

Château De La Dauphine 2021

CSPC# 814269

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Fronsac
Website	http://www.chateau-dauphine.com/en/our-wines/
Sustainability	Certified organic since 2015 and with a vineyard that is entirely biodynamic. Level 3 High Environmental Value
General Info	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 Halley's 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 th , 2011.
Winemaker	Consultant oenologist: Julien Viaud & Michel Rolland
Vintage	Making wine in 2021 required serious determination, with winegrowers being faced with a series of calamities. The growing season began with a month punctuated by long nights battling against deadly frosts; a battle that was successful to varying degrees depending on the location and the effectiveness of the methods used. The pale vines at the end of May then exploded into growth, greatly complicating the task of tying them to trellises. The incessant rain in May and then in the second half of June and the first half of July required a record number of treatments against mildew. And during all this time the grass kept growing... At the beginning of August, we were still waiting for a lull: it finally came on the 8th and only lasted a month! However, hopes of a reasonable harvest remained alive, although our stress levels rose with the lurking threat of Botrytis as the grapes gradually reached a satisfactory degree of ripeness. And then there was a shortage of pickers...
Vineyards	The 31-hectare Bordeaux wine vineyard of Chateau de La Dauphine is located in the Fronsac appellation. The terroir is clay and limestone soil. 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.
Soil	Soil types- clayey-limestone, Fronsac "mollasse".
Harvest	Plot by plot harvest from October 1st to 13 th .
Vinification/ Maturation	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. Fermentation at 26°. Maceration for 30 days. Vertical pressing with separation of the musts. Malolactic fermentation in Barrels (30%). Maturing separate batches in oak for 12 months with 30% of new barrels.
Tasting Notes	Beautiful wine with a deep, brilliant violet color. The nose is expressive and highly aromatic, with notes of "crème de cassis", red plum jam, and Morello cherry. On aeration, the nose reveals more floral notes of peony and acacia, as well as toast and grilled almonds. The palate is well-balanced, with good concentration. The 2021's tannic structure is creamy, smooth, and balanced with a lovely acidity derived from the Dauphine limestone terroir.



Tasting Notes	The finish is long and delicious! We return to the fruity aromatic bouquet that this wine offers on the nose
Serve with	Decant 3 hours ahead. Chateau La Dauphine is best paired with lamb with a honey sauce, sliced beef with morels. Veal Marengo, pecorino cheese with truffle, red tuna Rossini. Bolognese lasagna, chocolate cake with salt.
Production	90,000 bottles
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2034.
Scores/Awards	<p>84 points - Yohan Castaing, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>88-90 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>81-83 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>92 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>90 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>92-93 points - Yves Beck - June 2022</p> <p>91 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>91-92 points - Terres de Vins - April 2022</p> <p>94 points - Vert de Vin - February 2024</p> <p>92-93 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>90 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021</p> <p>89-90 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>92 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A strong performance, the 2021 de la Dauphine impressed me on each of the three occasions I tasted it. Exhibiting aromas of cherries, berries, pencil shavings and loamy soil, it's medium to full-bodied, supple, and charming, with a pretty core of fruit, soft tannins and a demonstrative, fruit-driven personality."</i> - YC, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A strong performance, the 2021 de la Dauphine impressed me on each of the three occasions I tasted it. Exhibiting aromas of cherries, berries, pencil shavings and loamy soil, it's medium to full-bodied, supple, and charming, with a pretty core of fruit, soft tannins and a demonstrative, fruit-driven personality."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc, the 2021 de la Dauphine possesses a spicy, slightly oaky bouquet, followed by a juicy, medium-bodied, supple and tense palate."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Intensely coloured, deep and rich purple in the glass. Smells rich with soft floral tones. The palate is extremely well textured - smooth, supple, generous, and expressive. Tannins are mouth filling but silky and this has a real vein of sweet liquorice and graphite as well as cedar, clove, and vanilla. The acidity provides the succulence while the minerality and salinity from the limestone forms the underlying tension and the texture on the tongue. Quite direct, while also having layers of flavour. A lovely job from the team this year. Consultant Julien Viaud, who has been with the estate since 2018. A top Fronsac pick!"</i> - GH, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"Carefully extracted blackberry and red cherry fruits that just skirts full ripeness, there are leafy raspberry and rose stem flavours here that add to a feeling of austerity, but it is carried through by a juicy mouthwatering slate freshness. 30% new oak, certified organic, Director Stephanie Barousse."</i> - JA, janeanson.com</p> <p><i>"With deep color, once past the freshly picked floral aromas, you find that the fruits are on the dark red side of the style range, with round textures and a soft, polished, sweet, lively, black raspberry and energetic plum finish. Drink from 2023-2034."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p>

Reviews *"The 2021 Château de La Dauphine has an energetic bouquet of perfumed black cherries, cassis fruit and light violet aromas: there's good presence here. The palate is quite structured, delivering insistent grip, impressive salinity, and a very harmonious finish. It might just lack a bit of persistence, but otherwise this is a very fine Fronsac."*

- NM, Vinous

"The 2021 La Dauphine is irresistible. It offers up copious black cherry, plum, espresso, licorice, and menthol. Flashy and exuberant, yet also restrained in keeping with the style of the year, La Dauphine is very clearly one of the standouts in Fronsac."

- AG, Vinous

"Dark ruby core, purple reflections, subtle brightening on the rim. Ripe blackberries, plums and delicate liquorice notes with fine savoury tobacco notes and a floral touch. Juicy, fine fruit sweetness, ripe berries, integrated tannins with mineral notes and a generous finish. Has good ageing potential."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is fruity, elegant, racy and offers a nice fine/racy/powerful grain, meticulousness, and power. We find notes of bright Boysenberry, blackcurrant and more lightly cardamom associated with small touches of mocha, blond tobacco, and fine hints of toasted almond. The palate is fruity, discreetly tight and offers freshness, minerality, good definition, a tangy structure as well as a little tension. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fresh blackberry, violet and slight notes of cornflower associated with touches of cocoa/mocha, creamy strawberry, pulpy/fresh small fruits, graphite, racy minerality as well as fine hints of vanilla and a hint of toasted and vanilla. Nice definition and freshness on the palate. Complexity, roundness, volume. The tannins are precise and finely tense."

- Vert de Vin

"The nose is fruity and reveals elegance, roundness, and a certain delicacy. There are notes of juicy green apple, crisp peach, and a hint of lemon, combined with hints of lychee, lemon blossom, a hint of lime and an imperceptible touch of pineapple. The palate is fruity and offers juiciness, minerality, good definition, tension, airiness, roundness, delicacy and sapidity. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/pulpy apple, crisp/acidic nectarine and more lightly lemon combined with hints of salinity as well as fine points of gunflint, yuzu, a subtle hint of quenette, fresh/toasted almond, and a subtle hint of toastiness that coats the palate."

- Vert de Vin

"Inky dark purple core and hue. Fragrant nose offering cassis and wild berries with mild oak and some chalky notes. The palate is polished and supple with a good degree of freshness, medium weight with elegant dark fruit, balanced oak, and a pure long finish."

- AL, Tasted.com

"Beautiful chalky expression of the bouquet which announces freshness, smoothed by minty and floral nuances. The wine is delicious, slightly creamy. The freshness of the bouquet is well reflected on the palate where the minerality appears on the finish. The tannins, somewhat tight, harmonize with the tension of the acid structure. A promising wine which will flourish during its aging. 2025-2038."

- Yves Beck

"Nice burst of fruit from the first nose, precise and appetizing register. We can sense good maturity and substance. This is confirmed on the palate: energetic and sapid, the material unfolds smoothly on a grain of finely brushed tannin, a good acidic structure, and a pretty thirst-quenching finish. It is a good interpretation of the vintage, which we will enjoy drinking."

- Terre de Vins