

Château Fontesteu 2015

CSPC# 801708

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Haut Medoc
Classification	Cru Bourgeois
Website	http://fontesteu.com/en/our-wines/en-chateau-fontesteu/
General Info	<p>Located in the centre of the Médoc peninsula, 50 km from Bordeaux, 50 km from the Pointe de Grave and 4 km West of Pauillac, Fontesteu's 100 hectares stretch over a remarkable natural landscape.</p> <p>The thirteenth century castle nestles like a precious jewel encased in a magical landscape, with its forest boasting one-hundred-year-old oak trees surrounded by pines and robinias along with a charming little lake. This château was renovated in 1997 and is now equipped to welcome customers and professionals of the wine industry.</p> <p>The salamander carved over the dungeon door is thought to be a sign that King Francis the First visited the castle. The scallop shell decorations remind us that the pilgrims walking the Saint James Path passed through on their way to Santiago de Compostela.</p> <p>During the French Revolution, Fontesteu is known to have sheltered an "irascible man" who hid his arms in the castle.</p>
Vintage	<p>The winter was cold and rainy and the spring warm and dry. After a late budburst there was a spurt of growth in April followed by a short, even flowering. Adopting an eco-friendly approach, we decided to work the soil of the entire property mechanically. This option resulted in a certain stress among the youngest plants that suffered from the dry, hot weather, especially in July. As we know, vine plants can suffer but will react by limiting their crop: thus, we had bunches of very small grapes that ripened nicely despite a relatively dull month of August. We picked the first Merlots on 21st September and finished this beautiful harvest on 2nd October with magnificent Cabernet Sauvignons. We harvested without rushing. The grapes were very healthy, tasty and thick-skinned although not especially juicy for the Cabernet Sauvignons. The extraction of tannins and anthocyanins was slow during the fermentation. We chose a longer maceration than in previous years to fine-tune the construction of this very good vintage.</p>
Vineyards	<p>Between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gironde River, the Médoc offers an ideal temperate climate, allowing the grapes to ripen beautifully and guaranteeing balance and finesse in the wines. The gravelly soil of Fontesteu, with its deep limestone base, allows the traditional Médoc grape varieties (particularly the Cabernet Sauvignon) to express their full potential. Total area under vine: 32 ha. Vine age 25 years old. Grape varieties: 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot Noir, 5% Cabernet Franc</p>
Harvest	<p>Each year the grapes picked at optimum ripeness give us cuvées with different characteristic tastes. The plots are vinified individually so that each vat represents its own specificity when proposed at the blend tasting that takes place in the January following the harvest.</p>
Vinification	<p>No vintage is ever the same as another. The magic of blending confers a unique style to each: The Cabernet Sauvignon is always the dominant variety in the Château Fontesteu blend, a deep and elegant wine. Three-quarters of the blend is aged for 12 months in barrels (25% new) for a fine-tuning of the tannins. A quarter of the total volume stays in vat to ensure a certain freshness and conserve the pleasant fruitiness before the bottling is carried out from May. According to personal taste, Château Fontesteu wines are at their best after 5 to 10 years in the cellar yet never disappoint those who are patient enough to wait 20 years or even more.</p>



Tasting Notes	This wine has a deep colour with garnet tints. On the nose it offers red fruit aromas, liquorice and toasty notes. In the mouth, the entry displays volume and structure; the palate is fleshy and dense, full of finesse. The supple, precise finish boasts tasty tannins that bring length and elegance. Château Fontestean 2015 is expressive, fruity and delicate, a true image of this beautiful vintage.
Production	136 000 bottles made
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2030
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #233 - October 2017</p> <p>89 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2018</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>89 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>Gold Medal - Mundus Vini 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Tasted at the Cru Bourgeois annual tasting, the 2015 Fontestean has a generous bouquet with blackberry, raspberry, cedar and sous bois scents that are nicely defined. The palate is medium bodied with supple, quite fine tannin, plenty of edgy red fruit and impressive delineation on the finish that shows focus and length. This is recommended. Bravo. Tasted September 2017."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"This rich, spicy wine has a toasty element from the new-wood aging and also plenty of ripe, berry fruits and balanced acidity. It comes from a 74-acre vineyard that surround a 13th-century castle. This generous wine will age well. Drink from 2023."</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc. Lively crimson. Light bodied but fresh and unforced. A tad simple but very straightforward and appetising. Quite long and neat."</i></p> <p>- JR, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Château Fontestean is a beautiful 2015 from vines west of Pauillac and made from roughly 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 49% Merlot and a splash of Cabernet Franc. Loaded with notions of red fruits (cherries, framboise), flowers and hints of cedar and vanilla, it's medium-bodied, elegant and silky on the palate, with fine tannin. It's an impressive wine that will keep for 10-12 years."</i></p> <p>- Jeb Dunnuck</p>
