

Château Valandraud Blanc 2021

CSPC# 888294

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

50% Sauvignon Gris, 35% Sauvignon Blanc, 15% Semillon

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

Bordeaux Blanc

Website

<http://valandraud.fr/en/>

Sustainability

Château Valandraud has also led the way in terms of energy efficiency, having implemented bioclimatic architecture into their new winery, which opened in 2021. Bioclimatic architecture is an approach to construction that focuses on sustainability and energy conservation. Château Valandraud's new winery was designed with natural materials like wood, stone, and clay sourced from nearby suppliers, as well as solar panels on the roof for generating electricity. In addition to providing shade to reduce cooling costs, rainwater harvested from the rooftop is collected and reused for irrigation purposes.

The facility also employs an innovative ventilation system that reduces energy consumption while ensuring optimal temperature control at all times and seasons. Natural air currents are directed around the building in order to keep it cool during hot summer days. Any wastewater created by production processes is treated right onsite before being released back into nature, in a full-circle approach to winery efficiency and sustainability.

Incorporating these green initiatives has enabled Château Valandraud to ensure their operations leave minimal environmental impact while still maintaining their high standards of quality wine production. Investing in eco-friendly technology helps them build towards a more sustainable future.

General Info

In 1989, Jean-Luc Thunevin and his wife Murielle bought a tiny 1.5-acre plot in Saint-Émilion near Châteaux Pavie-Macquin, Ausone, and La Clotte. Without the capital to build a full winery, a nearby garage was used...

The resulting wine, Château de Valandraud, was first released in 1991 (the name "Valandraud" is an amalgam of "Vallon de Fongaban" –where its vines grow– and "Andraud" –Murielle's maiden name). By 1995, it was rated 95 by Robert Parker.

Thus, was born the "garage wine" movement, so influential in the 1990s, and earning Thunevin the nickname of "Bad Boy". In 2012, Château Valandraud has been promoted as a 1st classified growth of Saint Emilion. In 2017, Château Valandraud became a full member of Union des Grands Crus de Bordeaux.

In 2000, always looking for new challenges, Jean Luc Thunevin and Muriel Andraud decided to plant some white grape varieties next to the Château Valandraud vineyard. They started the production of a white wine and 'Blanc de Valandraud' was born.

Each year, the blending of Valandraud Blanc is different and chosen after several tastings before the bottling. The style of the white wines is unique. They are filled with lemon, lime, floral, and minerality characteristics, along with ample freshness.

Valandraud Blanc is an exceptional wine that will appeal to connoisseurs of refined and balanced wines. It is particularly appreciated for its complex aromatic notes and freshness in the mouth. This prestigious white wine is perfect for special occasions or elegant meals, where it can perfectly complement delicate and refined dishes.

Winemaker

Eric Talavet. Jean-Luc Thunevin and Murielle Andraud - owners.

Vintage

If 2021 was drier than previous years, two intense climatic episodes impacted the vintage. The first one is the April frost which mobilized our teams for 9 nights. The second is linked to the strong episodes of rain in June, with nearly 180 mm of precipitation. The trio August / September / October was accompanied by low rainfall, allowing to harvest in optimal conditions and preserving the qualitative potential of the vintage.



Vineyards	While Valandraud started off as a small St. Emilion property, over the years, Jean Luc and Murielle have increased holdings due to continued purchases of vineyard land. Today, the property is 10 hectares. The vines are located in various areas in St. Emilion. Valandraud produces red and white wine. Aged 20 years on average, the vines are planted in clay-limestone soils. 2 hectares are devoted to the production of white wine.
Harvest	Manual harvest (3 sortings) followed by storage in a cold room before pressing. The aging is carried out on lees in barrels (80% new and 20% second-fill barrels) Ageing: on lees, 80% in new barrels of 225, 300 and 500 L and 20% in 1-year barrels.
Tasting Notes	Valandraud Blanc offers a rich and complex gustatory experience. It stands out for its harmonious aromatic palette, with notes of honey, butter, citrus, and spices. In the mouth, it is fresh and lively, with a beautiful refreshing finish. This wine pairs perfectly with dishes such as poultry, fish, or shellfish.
Serve with	Lobster canapé, shellfish bisque, poultry
Production	250 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2025
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2023</p> <p>89-91 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2024</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>93 points - Vert de Vin - April 2022</p> <p>96-97 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Sports a friendly brioche edge, along with yellow apple, fennel seed and mirabelle plum notes. Juicy, focused finish. Sauvignon Gris, Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2025. 250 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Valandraud Blanc is a medium to full-bodied, rich, and fleshy wine bursting with aromas of orchard fruit, confit citrus and pastry cream. As ever, it's one of the fatter, more textural white wines produced in Bordeaux, even in this cooler vintage. Jean-Luc Thunevin once worked for a bank owned by the Moueix family, and, without knowing all that much about wine, requested some bottles of the 1955 Pétrus, his wife's birth year. As a good employee, his request was gratified, and his passion for wine began; the rest is history. But today, this emblematic vin de garage has become a vin de terroir, defined by holdings on the cool, shallow clay-over-limestone soils of Saint-Étienne-de-Lisse; and the garage has become a state-of-the-art winery, with all the precision and temperature control that comes with it. The Valandraud style is undeniably fleshy and dramatic, even hedonistic, and the estate's 2021 (all 24,000 bottles of it) exemplify that style in an unusually elegant, middleweight register."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Valandraud Blanc is made from 50% Sauvignon Gris, 35% Sauvignon Blanc, and 15% Semillon, aging in 80% new oak barrels. It has a serious nose of pear tart, white peaches, and cedar, giving way to suggestions of fresh ginger, allspice, and coriander seed. Medium-bodied, the palate is wonderfully intense with impressive tension and loads of mineral accents coming through on the long finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Independent</p> <p><i>"This is showing aromas of smoked almonds, crushed stones, fennel, lavender, cedar, and orange curd. It's flinty, subtly spicy, and medium- to full-bodied, with bright acidity. Mineral and elegant finish. Drink or hold."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

Reviews *“A full-bodied, serious white with complex notes already of flint, crushed stones, white pears, white lavender, cedar, fennel, and lemon grass. Mineral and subtly spicy finish. Structured. Nicely done.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Gorgeous nose, perfumed peach, pear, and floral notes - so appealing and welcoming. Graceful and charming on the palate, this has depth of flavour with a lovely core of juicy white fruits with a steely saltiness giving it that push-pull of fruit and minerality. This has character - it's not a massively weighty wine but has precision and refinement, presenting the elements delicately but still with structure and frame. The flavours linger and they are all perfectly balanced. I love the shot of lemon, bitter orange, and cool stone saline touches. Both the red and white grand vins are delicious and successful in 2021. Drinking window: 2024-2035.”
- GH, Decanter.com

“Full of pleasure, this is flesh on flesh with just the right amount of restraint. White peach, pear, textured, supple, saline, pared back and juicy, Valandraud has over-delivered in both colours in this vintage. September 7-20, 80% new oak, 20% jars.”
- JA, Inside Bordeaux.com

“Flowers, honeysuckle, vanilla, and yellow with orange citrus create the nose. On the palate, the wine cracks with bright, crisp, lemon peel, a touch of orange, spice, and pineapple. The finish balances its opulent, flamboyant nature and its fresh, bright citrus side. The wine blends 50% Sauvignon Gris, 35% Sauvignon Blanc and 15% Semillon. The harvest took place September 7 - September 20. Drink from 2023-2037.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2021 Valandraud Blanc has a well-defined bouquet with yellow plum, kaki fruit and light crushed stone aromas, touches of smoke in the background. The palate is fresh and vibrant with a fine bead of acidity and a hint of sour lemon. Grapefruit and pineapple notes grace the satisfying finish. Excellent.”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2021 Valandraud Blanc was picked September 7–20 and matured in 80% new oak. The nose is well defined and complex, featuring apple blossom, honeysuckle, white chocolate, and white linen scents that gently unfold with time. The palate is fresh, vibrant, powerful, and judiciously spiced, with a slight waxiness to the texture, and it fans out beautifully on the finish. Superb. Just 3,500 bottles produced.”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2021 Valandraud Blanc is rich, deep, and super-expressive. There is a level of intensity here that is beguiling. Lemon confit, marzipan, white flowers, crushed rocks, and slate abound. All the Blanc needs is time—a recent bottle of the 2017 was outstanding. Light tropical notes and white flowers linger on the resonant close.”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2021 Valandraud Blanc is captivating. In most vintages, the Blanc is built on textural richness, but the 2021 has an airy quality that is so alluring. Orchard fruit, lemon confit, jasmine, white pepper, and a discreet touch of oak are beautifully woven together. The Blanc remains gracious and light on its feet, with impeccable balance and tons of sheer class. I loved it.”
- AG, Vinous

“The Grand Vin 2021 Château Valandraud Blanc is mostly Sauvignon Gris but includes 30% Sauvignon Blanc and a splash of Semillon. Crushed stone, pineapple, and bright citrus give way to a medium-bodied, concentrated, incredibly pure, precise white displaying everything that makes this vintage so promising for the whites. As with all the whites here, it has a low pH, racy acidity, yet terrific mid-palate depth, beautiful balance, and a gorgeous finish. This will stand up to the best whites in the vintage.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

Reviews *“The nose is fresh, elegant, precise, racy and reveals a fine fleshy freshness, gourmandize and a certain finesse. There are notes of pulpy/fresh apple, crushed nectarine and more lightly citrus fruits combined with fine zest, kumquat, a subtle almost exotic fruit, crushed berries, and a subtle almost mineral crunch. The palate is fruity, fleshy, fresh, elegant and offers a nice definition, gourmandize, finesse, some volume in finesse, a nice acidic backbone, roundness, some tension in finesse, elegance as well as energy/dynamism. On the palate, this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy apple, ripe/pulpy lemon and more slightly crunchy nectarine combined with a fine touch of pineapple, zest, a discreet hint of lime and a subtle sapid/saline touch on the finish/persistence. Good length.”*

- Vert de Vin
