

Château de Francs - Les Cerisiers 2015

CSPC# 801709

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

Francs Cote de Bordeaux

Website

<http://www.chateau-de-francs.com/en/index.html>

General Info

Chateau de Francs is one of the oldest properties in the Bordeaux region, with a history that dates back almost 2,000 years. At the time of its birth, until it became a vineyard, the estate was used as a military fortress.

The remnants of a gate constructed in the 1600's is the first thing you see at Chateau de Francs. Those antique remains clearly point out the long history of Chateau de Francs in the region.

The modern era for Chateau de Francs begins in 1985, when Hubert de Bouard of Chateau Angelus in St. Emilion, along with Dominique Hebrard purchased the property. Dominique Hebrard, like Hubert de Bouard were both well-known and experienced in Bordeaux. As I mentioned, at the time of the purchase, Hubert de Bouard was the owner of Chateau Angelus.

Dominique Hebrard was previously one of the owners of Chateau Cheval Blanc. Today, Dominique Hebrard is also responsible for the wine making at Chateaux Chadeuil and Graves de Barrau as well as at Chateau Trianon in Saint Emilion. Once the new owners took over Chateau de Francs, they began a program of extensive renovations to the entire estate that included the cellars, vat rooms and wine making facilities, as well as replanting parts of the vineyard at Chateau de Francs.

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

The 40 hectare vineyard of Chateau de Francs is planted to 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon for the red wine. The 2.5 hectares that have been reserved for the production of dry white Bordeaux wine are planted to 50% Sauvignon Blanc and 50% Semillon. Although the overwhelming majority of the production of is dedicated to making red wine. The terroir is clay and limestone soils, which is similar to what you find at many of the better estates in St. Emilion.

Vinification

Chateau de Francs also produces a high-end cuvee' from the estates oldest vines, Les Cerisiers. Les Cerisiers is aged in 50% new, French oak barrels for between 12 to 14 months. The blend is usually 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Tasting Notes

Dark purple red with violet hue and almost black core. Elegant nose with aromas reminiscent of cherries and blackberries. On the palate, well medium bodied with medium length and quite closed.



Serve with Chateau de Francs is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.

Cellaring Drink 2021-2028

Scores/Awards **87-89 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2016
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
88 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2016
90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017
89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
87-89 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
88-90 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016
15 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016

Reviews *"The 2015 Francs les Cerisiers is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a tight fist of blackberry and raspberry fruit on the nose, some new oak to be absorbed during its élevage. The palate is medium bodied with firm tannin, quite saline in the mouth with a touch of black olive on the finish. A bit of a brassy Côtes de Francs - but there is nothing wrong with that."*
- NM, Wine Advocate

"A full and very powerful red with big velvety tannins and lots of gorgeous fruit. Loads of blackberry character. 90% merlot, 10% cabernet sauvignon."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Very dark crimson. Great freshness and ripeness on the nose - an attractive combo! Real drive here and a bit of spice. GV?"
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Jolly expression of Merlot (90%). Juicy red berry aromas and flavours plus soft tannins. Oak is present but integrated."
- JL, Decanter.com

"Polished and plush, with soft, silky tannins, juicy ripe, chocolate covered plums and a sweet, fruity finish. This is quite nice this year."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Dark in color, with a medium body, soft, tannins and ripe, elegant, fresh, dark red berries and a hint of cocoa at the end."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
