

Château de Francs - Les Cerisiers 2016

CSPC# 813880

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.

Winemaker

Dominique Hebrard

Vintage

A complicated start: heavy rains during winter and springtime (double the normal amount) have put a lot of pressure from diseases.

Luck was on our side: after 15 days of rain in June, the flowering stage, an essential step, took place in a very homogeneous and rapid way suggesting a generous harvest

A fantastic Summer: a long period from mid-June to mid-September without a drop of water generates a water constraint propitious for the concentration of the grapes and therefore to the density of the wine. The accumulated rainwater reserves and the cool nights (favorable for the preservation of aromas) allowed the berries to ripen without difficulty. The storms of mid-September, which we needed to finish the process of maturation of the plant, allowed an unexpected end of 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 18 months. The blend is usually 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Tasting Notes

After being matured for 18 months in barrels, Château de Francs "les Cerisiers" 2016, 90% Merlot wine reveals a bouquet of ripe red fruits, vanilla accompanied by a touch of cabernet pepper. A lot of freshness and suppleness, the mouth gets stronger, carried by vigorous but never aggressive tannins. This bottle is ready to drink, it will go perfectly with grilled red meats and cheeses.



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. Decant at least 1 hour before to enjoy the explosive aromas, Serve cool around 17 ° C.

Cellaring Drink 2019-2029

Scores/Awards **86-88 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017
93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019
93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017
90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017
89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017
88-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017

Reviews *"The 2016 Francs les Cerisiers, a joint venture between Hubert de Boüard and Dominique Hebrard, has a straightforward bouquet with bilberry and blackberry fruit, just a touch of undergrowth tucked behind. The palate is medium bodied with firm tannin, rather surly at the moment and I would be seeking more tension on the finish once this is in bottle. I was expecting a little more given the names involved."*

- NM, Wine Advocate

"Deeply ripe dark berries with a fragrant, violet note and chalky, stony notes, too. There's a very plush and cool-fruited feel to the palate, as well as a freshness of fruit and tannins to close it out in style. A blend of 90 per cent merlot and ten per cent cabernet sauvignon. Try from 2023."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Really excellent with a beautiful depth of fruit and a wonderful center palate. Full-bodied, fruit-driven red yet one that's in check and balanced. Well done. Better than the 2015?"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Bright purple. Comfortable. Unforced. Early maturing but sappy and vibrant."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"This is a wine with ambition, and for me offers great potential for sappy, fresh fruit and smoky notes - great for matching with food over next five to 10 years. Precise and juicy. Drink: 2022-2035"

- JA, Decanter.com

"Deeply colored, the wine is medium bodied, fresh, forward and refined, with a character showing off its red and black plum, thyme and round textured finish with ease."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Often a stunning value, the Les Cerisiers is once again fabulous in 2016. Sweet red cherry, espresso, herbs and crushed flowers wrap around a core of fleshy fruit in a soft, supple Côtes de Bordeaux loaded with personality. The 2016 is a delicious wine from proprietors Hubert De Boüard and Dominique Hebrard. Drink this succulent red over the next handful of years. Tasted two times"

- AG, Vinous
