Confirms the good impression of previous years in a fresher, lighter style.
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	14,000 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2037.
Scores/Awards	<p>88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2024</p> <p>87-89 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2024</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>92 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>90 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>86-88 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>89-92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>92 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>91-92 points - Vert de Vin - April 2022</p> <p>90-91 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Shows an overtly toasty edge, with cinnamon and mocha notes draped over a core of modest plum and black cherry fruit flavors. Turns to cedar and savory elements on the finish, though -- there's no masking this vintage. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2028. 14,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Aromas of sweet cherries, berry preserves and Black Forest cake, framed by a lavish application of creamy new oak, introduce the 2021 Fombrauge, a medium to full-bodied, broad, and textural wine that's supple and fleshy, with a rich core of sweet fruit and lively balancing acids. As usual, this is a generous, front-loaded, somewhat confectionary Saint-Émilion from Bernard Magrez, though it's well made in its style."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Spiced berries, cassis, roasted capsicum and a hint of dried strawberries. Abundant, lightly chewy tannins on the palate with juicy fruit and a tight finish. Better in a year or two."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Perfumed and fresh with flowers, such as lavender and violets. Medium-bodied with fine tannins that are layered and refined in texture."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Ripe, chewy and mouth filling, this is on the plusher side in terms of fruit flavour but with a core of velvet-like, quite grippy tannins that take hold and support the fruit. Lashings of dark chocolate, liquorice, vanilla, and a cinnamon edge giving a lovely nuance of spice while the juicy fruit flavours linger on top. A dark, savoury style with plenty going on but delivered with refinement and clarity. Certainly, one of the bolder styles."</i> - GH, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"Espresso, cocoa, black cherries, and mint open the wine. On the palate, the wine is round, soft, creamy, and open, with sweetness to the fruit that carries from start to finish. The oak has integrated nicely into the wine. Drink from 2024-2037."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Fombrauge was picked from September 30 to October 18 and made with malo in new barrels. This is quite heady and shows some pruny aromas on the nose. Like the aromatics, I feel that the palate is pushed to compensate for the shortcomings of the growing season, and while it has presence, it is missing complexity and delineation, not to mention the freshness that is the leitmotif of the season."</i> - NM, Vinous</p>

Reviews *"91-93 The 2021 Fombrauge is a bright, punchy wine. In 2021, readers will find a decidedly supple Fombrauge built on a core of red-fleshed fruit and bright acids, with less overt richness and oak intensity than in the past. I very much like the vibrancy here. Bright saline notes punctuate the finish."*

- AG, Vinous

"The 2021 Château Fombrauge is upfront and forward, with creamy red fruits and subtle oak, medium-bodied richness, silky tannins, and solid balance. It should drink nicely right out of the gate and offer plenty of pleasure over the coming decade or so. Tasted twice."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deep ruby core with narrow purple rim. Ripe cherries, a touch of blackcurrants, floral nuances, impression of tangerine zest, nougat hints. Juicy, sweet strawberry compote, ripe tannins, chocolatey-salty finish with length and definition; shows good ageing potential."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is fruity and reveals a certain concentration, a fine power, and a certain delicacy. Fleshy, juicy blackcurrant, boysenberry and slightly brighter strawberry notes are combined with hints of crushed red berries, liquorice, chocolate, and hints of vanilla and sweet spice. The palate is fruity and offers freshness, acidity, minerality, a little tension and juiciness. On the palate, this wine expresses notes of pulpy, juicy raspberry, crunchy red berries combined with hints of juicy/pulpy/fresh blackberry, racy minerality as well as hints of chocolate/mocha, toastiness and a subtle hint of almond and sweet spices. The tannins are precise, racy, and well-managed. A fine touch of salinity and a discreet hint of good bitterness in the background."

- Vert de Vin
