

Château La Vieille Cure 2011

CSPC# 763549

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety

75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

Fronsac

Website

http://www.la-vieille-cure.com/ENG/propriete_ENG.html

General Info

With its 20 hectares (50 acres) in one single plot, Château La Vieille Cure appears on a famous map of the Guyenne region, known as the Belleyme map, dated 1780. Parish records show grapes were grown there in the 17th Century. The vines occupy a privileged location on plateaus and slopes that are oriented to the southeast. The estate runs along the River Isle at an elevation of 65 metres, where it soaks up the sun, while enjoying perfect drainage. This situation favors the growth of grapes that ripen generously and under ideal physical conditions.

The property has been greatly renovated since 1986 when it was bought by American friends: Bordeaux lovers who recognized the exceptional potential of the estate.

Parts of the vineyard were extended and replanted, without of course touching the very old vines, some of which go back over 75 years. A new winery was built, housing the latest equipment, and aging in oak casks was begun. The overall objective of these investments was to make high quality wines worthy of worldwide distribution.

The new owners launched a new marketing program for the wines, based on bottling exclusively at the chateau. Château La Vieille Cure had been little known outside Fronsac but is now exported to more than 25 countries. The main markets remain France, the United States, China and Britain.

Improvements are still continuing. The owners are driven by perfectionism and intend to continue their efforts to make the wine amongst the highest ranking in the Libourne area of the Right Bank of the Dordogne.

Vineyards

A plateau of limestone; bordering slopes with chalk and clay soils. 20 hectares comprising Merlot 74%; Cabernet Franc 22%; Cabernet Sauvignon 4%

Harvest

The harvest is 100% manual. After automatic de-stemming, the grapes are sorted by hand. Only perfect grapes are sent to the temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats.

Vinification/

Maturation

Fermentation in stainless steel vats for three weeks with built-in temperature controls. Aged in oak barrels – 30% new oak

Tasting Notes

Good mid-palate. Quite nice. Trey: Red fruits abound. Extracted nose, with red licorice, mint and sweet fruit. There's a bit of tannin, but it's still in balance.

Production

100,000 bottles made

Cellaring

Drink 2012-2024

Scores/Awards

89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212- April 2014

90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012

88-89 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012

15 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012

15.5 points - Decanter.com - April 2012

87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 23, 2012

Reviews

"Still primal, with sappy kirsch and plum notes. There's also lots of sweet toast to be soaked up, but this has a fleshy edge that belies the vintage's profile. Score range: 89-92"

- JM, Wine Spectator



Reviews

“An amazing effort in this vintage, La Vieille Cure has been one of the top 3 or 4 Fronsac’s in most recent vintages. The 2011 is fashioned from 75% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon. Many consumers will probably drink this wine entirely too young (and I have no problem with that), there is no doubt it has serious aging potential. A true revelation, this sleeper of the vintage is one of the finest wine’s money can buy. The dense ruby/purple color is followed by a sumptuous palate impression of silky black cherries and blackberries intermixed with wild strawberries. Opulent and rich with the abundant glycerin and lavish concentration concealing moderate tannins, this is a sensational effort in this challenging vintage. With nearly 14% natural alcohol as well as tremendous ripeness, it should drink well for 10+ years. This sleeper of the vintage merits consumer attention.”

- RP, Wine Advocate

“The 2011 (mostly Merlot) struts its stuff with a deep ruby/purple color in addition to lots of creme de cassis, mocha and floral notes. Full-bodied with a juicy, opulent personality, impressive purity, a broad, expansive texture, sweet tannin, and enough acidity for definition and vibrancy in the finish, it should drink well for 10-12+ years. The 2011 is a sleeper of the vintage.

La Vieille Cure may well be the reference point for Fronsac given its performances over the last decade. Consistently one of the top two or three wines of the appellation.”

- RP, Wine Advocate

“Mineral and blueberry character with hints of wet earth. Medium to full body, with fine tannins and a clean finish. Needs a little more fruit in the mid-palate to be outstanding.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“A satisfactory vintage for these two appellations, albeit less rich and concentrated than 2008, 2009 and 2010. The clay and limestone soils dealt admirably with the heat and drought of the year and the Merlot has produced some fresh, aromatic wines. Colours are deep and there is enough fruit to match the relatively high acidity. Then instance of drying tannins is less marked and, in general, producers have not tried to over extract. The structure of the wines will permit some mid-term ageing. While there are no high-scoring wines, as usual, there will be some good-value wines for enjoyable drinking here.”

- SS, Decanter.com

“Licorice, coffee bean, vanilla, black cherry and earth scents open to a fleshy, flashy, medium bodied, fresh Bordeaux wine that ends with chocolate covered cherries. From an assemblage of 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine reached 14% alcohol. 89-91 Pts”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
