

## Le Dôme 2011

CSPC# 763519

750mlx12

13.1% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

80% Cabernet Franc, 20% Merlot

**Appellation**

Saint Emilion

**Website**

<http://www.maltus.com/chateau-teyssier/the-wines/le-d%F4me-saint-emilion-grand-cru.aspx?altTemplate=WinesPrint&lang=en>

**General Info**

Wine has been made at the estate since the 1700's. At one stage in the nineteenth century it was the largest estate in the neighbourhood. At the time of purchase however it had been reduced to just five hectares of depleted vineyard. Since then a completely new team has transformed the wine and the estate. Renovation in every sense – estate, vineyard, winery, barrel cellar, and the fundamental approach to making wine means that Château Teyssier is widely regarded as a new-wave, modern-style wine from Saint Emilion. Most importantly the wine is now sought after by a loyal following.

The production of LE DOME is not large at around 1,000 cases. What little exists, however is made with no expense spared in the pursuit of excellence.

**Vintage**

It was not an easy growing season... The Spring was remarkably warm and dry and flowering took place early and in fine conditions. However, by late June the heat was becoming excessive and the lack of rain a real concern, with some vines actually in danger of shutting down.

July was cool and fortunately saw some rain, while August was mixed, cooler than average overall but with some heat spikes and some storms. September was warm and dry enabling the grapes to ripen fully, but the relative lack of heat in the key months of July and August meant that the wines do not have the richness and flesh which is found in the truly great warm vintages like 2009.

There was uneven ripening within the bunches of grapes, and this necessitated a huge amount of work in the vineyard and the cellar, sorting out and rejecting the less than perfect fruit.

**Vineyards**

This single vineyard of three hectares is situated next to Château Angelus and represents the highest manifestation of Cabernet Franc in a wine of this level from Bordeaux. Eighty per cent of the vineyard is dedicated to this variety – the rest is old-vine Merlot. The vines were planted in the 1950's on sandy soil over an extended ironstone layer (crasse de fer). The yield is reduced by up to three runs of green harvesting. Concentration and definition are therefore the watchwords for this benchmark wine.

**Harvest**

The grapes are harvested at the precise moment of ripeness, handpicked into shallow trays, and after double-triage are transported by conveyors into pristine wooden vats.

**Vinification/  
Maturation**

Vinification involves both rotational pumping and pigeage. Secondary fermentation in French oak barrels is followed by a traditional approach to ageing.

**Tasting Notes**

The palate is opulent, full-bodied with spicy black fruits, saturated tannins and a texture so smooth you could slide down it.

**Production**

1,000 cases made

**Cellaring**

Drink 2014-2024

**Scores/Awards**

**91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014

**90-93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

**94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014

**94-96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012

**90-92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012

**94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2014

**91-92 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012

**94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2014

**92-94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012



**Scores/Awards** **91-94 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012  
**16 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012 (score only)  
**17.5 points** - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2012  
**95 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012  
**94 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)  
**16.5-17.5 points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2012  
**92-94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 24, 2012  
**15.5+ points** - Farr Vintner - March 2012  
**88- 91 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012

**Reviews** *"A fruit-driven version, with lots of boysenberry, plum skin and crushed blackberry notes pumping along. Loads of charcoal and tar course underneath, holding sway through the finish. This offers a ripe structure and substantial fruit. Best from 2015 through 2023. 1,000 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"This has some good flesh, with a succulent edge to the boysenberry and fig flavors, backed by mocha and anise on the finish. Offers a thick feel but isn't heavy in the end. This should stretch out nicely. Score range: 90-93"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"I'm not sure you can still call this the flagship wine of proprietor Jonathan Maltus given the other top wines he's producing. Le Dome, which is dominated by an incredibly high percentage of Cabernet Franc (80%) and the balance Merlot (20%), is a special effort that must be tasted to be believed. The 2011 boasts gorgeously juicy blue, red and black fruits intermixed with floral and spice aromas. This supple, velvety-textured, opulent, medium to full-bodied, ethereal St.-Emilion is another stunning effort. It is amazing how well Maltus does whether the vintage provides great raw materials, or if he is confronted with more difficult challenges as he was in 2011. Drink this brilliant effort over the next 10-15 years."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Proprietor Jonathan Maltus produced 1,000 cases of this phenomenal 2011. A blend of 80% Cabernet Franc and 20% Merlot, this backward, slightly unformed St.-Emilion is bursting with exciting potential. An inky/blue/purple color is accompanied by notes of wet steel, lead pencil shavings, Asian spice, spring flowers, blueberries and black raspberries. While the aromatics are suppressed, the flavors explode across the palate with thrilling intensity and purity. This should be a remarkable success story in this vintage, which has been somewhat forgotten as it follows the great years of 2009 and 2010. Give the 2011 5-6 years of cellaring in order to develop more aromatic complexity and drink it over the following two decades."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The 2011 is a blend of 80% Cabernet Franc and 20% Merlot picked 26th September and 30th September with an IPT of 90. It has a luscious bouquet of sweet dark cherry, Xmas cake, vanilla and crushed stone that is well defined and unashamedly modern in style. The palate is medium bodied with a sorbet like entry, crisp acidity, quite a firm grip in the mouth and a chewy, dry finish. Fine. Tasted April 2012."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Wow. This is really well done for the vintage, with blackberry, dark-chocolate and mineral character. It's full-bodied, with very integrated tannins and a long, long finish. It shows wonderful length. Try it in 2019."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Sweet flavors of berry, minerals and dark chocolate follow through to a full body, with firm tannins and a long finish. Tight and solid."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This elegant and expressive wine shows perfumed Cabernet Franc flavors that come from the black fruits and concentrated tannins. It is full of ripe fruit, although the stylish nature of the wine dominates. Drink from 2018."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"92-94. Barrel sample. While the wood is prominent, so is its concentrated, perfumed fruit. With its immense structure, this wine is spicy and very intense."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

**Reviews** *"(80% cabernet franc and 20% merlot): Very deep ruby. Initially brooding aromas of red cherry, strawberry jam, flowers and white pepper; this really began to express itself with air. Then smooth, rich and highly perfumed in the mouth, with enticing red fruit and mineral flavors leading to silky-sweet tannins. The finish is complex and multilayered, with a very slight hint of cabernet franc leafiness that adds to the wine's appeal. Incidentally, the cab franc on this site was planted in 1956 in response to the merlot shortage due to the severe frost earlier that year. An excellent Le Dome, but for the money, I'd go with Vieux Chateau Mazerat or Le Carré this year from Jonathan Maltus's very impressive line-up of 2011 wines."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Deep colour. Characteristically fresh, fragrant and long (80% Cabernet Franc). Tight, powerful, tannic frame. A touch less elegance than seen lately. Drink 2018-2030"*

-JL, Decanter.com

*"Plots by Canon, Angelus, sand over crasse de fer, next to three premiers. 80% cab franc, 20% merlot, the percentage of franc has been this high since 2007. Gorgeous colour, glass staining, rich. This is seriously good. Beautifully fresh, and with serious persistency. 13.10%ABV. 1000 cases. 30 hl/h. 95."*

JA, The New Bordeaux

*"Mostly Cabernet Franc here (80% of the vineyard is dedicated to this variety), the rest old-vine Merlot. A dark and dense hue. The aromatics have a floral purity to them which appeals, white flower petals coming out ahead of the darker fruit tones. The palate begins in a supple and controlled fashion, gentle and almost unassuming, but as the texture plays out on the palate the tannins that lie underneath make themselves known. They are ripe, concentrated, broad but very taut, powerful but integrated and fine. This is an impressive wine with excellent integration and a long, tannic finish. And the texture is so supple and integrated, laid so finely over the tannins."*

- CK, The Wine Doctor

*"Inky in color and from a blend of 80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.10% alcohol. With espresso bean, licorice, earth and black cherry, this wine is densely packed with tannin, black cherry liqueur, licorice and coffee. Structured to age, this will take time to come around. 92-94 Pts"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Englishman Jonathan Maltus' garage red has an unusually high percentage of Cabernet Franc for Bordeaux, and the freshness and perfume are wonderfully apparent here. Sweet gingerbread and vanilla on the nose, with plush, textured notes of black fruits and molasses on the palate. Concentrated, yet supple, with very fine tannins and a finish that lingers on the palate. Very seductive. 8+ years."*

- TA, timatkin.com

*"Jonathan Maltus makes small quantities of this "vin de garage" that is normally a powerful blockbuster. This year we found it more refined than usual. Smooth and plump but quite fresh with good balance despite the depth of fruit."*

- Farr Vintners

*"Black fruits fill out the nose and give a fleshy start to the palate. The fruit feels ripe the mid palate quite supple and although the tannins and acidity are fairly obvious it feels to be more in balance."*

- Derek Smedley MW