

Clos du Roy 2019

CSPC# 801702

750mlx12

15.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet sauvignon.
Appellation	Fronsac
Website	http://www.vignobleshermouet.com/en/the-wines/clos-du-roy/
Sustainability	Environmental stewardship underpins the vineyard replanting programme and in 2018, the property joined the Environmental Management System. Fully aware of the natural wealth and complex ecosystem in their vineyards, Vignobles Hermouet have made a commitment to certification and relentlessly strive to preserve their soils and determination to pass their property on befittingly.
General Info	<p>Thirty years ago, Vendée-born agricultural engineer Philippe Hermouet began to knuckle down to the task of learning how to grow wine after he arrived 'by chance' in the Fronsac area. He bought Clos du Roy in Saillans, in the Fronsac appellation area, from his in-laws – the property shares its name with that of his wife, whose maiden name was Joëlle Roy. Philippe Hermouet also bought Château Roc Meynard around Tertre de Meynard, in the neighbouring village of Villegouge in the Bordeaux appellation area.</p> <p>The original 10-hectare vineyard in 1987 now covers 50 hectares and both vines and technical infrastructures have been constantly reviewed over the years. The latest change came in spring 2018 with the planting of 8,000 Malbec vines which will broaden the aromatic spectrum of Vignobles Hermouet wines. The range is already famed for its diversity and stems from a high proportion of Merlot vines, complemented by Cabernet Franc, Cabernet-Sauvignon, Sauvignon blanc and Sémillon.</p> <p>"The vineyard plots had to be entirely redesigned, and the varietal range adapted to our mosaic of soil types and aspects – this is Fronsac! There is clay on the hillsides, rocky limestone outcrops on the plateau, 'molasse du Fronsadais' and sandy clay at the foot of the hills. Such a diverse array of soils enables us to make wines renowned for their 'Fronsac complexity' – they are naturally powerful with substantial ageability", explains Philippe Hermouet, a staunch supporter of Fronsac to which he devotes part of his time as Chairman of the Fronsac Wine Council.</p>
Winemaker	Consultant winemaker Bruno Lacoste
Vintage	The weather statistics in 2019 were close to ten-year averages, despite the heatwave in July. 2019's hydric deficit was only 10% off ten-year figures. However, these averages do not report the varying, individual challenges that vines underwent depending on their age, the variety and terroir, where every winegrower had to take decisions to suit the needs of each parcel. This is what constituted the appeal of this vintage, which was unpredictable, worrying, disconcerting and in the end an exhilarating reward for all the hard work carried out
Vineyards	22 hectares in the Village of Saillans, 35 km North-East Bordeaux! Along the coasts and on calcareous clay plateaus, with a dominant proportion of clay! 90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, Vines 25-year-old. Between 5050 and 6000 vines/ha! Natural sodding of the vines and mechanical work under each vine. Integrated protection of the vineyard (Optimus system).!
Harvest	After a very hot and dry summer, the rain fell at the right time, relieving the vines and preserving the grapes and their beautiful maturity. First day of harvest on Tuesday 17 September at dawn for our two hectares of Blanc. Then we started again on Wednesday 25 September to start with the reds, with the Merlot, which represents the vast majority of our vineyard. The whole team is there to reap the benefits of the year's work in the vineyards, from winter pruning to the cellar for fermentation!
Vinification/ Maturation	Fermentation in stainless steel tanks at controlled temperature! Soft crushing (small vertical press)! Malolactic fermentations in tanks. Aged for 12 months in French oak barrels of which a third new. Bottling after 20 months!



Tasting Notes	Purple colour with violet hue. Expressive nose with distinct toasting aroma, dark chocolate, coffee, mild spices, and vanilla, backed by juicy fruit reminiscent of blackberries and mulberries. On the palate well structured with firm tannins, fine acidity, elegant roasting flavour, and good aromatic depth.
Serve with	Best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	50,000 bottles produced.
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2030
Scores/Awards	<p>90-92+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2020</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>89-91 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>92-93 points - Yves Beck - June 2020</p> <p>90-91 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2019 Clos du Roy has quite an oaky/cedary nose to begin, soon giving way to vibrant black cherries, warm plums, and ripe blackberries scents with touches of tobacco leaf and new leather. Full-bodied, big, rich, and concentrated (15% alcohol), the palate exudes black fruit preserves and spicy accents, framed by firm, ripe, rounded tannins, and plenty of freshness, finishing on a minty note. Barrel Sample: 90-92+."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Lots of blue fruit with slate and lavender character. Medium to full body. Chewy tannins."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Medium-bodied, soft, fresh, vibrant, easy to like charmer with a core of dark plums, sweet cherries, coffee bean and cocoa. You can enjoy this as soon as the wine hits the stores and over the next decade or so."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"The 2019 Clos du Roy has a well-defined bouquet with ample blackberry, raspberry, and floral scents on the nose. Nicely focused with well-integrated oak. The palate is medium-bodied, light black pepper notes infusing the crunchy black fruit, with plenty of freshness on the finish. This is a great Fronsac from Clos du Roy."</i> - NM, Vinous</p> <p><i>"The 2019 Clos du Roy is racy and bold in the glass. Super-ripe red cherry, kirsch, spice, mint, and pomegranate all race through the 2019. This is an especially succulent style, with all the elements in the right place. Plush fruit and soft contours add to the wine's immediacy."</i> - AG, Vinous</p> <p><i>"The 2019 Clos Du Roy is going to be hidden gem. Offering up a rich yet still fresh bouquet of black raspberries, chocolaty herbs, and licorice, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a ripe, rounded texture, and a great finish. It should keep for a decade."</i> - Jeb Dunnuck</p> <p><i>"Purplish purple. Intense bouquet marked by limestone notes and black berries. Peppery touch. On the palate the wine is sweet and juicy. It has body and tannins with fine grins revealing themselves slowly. The structure is lively and confers race. It ideally supports the aromatic expression and is in symbiosis with the tannins. A great success!"</i> - Yves Beck MW</p> <p><i>"The nose is fruity, racy, and well-built. It reveals notes of ripe cassis, wild strawberry, small notes of wild blackberry associated with touches of violet, blueberry, tonka bean as well as toasted hints, sweet spices, and a discreet hint of vanilla. The palate is fruity, well-balanced, fresh and offers an acidulous frame, tension, and a good definition. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy wild cassis, juicy wild strawberry, small notes of blackberry associated with a touch of crunchy/juicy violet plum, violet as well as fine hints of small juicy red berries, tonka bean and toasted. An acidulous frame."</i> - Vert de Vin</p>
