

Château de Pressac 2010

CSPC# 756490

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

50% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Website

<http://chateaudepressac.com/indexEN.html>

General Info

Château de Pressac is located in the commune of Saint-Étienne-de-Lisse.

In 1775, the medieval château was sold by the Sieur d'Anglade to Jean-Marc Constantin, captain of the regiment of Marmande, at which time a vineyard existed. The fortified manor house was renovated several times and it was initially founded in the Middle Ages. Towards the beginning of the Renaissance, it was an imposing building with no less than twenty-five towers, some of which remain in existence today as vestiges.

From 1737 to 1747, Vassal of Montviel planted a noble grape variety originating from the Quercy called the Auxerrois. Many in the neighbourhood did the same and the grape soon became known as the Noir de Pressac. Years later, the Sieur Malbec took it to the Médoc, and the variety took on the name "Malbec".

In 1860, Maximi Josselin bought the estate from the Constantin family and undertook large-scale reconstruction and renovation work on the château and its outbuildings.

In 1997, Jean Francois and Dominique Quenin acquired the property, carrying out for their part substantial improvements and extensions of the vineyard. They have in particular replanted on the steeper slopes, once ploughed by oxen, creating narrow terraces in contour lines. The cellars were completely redesigned and renovated in 1999.

Vineyards

The St. Emilion vineyards of Chateau de Pressac consist of 42 hectares planted to 72% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Percent Carmenere and 1% Malbec. The terroir is split into two separate soils. On the plateau you find more limestone, and, on the slopes, there is a stronger concentration of clay with limestone. The vineyard is planted to a vine density ranging from 5,500 to 6,000 vines per hectare. Chateau de Pressac is vinified in cube shaped, concrete vats. The wine is aged in 65% new, French oak barrels for an average of 12 months.

Vinification/ Maturation

Since his original purchase of Chateau de Pressac in 1997, Quenin replanted the entire vineyard. He also invested a large sum of money in rebuilding and modernizing the wine making facilities. This renovation allows Chateau de Pressac to vinify on a parcel by parcel basis, as the estate now has one vat per parcel. Interestingly, at Chateau de Pressac, they use a system of cube shaped, cement vats for the vinification. The 10, cube shaped vats range in size from 45, 50 and 60 hectoliters. Now, everything is moved by gravity in the cellars. The renovation included a new barrel room too. To aid in sorting, Chateau de Pressac began using optical sorting in 2009 and in time for the 2012 Bordeaux vintage, they added the new Oscillys destemmer, vertical presses and a peristaltic pump. Chateau de Pressac strives to remain modern. They are currently using robots for the cap punching.

Tasting Notes

Beautiful deep vibrant red. Subtle fruit on the nose backed by quite elegant oak. On the palate, the oak imparts wonderful structure. Fairly lightweight stuffing and slightly backward fruit. A wine showing a real sense of place.

Cellaring

Drink 2013-2028

Scores/Awards

91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013

91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011

89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013

88-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011

90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011

92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013

91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 31, 2011



Scores/Awards **87-90 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011
15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011
16 points - Decanter.com - April 2011
93 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012
87 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2011 (score only)
Silver Medal - Concours General Agricole Paris 2012
Silver Medal - Concours Mondial de Bruxelles 2012
Commended - Decanter World Wine Awards 2012

Reviews *"A creamy, flattering style, with layers of warm boysenberry confiture, linzer torte and melted black licorice all melded nicely and framed by dark but integrated cocoa and singed mesquite notes. There's a grippy edge through the finish, with an echo of incense that should emerge more with cellaring. Best from 2014- 2023."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This has a lot of dark plum, anise, blueberry and raspberry fruit bouncing off prominent graphite-laden structure. Rather muscular, but with nice cut on the finish. Score range: 91-94"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Nicely textured, this relatively exuberant, medium to full-bodied wine has plenty of red and black fruits, some high-quality subtle oak in the background, and touches of licorice and Christmas fruitcake. It is deep, round, very pure and well-balanced. It should drink nicely for 10-15 years. One of the most gorgeous fortified chateaux in all of St.-Emilion, sitting on a high bluff overlooking much of the appellation.... Proprietor Francois Quenin has turned out one of the best wines I've tasted from this estate, a sleeper of the vintage."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"This is a collaborative consulting effort from two of the top talents from Bordeaux's Right Bank, Dr. Alain Raynaud and Hubert de Bouard. A dark ruby/plum color is accompanied by sweet aromas of berry fruit, licorice and oak. With medium to full body and good depth as well as texture, this 2010 should drink nicely for a decade or more."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A blend of 50% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and just under 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, the de Pressac 2010 has a clean nose with blackberry, macerated dark cherries and a slight brine accent. Moderate rather than spectacular delineation. The palate is medium bodied with dense tannins, good acidity here with a sense of symmetry and focus on the finish. This is well crafted and comes highly recommended. Tasted April 2011."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Cranberries, red cherries and iron. With some air it shows also strawberries and cherry blossom. Well-structured on the palate with nicely layered complexity. Ripe, chewy tannins that still needs a bit of time to integrate. Attractive wine with outstanding potential. Drink from 2016."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Outstanding center palate of rip tannins but a little austere. Full and chewy with mineral and berry character."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Very dark purple. Mellow and quite evolved. Simpler and more open than most but a solid sincere effort."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Reserved on the nose but attractive fruit and freshness on the palate. Tannic structure evident but tannins finely honed. Drink 2016-2025. (16 points)"
- Decanter.com

"..... beautifully deeply fruited on the nose, so real spice. Good pure fruits, and the tunnel of acidity. Great finish, very sweet and soft, but powerful. Good effort. 93/100 (also tasted at Cercle de Rive Droite, same score)."
- JA, The New Bordeaux
