

Château Franc Mayne 2015

CSPC# 765470

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

Grand Cru Classé

Website

<http://www.chateau-francmayne.com/>

General Info

While the semi modern era for Chateau Franc Mayne begins in the 1700's, there are ruins on the estate that date all the way back to the ancient Romans who were the first people to cultivate vines on the property. Over the years, Chateau Franc Mayne has had more than its share of owners. The large insurance group AXA-Millésimes bought it in 1984. In June 1996, they sold Chateau Franc Mayne to a Belgian entrepreneur, Georgy Fourcroy who later sold Chateau Franc Mayne to the Laviale family in 2004.

One of the first decisions made by the new owners was to change to make up of the vineyard and blend of the wine. Previous vintages were often 100% Merlot. Starting with the 2004 vintage, the blend began to include 10% Cabernet Franc.

As of today, Chateau Franc Mayne, which is one of the 17 different, Bordeaux wine producers with Franc in the title, is managed by Griet & Hervé Laviale. One of the first things the new owners of Chateau Franc Mayne did was completely renovate the estate and wine making facilities. The very modern, energy efficient chais was created by the noted architects Lanoire and Courrian.

Chateau Franc Mayne is more than a vineyard, it's also a charming hotel in St. Emilion, located not far from the village. The hotel is interesting as each room is unique. They have a total of 10 rooms and all of them are distinctly different, as each was built with a specific theme in mind. There is even a tree house in the middle of their St. Emilion vineyard you can stay in.

Chateau Franc Mayne also produces a second wine, Les Cèdres de Franc Mayne. On average, the annual production of Chateau Franc Mayne is 1,400 cases of Bordeaux wine per year.

Vintage

2015 St. Emilion has it all going on. Frankly, I could sum this article up rather quickly by just saying, "2015 Saint Emilion Rocks!" Across the board, 2015 St. Emilion was lucky. Vineyards in the cool clay soils that harvested late made stunning wines. But so did the estates on the limestone plateau, in the gravel soils and properties on the more sandy terroir were also quite successful. That does not mean buyers do not need to be choosy. Some estates pushed the pedal to the metal a bit too far. There are overly extracted wines, and wines that are aging in too much new oak. But generally speaking, the level of quality here is homogenous. 2015 St. Emilion is the product of a hot, dry summer, with drought conditions. April was hot. June was hotter. July was scorching, and the lack of water exacerbated those conditions. What made this unique was that this level of heat is usually experienced later in the growing season. That was not the case with 2015. Fortunately, the rains in August arrived in the nick of time, providing enough nourishment to allow the growth cycle to continue.

Vineyards

The 6.23-hectare, St. Emilion Bordeaux vineyard of Chateau Franc Mayne is planted to 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc on a terroir of clay, limestone and clay with sand. On average, the vines are kept at 30 years of age. The vineyard is planted to 6,000 vines per hectare.

Harvest

Hand harvested

Vinification/

Maturation

The vinification takes place in a combination of 5 stainless steel tanks and 5 wood vats. The steel vats range in size with 2, 60 hectoliter vats, 2, 50 Hectoliters and one 1 40 hectoliter vats. The wood vats range in size as well with 2, 50 hectoliter wood tanks, 2, 40 hectoliter vats and 1 28 hectoliter vat. The smallest vat at 28 hectoliters is



Vinification/ Maturation	always reserved for Cabernet Franc. Malolactic fermentation takes place in a combination of barrel, vat and tank. The wine is aged in an average of 85% new, French oak barrels for between 12 – 16 months, depending on the quality and character of the vintage. Michel Rolland is the wine making consultant.
Production	2,792 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2028
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>88-90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>87-89 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>88 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016 (no scores)</p> <p>91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>92-94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>16 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“Densely layered, with boysenberry, raspberry and blackberry pâte de fruit notes, this moves with focus and energy, carried by brambly structure and pushed by anise, black tea and roasted apple wood notes. The wood impinges ever so slightly at the very end, but otherwise this remains very solid. Best from 2023 through 2035. 2,792 cases made.”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“A bright, racy style, with a little blood orange tang amid the plum and raspberry fruit. Sweet spice and roasted apple wood notes fill in gently, letting the fruit keep the upper hand. Score range: 90-93</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“The 2015 Franc-Mayne has a refined and detailed bouquet with blackberry, raspberry coulis and a touch of cedar emerging from the glass. This is a classy bouquet in the making. The palate is fresh and vibrant with succulent red berry fruit overlaying a fine lattice of tannin. Precise, focused and elegant without compromising the fruit, this is perhaps the best wine that I have tasted from this estate. Bravo!”</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“The 2015 Franc-Mayne has a fresh black berry and wild strawberry-scented bouquet albeit with a patina of new oak still to be subsumed. The palate is sweet and candied on the entry with rounded red fruit, soft and plush in the mouth, but there is a decent backbone to this Franc-Mayne and it belatedly offers complexity toward the saline, quite minerally finish. In summary, this finishes better than it begins and leaves you feeling that it will eventually reach the potential that I envisaged from barrel. You are just going to have to wait longer than I initially predicted!”</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>“Aromas of blackberries, stones and blueberries follow through to a full body, firm and silky tannins and a fruity finish.”</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>“Layers of new wood are very prominent in this wine. It has density and extracted tannins, while the fruit component is light, with touches of black currant and soft acidity.”</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>“Mid cherry red. Dark and invitingly sweet fruit. Chewy, generous, full of pleasure but with the structure to age gracefully. Fresh on the finish. (JH)”</i> - JH, JancisRobinson.com</p>

Reviews *"Some tar and real concentration. Very drying finish but good appetising fruit. Just a bit too dry overall."*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Lots of minerality in this wine. Limestone terroir present and saline from start to finish. Density of tannin as well and the fruit expressive; genuine character. Tight finish."
- LL, Decanter.com

"Loads of truffle infused cherries, silky, soft, elegant textures and a refined, sweet, plum and cherry finish combine to make everything work here. The property was sold to new owners in early, 2018."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"One of the best vintages ever produced at Franc Mayne. The truffle, dark plum, espresso nose charms you. But it is the forward styled, silky, refined, soft textures of all those, ripe, juicy, sweet plums that keeps you here."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Polished black raspberries, licorice, vanilla and espresso in the opening notes, this wine has more body than in previous years, plus a better depth of flavor and more freshness in the finish."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and arterial; glossy edge; ripe black fruits; liquorice and strawberry jam; soft entry on the palate; very ripe and late picked style; lacks a little definition; little dry and extracted on the finish currently but will doubtless meld in barrel. [90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 14% alc]. Drink 2021-2028. 87-89"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"A delicious, serious Franc Mayne that is quite dense with velvety tannins. This is a generous, intense Franc Mayne that should improve with age - this wine needs at least 5 years in bottle before enjoying."
- JCL, asianpalate.com
