

Château La Vieille Cure 2016

CSPC# 763549

750mlx12

15.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

87% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 3% 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.

Winemakers

Jean Luc Thunevin - winemaker

Michel Rolland & Jean-Philippe Forts - consultants

Vintage

Around six months of heavy rainfall followed by four months of drought and heat caused the winemakers of Bordeaux to break out in a cold sweat during the growth period for the 2016 vintage. The fear that they were facing a total disaster was at the back of their minds all the time. The stresses and strains experienced not only by the vines, but also the people who worked with them, were huge – and it turned out to be crucial that the right decisions were taken concerning the work in the vineyards. A feeling of relief only broke out shortly before the harvest, turning into one of jubilation after the musts had fermented. Now it was clear after all the stress that the wine in their cellars was of exceptional quality. There had probably never been such a strange vintage in Bordeaux ever before! The only appellation which surpasses almost all previous vintages in 2016 is Fronsac.

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 – 50% new oak

Tasting Notes

The wines produced at Chateau la Vieille Cure are, by tradition, fine wines for connoisseurs and for aging. While some vintages benefit from waiting 10 or more years, most are best appreciated between 4 and 6 years. With a perfect balance of fruit, aromas and tannins, they are ideal accompaniments to a meal, including spiced and spicy dishes, but can be enjoyed at any time.

Serve with

Chateau La Vieille Cure is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted braised and grilled dishes. Chateau La Vieille Cure is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta.



Production 4,583 cases made
Cellaring Drink 2020-2032
Scores/Awards

91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019
91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017
92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018
90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017
92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019
92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017
90 points/Editor's Choice - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017
93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017
90-92+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2017
90-92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2017
93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019
89-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017
93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017

Reviews *"This has a warm fruitcake note out front, backed by flavors of frankly ripe plum and boysenberry preserves and a lush, toasty finish. Has enough acidity to keep it honest, but this is on the flattering side of the ledger for sure. Drink now through 2028. 4,583 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"This races along like it has somewhere to be, with excellent focus to the raspberry and cassis fruit, a flash of bay and a well-embedded chalky edge. Rock-solid. Score range: 91-94"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2016 La Vieille Cure has a deep garnet-purple color and quite a savory nose of chargrilled meats, tapenade, beef dripping and dried herbs over a core of plum preserves and Black Forest cake. Full-bodied, rich and packed with black plums and savory layers, it has a firm, velvety frame and fantastic length."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 La Vieille Cure has a backward but detailed bouquet that will surely find its voice once in barrel. You can tell that there is attractive pure black fruit here. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannin, plenty of toasty black fruit, but it manages to retain fine delineation and I appreciate the spicy, peppery finish that lingers. This is a sterling follow-up to the 2015 Vieille Cure."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"A riper style with some darker-plum and mulberry aromas, framed in lightly spicy and cedary oak influence. The palate has good depth and silkiness with a wealth of fine, plush tannins and a smooth, fresh and flavorful finish. A blend of merlot, cabernet franc and cabernet sauvignon. Try from 2022."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A tight and linear red with such beautiful class and depth. Full body, polished tannins and a long, long finish. We will see which is better: 2015 or 2016."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Rich but stylish, this wine is going to be delicious. With great fruit and ripe tannins, it has power, but it shows that lightly, allowing plenty of room for the acidity. Drink this wine from 2022."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Fragrant, neat. A little pinched but not overdone."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Last year this was one of the wines of the vintage for me. It is a little more finely grained in 2016, slightly more structured and with a touch higher acidity, but still has those succulent black cherry and damson purée fruits. It also retains the twist of glamorous charred oak notes that give it punch and purpose. An excellent wine. Barrel Sample"

- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews *"Fresh, sweet, juicy, polished fat, dark berries, licorice, and dark chocolate. Round, not refined, but fun to taste."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep at centre; tight to edge; little earth; some Cabernet Franc influence; attractive; elegant entry; good fruit; strong acidity; nice sinew and balance; will work well; elegant but has length, sinew and acidity. Will develop nicely [18ha, 75% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon]. Tasted Grand Cercle 1/4/17. Drink 2020-2028. 90-92+ [second tasting]:"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Vibrant at edge; deep and centre; quite solid; some earthy tones [Cab Franc?]; attractive; sweet entry to the palate; nice stuff; balanced; well proportioned. Has elegance. Nice plummy fruit tones with some blackcurrant influence. Nicely done. Good Fronsac. Tasted at Jean-Luc Thunevin 1/4/17. Drink 2020-2028. 90-92"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"The 2016 La Vieille Cure is fabulous. Racy and voluptuous in the glass, the 2016 is seriously beautiful. Raspberry jam, white chocolate, spice, leather and rose petal notes infuse this super-expressive, plush Fronsac. La Vieille Cure is a wine of real character and pedigree. I loved it."
- AG, Vinous

"La 2016 Vieille Cure is once again a serious overachiever. Voluptuous and racy in the glass, the 2016 blasts across the palate with a heady mélange of dark cherry, plum, spice, rose petal and licorice notes. This is an especially sumptuous, flamboyant wine that will deliver considerable pleasure upon release. Tasted two times."
- AG, Vinous

"From one of the top terroirs in Fronsac and made with the help of talented Jean-Luc Thunevin, the 2016 Château La Vieille Cure is 80% Merlot and 10% each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, all aged in 50% new oak (a small part is also brought up in tank). This deep purple-colored effort got a big "Wow" in my notes and boasts a head-turning bouquet of cassis and black raspberry fruits intermixed with notes of dried flowers, vanilla bean, and leafy herbs. With remarkable purity, medium to full body, silky tannins, and a great finish, it's a thrilling Fronsac that I suspect might be one of the best to date. Drink it over the coming 10-15 years."
- Jeb Dunnuck
