

# Château Villemaurine 2011

CSPC#765999

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

## Appellation

St.-Emilion

## Website

<http://www.villemaurine.com/en/>

## General Info

Chateau Villemaurine, located not far from the picturesque, St. Emilion village is one for the history books. At least that's where Chateau Villemaurine found the inspiration for their name. During the 8th century, an army of invaders took up residency and made an encampment on the land where this this Right Bank property is located today. The camp was called, Ville Maure, which when translated, it means city of the Moors.

Chateau Villemaurine was purchased in June 2007 by Justin Onclin. Onclin immediately modernized the Bordeaux wine estate. He added a new vat room with numerous, temperature controlled, smaller vats as well as a new tasting area. The low capacity vats allow for parcels to be vinified one at a time. They made another change at Chateau Villemaurine, they brought in Stephane Derenoncourt to consult. Which based on the wines being made today, was a very savvy move.

Chateau Villemaurine produces on average, close to 1,200 cases of Bordeaux wine per year. Villemaurine also makes a second wine, Les Angelots de Villemaurine. The Onclin family also owns Clos Larcis, which is located not far from Chateau Pavie.

They also count another Bordeaux vineyard in their holdings, Chateau Branas-Grand-Poujeaux, located in the Moulis appellation.

## Vintage

The spring came much sooner than usual. As a consequence, we had vegetative renewal 2 weeks ahead compared to 2010. Flowering happened with excellent conditions, which meant good potential for harvest. Rainfall in July and beginning of September made us aware of rot risk. So, we reacted early to avoid rot risk by thinning the leaves, and a summer green harvest in order to ventilate the fruity part of the vines. We did a second thinning out of leaves in September. The harvest was maintained in excellent conditions.

## Vineyards

The 7 hectare Bordeaux vineyard of Chateau Villemaurine rests on top of clay and limestone soils that are planted to 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. The estate plans to increase the amount of Cabernet Franc planted in their St. Emilion vineyards to as much as 20% over time.

## Harvest

Hand harvested. Merlot was harvested from September 21-28, and the Cabernet Franc on September 29.

## Vinification/

## Maturation

The wine of Chateau Villemaurine is whole berry fermented in new, dual walled, 68 hectoliter, stainless steel tanks. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. The wine is aged in 80% new, French oak barrels.

## Tasting Notes

Purple saturated color on this very young wine. Tight aroma not giving anything away. The taste is smooth, showing good fruit and balance, with anise and cherries. This is one for early enjoyment, approachable within 3 - 5 years.

## Production

2,000 cases made

## Cellaring

Drink 2016-2031

## Scores/Awards

**88 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only, 2014

**87-90 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

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

**84-86 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012

**84-86 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012

**91 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2014

**89-90 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012

**90-92 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012

**85-88 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012

**17+ points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2013



**Scores/Awards** **15.5 points** - Decanter.com - April 18, 2012  
**92 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012  
**87 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)  
**88 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2012 (score only)  
**89 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 20, 2014  
**90-92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 24, 2012  
**84-86 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012  
**14.5-15.5+ points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2012  
**91 points** - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)  
**15.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**16.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)

**Reviews** *"The bright beam of raspberry, damson plum and black cherry fruit dances along, flecked with spice and floral notes on the polished finish. A pretty, pure style. Drink now through 2019. 2,000 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"A bright, breezy, floral style, offering violet and cassis notes, with a slightly taut finish. Yet there's not quite as much stuffing in the end. Score range: 87-90"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Over the last four or five years, this property has risen from one of the most disappointing grand cru classes of St.-Emilion to one of the best. The strong, positive, authoritative 2011 exhibits an opaque blue/purple color along with copious aromas of blueberries, black raspberries, graphite and crushed chalk. It offers an attractive attack, a solidly rich mid-palate and a light to moderately tannic finish. One of the more complete wines to be found in this vintage, this medium-bodied wine will benefit from 2-3 years of cellaring and should drink well over the following 15 years. It is a sleeper of the vintage."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"While better than past examples, the 2011 still lacks texture and depth. There is a superficiality to it despite some sweet cherry, strawberry and black currant notes intermixed with oaky nuances. Drink it during its first 7-8 years of life.  
One of the most disappointing performers over much of my career has been this well-known St.-Emilion estate. However, changes are underway. The terroir, which is on the limestone plateau, should produce far better wine than what we have seen in the past. A lack of selection and under ripeness appear to be the culprits in most vintages. Stephane Derenoncourt has been brought in and the 2011, a blend of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, achieved 13.5% alcohol, so ripeness would not appear to be an issue."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The Villemaurine 2011 has a simple, straightforward bouquet with black fruit infused with some tinny elements that become more pronounced with aeration. The palate is ripe and sweet on the entry, but the middle is missing some tension and freshness, the oak too dominant on the finish. Tasted April 2012."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Wonderful aromas of crushed blackberries, red chilies and spices. Full body with round, silky tannins and a juicy, berry, mineral undertone. This is harmonious for the vintage, with a savory character. Try in 2017."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is a little hollow in the mid-palate with juicy fruit, dried citrus and blackberries Minerally. Should develop very well."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"90-92. Barrel sample. Powerful and concentrated, this is a wine with smoky flavors—very dark and intense. The fruit weight is well under the very firm and dry tannic character. "*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Opaque ruby-red. Inky, flinty notes complicate cassis and sweet plum on the nose. Enters with good sweetness, showing ripe black fruit flavors in the middle. But the mouthcoating tannins are a bit astringent."*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

**Reviews** *“Opulent, rich, sweet fruit but a nicely contrasting savoury finish. Attractive meatiness and good persistence suggest much more to come here. Lovely mix between the modernist, rich St-Émilion and the traditional expectations of claret. 17+/20 points”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Rich and ripe with a slight 'confit' fruit note. Firm, tight structure and lightly chewy tannins. Drink 2017-2026.”*  
- Decanter.com

*“Rhubarb on the nose, tight black fruits on the palate, with a tight, closed tannic structure. A shire horse, with huge flanks. Impact yes, will it unfurl? Over extraction signs from the tight slightly bitter finish. But some gum aching tannin and acidity. 91-92”*  
- JA, The New Bordeaux

*“The licorice, smoke and black raspberry nose is more interesting than the medium bodied, red fruit and espresso bean in the finish. There is a touch of dryness in the end note. This is an interesting wine for fans of consultants. When the wine was vinified, Stephane Derenoncourt was looking over the winemaking. When the wine was aged and finished, Hubert de Bouard of Chateau Angelus took over as consultant.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The new owners spent a lot of money to upgrade their winemaking, building all new wine cellars and hired Stephane Derenoncourt for advice. Their investment continues to pay off. Smoky red berries, lush silky texture, medium body and minerality are found in this wine. 90-92 Pts”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Mid depth; sweet and ripe; some spice and menthol; blackcurrants – ripe with spicy oak characters; spicy palate; mid weight with some intensity; elegant effort. [80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc]. Tasted April 2, 2014 UGC. 85-87 [Earlier note] Deepish looking; earthy purple at edge; ripe notes, some jam, menthol and spices; ripe entry with some jammy fruits; fraction stretched in the middle; chunky on the finish. Chewy and chunky St Emilion. [85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc]. Drink 2018-2024. 84-86”*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

*“Some dense fruit here, with a darker and concentrated style to the fruit. The palate seems very primary with a yeasty note coming in. Otherwise though it feels quite harmonious, the fruit texture holds down some good, grainy but ripe tannins pretty well, and there is some fresh acidity here. Overall the effect here is fairly good.”*  
- CK, The Wine Doctor

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