

# Château De La Dauphine 2011

CSPC# 764029

750mlx12

14.0% Alc./Vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc
<b>Appellation</b>	Fronsac
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.chateau-dauphine.com/en/our-wines/">http://www.chateau-dauphine.com/en/our-wines/</a>
<b>General Info</b>	Once owned by the Moueix family, they sold in 2001 to Jean Halley, wanting to concentrate on their Pomerol and Saint Emilion holdings. I wonder sometimes if they regret this decision, as the Halleys have shown just what exceptional <i>terroir</i> this estate has, teased out by a major investment in the vineyard and cellars. Investments of over 10 million euros have resulted in a complete restoration of the chateau and chais, replanting and restructuring of the vineyard and vineyard processes, careful lowering of yields to increase concentration in the berries, new equipment to ensure minimal disturbance of the grapes, the installation of a gravity-based system with a rotating walkway to ensure gentle and consistent filling of the tanks, and the introduction of a second wine. Denis Dubourdiou has worked with the chateau as consultant oenologist for the past five years, alongside 32-year-old Guillaume Halley – Jean Halley’s son and now La Dauphine’s owner and director. Jean Halley died accidentally April 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2011.
<b>Vineyards</b>	The 31-hectare Bordeaux wine vineyard of Chateau de La Dauphine is located in the Fronsac appellation. The terroir is clay and limestone soils. The vineyards are planted with 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 6,300 vines per hectare. On average the vines are 33 years of age. To increase the quantity of Chateau de La Dauphine, Halley was able to merge Chateau Canon de Brem into La Dauphine. That was quite a feat considering that Canon de Brem was located in the Canon Fronsac appellation.
<b>Soil</b>	Soil types- clayey-limestone, Fronsac “mollasse”
<b>Harvest</b>	Traditional tilling of the soil, leaf removal on one side, “green” harvesting. The ripe fruit is picked by hand with two sorting operations before and after the de-stemmer. Harvested from September 6-21, 2011
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	The wine of Chateau de La Dauphine is made in a completely modern, state of the art facility in the Fronsac appellation. In fact, it currently offers the most advanced wine making facilities in the entire commune as well as in much of the Right Bank! The semi underground, circular vat room has 26 concrete vats around the sides along with 8 central stainless-steel vats for vinification. This allows the parcels to be vinified on a plot by plot basis. A gravity-based system with a rotating walkway was installed to ensure gentle and consistent filling of the tanks. On average, the wine of Chateau de La Dauphine is aged in 30% new, French barrels oak for 12 months. The average annual production of Chateau de La Dauphine is close to 6,500 cases of Bordeaux wine per year. There is a second wine, Delphis, which is aged in 10% new oak.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Chateau de La Dauphine is a top value Bordeaux wine and one of the best wines from Fronsac Canon Fronsac. It’s filled with lusty, ripe, dark, jammy fruit, soft textures and good concentration. It drinks well young.
<b>Production</b>	6,666 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2013-2021
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<b>89 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 30, 2014 <b>86 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014 <b>85-86 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2012 (score only) <b>86-88 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012 <b>86-89 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar - May/June 2012 <b>16 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012



**Scores/Awards** **15.5 points** - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2012  
**87-89 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2012  
**87 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**15 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**90 points** - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)  
**Silver Medal** - Concours des Grands Vins de France Macon 2013

**Reviews** *"Solid, with a charcoal spine holding the dark plum, currant and blackberry fruit together. Lightly chewy grip graces the finish, where the charcoal edge lingers. Drink now through 2017. 6,666 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"This large estate, one of the most beautiful properties in Fronsac, produces a wine made from 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Delicious berry fruit, good spice and chalky minerality emerge from this medium-bodied, attractive, fleshy 2011. Enjoy it over the next 7-8 years."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"86-88. Barrel sample. Soft and fruity with red currant fruits and forward light tannins, this wine is attractive and already drinkable."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Good medium ruby-red. Fresh, bright aromas of raspberry, chocolate and minerals. Not expansive or large-scaled but nicely delineated thanks to bright acidity, which frames the red fruit and herbal flavors. Finishes with a firm tannic backbone but avoids coming off as dry. I like this wine's clean, fresh personality"*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Inky black cherry colour. Ripe and intense and rich on the nose. Lots of sweet fruit but very fresh too and so rounded. Deep fruit pie. Structured and still so smooth."*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*"Leaner weight this year but pleasant fruit and a touch of aromatic complexity. Fine tannic frame. Drink 2015-2022."*  
- JL, Decanter.com

*"Licorice, chocolate and earthy scents with black raspberry, this wine is open and soft on the palate, finishing with jammy black cherry. This Fronsac estate is consulted by Denis Dubourdieu"*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

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