

Château La Vieille Cure 2018

CSPC# 763549

750mlx12

15.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Website
General Info

87% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon
AOC Fronsac

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

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

Michel Rolland (renowned oenologist who also works at Clinet, L'Evangile, Nénin, Beau-séjour Bécot, La Dominique...) accompanied by Jean-Luc Thunevin.

Vintage

Having virtually drowned the pruning team during the winter and frayed our nerves in the spring with an epic battle against mildew, the vintage then made a 180 degree turn at the beginning of July and the "Bordeaux miracle" occurred once again, with a magnificent summer and early autumn!

The summer of 2018 was the hottest since 2003, but without the latter's excesses and water stress since reserves had been amply replenished at the beginning of the year and enabled the vines to cope with the lack of rain during July and August. As we started picking the property's 53 hectares at the end of September, the weather remained glorious, enabling the Merlot on the limestone plots and the Cabernet to finish ripening in perfect, warm conditions.

The vintage produced small berries with thick, ripe skins resulting in richly-coloured wines. The seeds were also somewhat unusual, revealing their advanced maturity with a dark brown colour and very little astringency. During the vinification process, extraction was very gentle, resulting in structured yet silky wines. They offer tremendous aromatic richness, ranging from red and black fruit (blackcurrants, redcurrants, raspberries) to a hint of liquorice and spicy notes for the Cabernet. 2018 will be remembered as much for the trials of its spring as for the richness of its wines. In addition to being one of Bordeaux's most structured vintages, 2018 has a surprising freshness: two characteristics that promise an excellent capacity to age.

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
Production**

Fermentation in stainless steel vats for three weeks with built-in temperature controls. Aged in oak barrels – 30% new oak
7,633 cases made.



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.

Cellaring Drink 2026-2038

Scores/Awards **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2021
89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019
92+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim - April 2021
92-94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim - April 2019
92-93 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - April 2019
94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - March 2019
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021
90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019
90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019
92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021
89-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019
91-93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019
92 points - Marcus del Monego MW - May 2019
Review Only - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2018

Reviews *"This has a succulent feel, pulling you into its mix of fresh plum, red cherry and raspberry coulis flavors while bergamot and red tea accents stay in the background. Finish is juicy but tightly focused, with an underlying chalky thread lending precision. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink now through 2030. 7,633 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This is showing its toast, with a coating of roasted vanilla, but offers a core of solid plum and blackberry compote flavors and a good racy feel on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Score Range: 89-92."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2018 La Vieille Cure opens with cedar chest, graphite and tree bark scents, giving way to a core of baked blackberries, stewed plums and cherry compote, with wafts of Sichuan pepper and star anise. The full-bodied palate (15% alcohol) is wearing a lot of oak at this stage, with a good core of baked black fruits and loads of exotic spice accents, supported by grainy tannins and just enough freshness, finishing woody. Give it a good 5 years for the oak to integrated and drink it over the next 12-15 years or more."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 La Vieille Cure reveals a wonderfully savory nose of chargrilled meats, dried herbs and Marmite toast with a core of baked plums, blackberry preserves and dark chocolate. Full-bodied, the palate is laden with vibrant black and blue fruits plus loads of savory sparks and a plush texture, finishing with a refreshing lift."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Aromas of plum, blueberry, dark chocolate and walnut husk. Some pinecone, too. It's medium-to full-bodied with firm, powdery tannins. Chewy, creamy, and polished all at once. Extremely well done. Try from 2023."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is intense with tons of tar and cloves against the well-defined cassis fruits and lovely vibrant violet edging. The silky texture and legs indicate generous alcohol, but this is balanced, if on the larger side. It takes its time in the glass, at first a little overpowering, but it settles into itself and has been well handled offering good ageing potential. There were new owners as of harvest 2018, as French entrepreneur Jérôme Pignard took over from American co-owners; the Gant, Ferenbach and Sachs families. Drinking Window 2023 - 2040. Barrel Sample: 94."
- JL, Decanter.com

"Deeply colored, the next thing you notice is all the layers of supple textured, ripe, elegant, sweet, silky fruits that start off great, and keep on going. Richly textured, with good concentration and length, this is one of the best values in all of Bordeaux pairing style, quality and a more than fair price."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“Concentrated, lush and loaded with chocolate covered, black cherries and licorice, the wine hits your palate with the essence of dark cocoa and red fruits that offer their pleasures with ease.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2018 La Vieille Cure is a total pleasure bomb. Rich, sumptuous and exotically beautiful, the 2018 grabs hold of all the senses and never lets up. Inky dark fruit, spice, new leather, licorice, mocha, and chocolate build as this exuberant, deeply layered Fronsac shows off its soft curves and considerable charms. In a word: fabulous.”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2018 La Vieille Cure is superb. Racy, creamy, and generous, the 2018 possesses terrific balance and tons of poise. Red cherry jam, blood orange, mocha, mint, cinnamon, and dried flowers fill out the wine's ample frame effortlessly. There is so much to like in the 2018 La Vieille Cure, most notably its sheer allure. Tasted two times.”
- AG, Vinous

“The deep ruby-hued 2018 Château La Vieille Cure is a smoking wine that readers should snatch up! Lots of red and black currants, cedary spice, dried tobacco, and a touch of chalky minerality all emerge from the glass, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a fruit-loaded, concentrated mouthfeel, ripe tannins, and outstanding length. It has a touch of background oak, but that should integrate with 2-4 years in the cellar, and this gorgeous Fronsac will shine over the following decade or more.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Dark crimson red with a violet tint and a black core. Aromatic nose reminiscent of blackcurrant leaf, blackberries, sweet spices and earthy minerality. On the palate well-structured with ripe tannins, juicy fruit, an elegant finish with good length.”
- Markus Del Monego

“The clay-limestone soils and a third of Cabernet in the blend are no strangers to the success of this Fronsac. Alliance of concentration and precision, the nose deploys a beautiful expression of black fruits elegantly emphasized by aging. Powerful and smooth on the palate, the wine gradually gives way to ripe and powerful tannins which stretch the finish. Looks great today, however it would be a shame not to forget it in the cellar. Beautiful aromatic expression until the end of the mouth.”
- Guide Hachette des Vins
