

Château Cap de Faugères 2015

CSPC# 801725

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux

Website

<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>

General Info

Chateau Cap de Faugères 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 Faugères. 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'Oratoire*, 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 Faugères.

Vintage

While the 2014 vintage was saved by some late summer sunshine, in 2015 it was rain that vines desperately needed as a drought that had delivered half the normal rainfall ended in mid-August. A uniform flowering had led to a good fruit set and healthy bunches, but as temperatures soared in June and July the grapes stopped growing and skins thickened prematurely, leading to widespread anxiety. Significant rainfall then fell in August which helped to reinvigorate the vines and the sun returned until 12th September. That was the day that 'shuffled the pack' as Bill Blatch put it, as there was torrential rain in certain places that affected the potential of the harvest quality for those that received it. The rain fell heaviest in the Northern Medoc, the area that has more clay soils planted with Merlot than in the gravelly southern Medoc which Cabernet Sauvignon prefers. Margaux and Saint-Julien, Graves and most of the Right Bank escaped excessive rainfall. The rain came at a tricky moment for the earlier ripening Merlot, with humidity threatening botrytis rot. Some chateaux had to pick early as a result, while those unaffected went on to enjoy sunny days and cool nights for most days until the harvest was completed in mid-October. Those cooler temperatures helped to retain acidity as the vines reached full maturity.

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

picked between September 17 and October 8.

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 months.



Tasting Notes	Deep garnet red with purple highlights. Beautiful fruity intensity with blackcurrant note and raspberry. Fruity attack, refreshing. The wine has body and a nice balance between granular tannins and a structure that holds the fruit to the finish. Bravo. A wine to follow, because it does not reveal all its secrets yet! Fruity finish.
Production	11,250 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2018 - 2029
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>89 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>82 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>88 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>85-87 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>88 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>89 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>87-89 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>13 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Lively, with aromatic pomegranate, rooibos tea and savory notes forming the core, picking up currant coulis and iron accents on the finish. Drink now through 2023. 11,250 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The medium garnet-purple colored 2015 Cap de Faugères has a ripper of a nose, featuring warm plums and baked cherries with hints of garrigue, forest floor and chargrill. Medium to full-bodied, plush and with a savory/meaty character in the mouth, it features impressive restraint and finishes on a mineral note"</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Cap de Faugères is a blend of 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, cropped at 37 hectoliters per hectare, picked between September 17 and October 8. There was a touch of reduction on the nose here. The palate is medium bodied with grainy tannin, a little disjointed at the moment and needing more depth towards the finish. This is a bit hard and brutish at the moment."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Cap de Faugères has a monotone leathery, earthy bouquet that just needs more fruit to come through. It is almost the antithesis of the La Mouleyres on the nose. The palate is medium-bodied with stringy tannin and a dry, over-oaked finish dominated by wood tannin, just as I found in barrel."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Attractive and neatly focused raspberries and red plums with a very supple, polished and succulent palate that delivers plenty of flavor in a refreshing, sturdy frame. This offers plenty. Drink or hold."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Refined and very pretty with blue fruit and dried berry. Full and tight. Cool fruit."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Mild and sweet and inky. Good combination of ripeness and freshness. Just a bit drying on the end. But a good effort. Lots of vitality here."</i> - JR, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"Ripe, dark, brambly fruit. Firm and assertive – very bold in style but a chewy finish."</i> - JL, Decanter.com</p>

Reviews *"Sweet, lush fruits with chocolatey overtones on top of the black cherry essences. Medium/full bodied, you can drink this young, or age it for a few years."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Lush, plush, sweet and packed with licorice, chocolate covered cherries and plums, the wine is sweet, round and easy to drink. This should be quite tasty on release."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Mid depth; some purple at meniscus; riper fruits; little more later picked strawberry tones; little extracted on the palate; rather drying and stewed; needs to settle but sweet fruit back at end; bit extracted and tannins dryish. Should settle. [85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon]. Drink 2019-2025. 85-87"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Vibrant red berry fruit with lively raspberry and rhubarb flavors. Soft, round palate with upfront juicy flavors. Ready to enjoy young."

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2015 Cap de Faugères is a gorgeous entry-level wine from Silvio Denz. Pliant, succulent and inviting, it possesses striking fruit density and balance, especially at this level. Iron, smoke, leather, licorice and herbs given this Merlot-based red added shades of nuance. The 2015 has turned out beautifully. The blend is 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. (AG)"

- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Cap de Faugères, Silvio Denz's entry-level offering, is juicy and powerful from start to finish. Blue and purplish hued fruits, smoke, licorice, sweet spices and new oak give this plump, forward Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux its distinctive personality. The 2015 is not especially complex, but it sure is delicious, especially in its peer group. Tasted three times."

- AG, Vinous

"I tasted the 2015 Cap De Faugères on three different occasions and it rated outstanding on two of the three showings. Offering lots of darker fruits, truffle, and leafy herbs aromas and flavors in a medium-bodied, rounded, forward and sexy style, it should impress for upwards of a decade. One bottle had a fair bit of reduction, so don't be afraid to give this wine some time in a decanter if drinking anytime soon."

- Jeb Dunnuck
