

Château Ferran Blanc 2015

CSPC# 771702

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Semillon

Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

Classification

Grand Vin De Graves

Website

www.chateauferran.com

General Info

This noble château was originally owned by Montesquieu, the famous philosopher (who was remarkably a viticulturalist as well) in the 18th century. The château, however, was given its name by Robert de Ferran, a later owner who was a parliamentary lawyer in Bordeaux. In 1999, it was purchased by the Lacoste family who invested heavily in the vineyard and chai. The King of Bordeaux Blanc, Denis Dubourdieu, works as their consulting oenologist.

Vintage

Pessac Léognan has had a very good vintage for its white wines in 2015. The growing season was almost ideal, with good weather during flowering ensuring good fruit set; the ensuing summer drought conditions were ameliorated by rainfall in late July and August and a dry early September allowed for a trouble-free harvest. Cooler than average September temperatures also helped preserve acidity in the fruit. While there are not the aromatic profiles of 2011, 2012 and 2013, there is weight and depth here in 2015.

An unremarkable winter (wet the first two months, then cold between mid- January and mid-February) followed by a dry, warm spring for nearly perfect flowering. Ideal weather to meet the first two conditions for a good vintage: early, quick, and even flowering and fruit set.

Dry, hot early summer weather between fruit set and véraison (colour change) followed by a wonderful month of August that launched ripening.

A halt to vegetative growth at the beginning of véraison: the 3rd condition for a good red wine vintage. Thus, at this stage, the first three conditions for a good red wine vintage – flowering and fruit set that were both early and well grouped together during fine, dry weather, and a stop to vegetative growth – were perfectly satisfied. September and October were cool and sunny, without rain. This meant that there was no rush to pick the grapes, and that the two final conditions for a successful vintage were also met.

Vineyards

Planted on the Martillac plateau in the 18th century by the philosopher Montesquieu, the Ferran vineyard belongs to the same family since 1880, today represented by Ghislaine and Philippe Lacoste. Hand picking, strict sorting of the crop, classic vinification with moderate use of new oak... everything is done to maintain the wines at their optimum, both for the reds (18 hectares) as for the whites (4 hectares). Dominated by the Merlot (60% of the vines), the red wines of Ferran are softer and smoother than the other growths of Pessac-Léognan, with a lovely discreet woodiness. Made from 55% Semillon and 45% Sauvignon, the whites are very elegant, with fresh notes of lemon, grapefruit and white fruit.

Harvest

Manual harvest. Sorting in the vineyard and winery

Vinification/

Winemaking: in stainless steel tanks

Maturation

Ageing: Stirring of the lees in oak barrels.

Tasting Notes

Very elegant, with fresh notes of lemon, grapefruit and white fruit.

Cellaring

Drink 2019-2029

Scores/Awards

91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018

90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016

92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018

92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016

89 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017

85-87 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016



Reviews *“The Ferran 2015 Blanc has a lemongrass, lime leaves and fresh hay-scented nose with a core of grapefruit and peaches. The medium-bodied palate is savory and refreshing with plenty of zip and length.”*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 Ferran Blanc is a winning bouquet with lively white peach and marzipan-tinged citrus fruit - very well defined and full of vigor. The palate is medium bodied with a crisp line of acidity, edgy and tensile, a subtle oyster shell note surfacing towards the finish. This is really quiet a complex, engaging white Pessac-Léognan that I bet will represent great value.”

- NM, Wine Advocate

“A dry, taut and savory style with lemon-pastry aromas and flavors, tangy acidity and a cashew-nut finish. Drink or hold.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Excellent dry white with sliced apple and lemon character. Full body, stone and bright acidity. Look forward to seeing this develop in barrel.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Excellent freshness – a very pretty wine with lots to enjoy crisp apricot, fleshy nectarines and white peaches. Lovely construction, juicy and simple, of 70% Sauvignon Blanc, 30% Semillon with nine months in barrel.”

- JA, Decanter.com
