Château Cap de Faugères 2011

CSPC# 756472 750mlx12 13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety Website 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
http://www.chateau-cap-de-faugeres.com/chateau-appellation-castillon-cotes-de-bordeaux-en/silvio-denz-chateau-cotes-de-castillon-wine-cotes-de-castillon.htm
Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux

Appellation General Info

Chateau Cap de Faugeres is owned by Silvio Denz and consulted by Stephan von Neipperg. It is located in Sainte-Colombe, Cote de Castillon and belongs to the portfolio of neighbouring Saint Emilion property Chateau Faugeres. In 1823 the family of Pierre-Bernard (Péby) Guisez acquired the château and their descendants Péby Guisez (the French film producer) and his wife Corinne took over the estate in 1987. They are responsible for the dynamic rise in the fortunes of the château and the superb quality of its wines. Sadly, Péby Guisez died suddenly at the age of 52 and Corinne poured her energies into their dream of raising Château Faugères to the ranks of a Saint Emilion Grand Cru.

Faugères was purchased in 2005 by Silvio Denz, a wine connoisseur and Swiss perfume entrepreneur. Denz's aim is to further enhance the capabilities of the wines over the coming years. Michel Rolland was retained as consultant oenologist and Denz also brought in his friend Stephan von Neipperg, the creator of La Mondotte and owner of *Chateaux Clos de L'Oratorie*, Canon La Gaffeliere, *d'Aguilhe* and *Peyrau*, as a vineyard consultant; the talented cellar master, Alain Dourthe, has stayed on. Denz has invested in the estate, increasing the acreage of vines and creating a new winery designed by world-famous Swiss architect Mario Botta. The Côtes de Castillon Cap de Faugères, is the fourth wine of Chateau Faugeres.

Vintage

The 2011 vintage was characterized by a particularly hot, dry spring, early and rapid flowering, an unusually long summer lasting from April to September, and a magical late autumn, with warm, dry conditions.

Vineyards

This Cotes de Castillon Bordeaux wine is a twenty-hectare vineyard planted at 6,600 vines/hectare and whose average age is 30 years. The Right Bank vineyard is planted to a varietal mix includes 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. The vines are planted on the limestone plateau and on clay and limestone hillsides, immediately adjacent to Saint-Etienne-de-Lisse in the eastern portion of St. Emilion.

Harvest

Harvesting got underway around mid-September, on average some 12 days earlier than in 2010, and continued in sunny conditions until 28 September. Yields of the 2011 vintage of Château Cap de Faugères were around 47 hl/ha.

Vinification/ Maturation The winery at Château Cap de Faugères is the work of internationally renowned architects Jean de Gastines and Patrick Dillon. It consists of 30 temperature-controlled stainless-steel conical vats and 6 wooden vats, each of 50 hl capacity, used for the vinification processes. They are then matured in small oak barriques (50% new) for 12-15 months.

Tasting Notes

The 2011 vintage has high phenolic concentrations, with dark, easily extracted colours, and well-rounded tannins. As in 2010, acidity levels are high, with quite low malic acid, producing a pleasing freshness on the palate. Great aromatic intensity on both nose and palate, with notes of fresh red berries. The saignée method was not employed this year because of the low weight of the fruit (< 1.5 g

per Merlot grape).

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Scores/Awards

88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - February 28, 2014

88-91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

87-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012

80-82 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012

87-88 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012

89 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2014

15 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012

85 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2012 (score only)

87-88points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2012

16 points - Gault & Millau - April 2012 (score only)

92 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)

Reviews

"A bright, tangy style, with damson plum, blood orange and bitter cherry notes, spiked with singed floral hints. A balsamic edge lends a lightly firm feel to the finish. Drink now through 2016. 10,000 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"On the exotic side, with rather ripe blueberry, açai berry and chocolate notes allied to a rich, creamy frame. Ample toast on the finish, but it's integrated in texture. Seems to have pulled off an ambitious style for this vintage."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"A sleeper of the vintage, this excellent blend of 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon from proprietor Silvio Denz exhibits good ripeness as well as plenty of dark black cherry and chocolaty espresso notes, 14% natural alcohol, and a medium-bodied, savory mouthfeel. It should drink well for 5-7 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"This appears over-extracted on the nose with prune and raisin notes. The palate is sweet and extracted but astringent towards the finish."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Blueberry and floral aromas. Medium body, with chewy tannins and a tangy finish. Plenty of mineral character and orange undertones. 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a jammy, ripe wine that smells of the south of France. That gives warmth, richness and a full-bodied character. Black plums, luscious berries and light tannins all make for a wine that can be drunk now."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

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"Deep colour. Jammy fruit then firm acidity and a hard finish. Drink 2014-2018."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Blending 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Franc, the wine offers jammy chocolate cherry liqueur aromas with a medium-bodied, red berry finish."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com