

Château de Fieuzal 2015

CSPC# 870078

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pessac-Léognan
Classification	Grand Cru Classé de Graves
Website	http://www.fieuzal.com/en/
General Info	<p>Chateau de Fieuzal is an historic property in the Graves region of Pessac-Leognan, dating back to the 1500s. Situated on the famous gravel of Pessac-Leognan and divided by the Eau Blanche stream, the vineyards of Fieuzal benefit from the minerality and stoniness of the well-drained soil. Heat is both retained and then reflected on to the vines, which are planted with equal parts Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc for its Bordeaux Blanc.</p> <p>Chateau de Fieuzal is named in honour of the family that owned it at the start of the nineteenth century. After that, the Bordeaux wine property was owned by the Griffon family. The Griffon's, who were lucky to have connections to Pope Léon XIII in Bordeaux, were able to fill the Vatican's cellars with their wines from Pessac Leognan. de Fieuzal was purchased by the Ricard family. The Ricard's owned multiple Bordeaux wine estates including Domaine de Chevalier and Malartic-Lagravière.</p> <p>In 2001, Lochlann Quinn, the chairman of Allied Irish Banks, purchased Fieuzal and brought in famed chateau owner Hubert de Bouard (of recently elevated Ch. Angelus in St. Emilion) as consultant. In 2012, the estate underwent a multi-million Euro renovation, including the creation of a new cellar and modernizing the winery to allow for parcel-by-parcel vinification.</p>
Winemaker	Stephen Carriere. Herbert de Bouard is the consultant winemaker.
Vintage	A mild winter and a very pleasant spring led to perfect flowering. This was followed by a heat wave during the summer - conditions that allowed for slow, gentle ripening and gave birth to berries that were small and rich in concentration.
Vineyards	The Bordeaux wine vineyards are planted on sand and gravel soils. The 39-hectare vineyard is planted to red and white grape varieties. For the reds, 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 4.5% Cabernet Franc and 2.5% Petit Verdot.
Harvest	We started picking the Merlot on 16 th September and finished the Merlots on 1st October, picked several plots of Cabernets on 6th and 7th and stopped. Then started 12 October 2015 and finished on 16 th October 2015.
Vinification/ Maturation	The wines are aged in 50% new, French oak barrels for between 16 to 18 months, depending on the style of the vintage.
Tasting Notes	The wine has an intense sanguine-red colour with a dense robe and violet, almost plum-like tints. The nose offers a complex mixture of red and black fruit notes including blackberry, blackcurrant, and black cherry. The wine's expressive and intense spicy aromas with a touch of graphite are characteristic of our Graves terroir.
Serve with	Chateau de Fieuzal is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. The red wine of Chateau de Fieuzal is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2030
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2018</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2016</p> <p>90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - February 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2016</p> <p>94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2018</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2019</p>



Scores/Awards **16 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - November 2017
92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2016
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018
89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
91+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2016
87-89 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
89 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
87-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
16.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016
88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2018
93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - May 2016
94 points - Vert de Vin - April 2019
91 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - March 2019
16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2019
17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2017
15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2016

Reviews *"A fresh bay leaf note streaks ahead of the core of raspberry and red currant coulis flavors, with sleek sanguine and iron details keeping pace. The long, cedar-tinged finish has good tension and energy."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Slightly higher pitched than most of its peers, with up-front damson plum and violet notes followed by cherry and red licorice flavors. The finish is tight but remains long. Should unwind with the élevage. Score Range: 89-92"
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2015 De Fieuzal is scented of lovely ripe plums and crushed red currants with touches of forest floor and bay leaves. Medium-bodied, firm, and grainy with great freshness cutting through the earthy layers, it finishes long."
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 de Fieuzal has a very seductive bouquet, almost Saint Emilion in style (perhaps the hand of consultant Hubert de Boüard at play?). I mean that in a positive sense: it is extremely pure and sensual, an aromatic femme fatale. The palate is ripe and generous on the entry, but simultaneously poised and minerally, almost edgy towards the sustained and focused finish. There is wonderful freshness and vitality here, yet another really quite stupendous Pessac-Léognan that is going to be a joy to drink over the next 20-25 years."
 - NM, Wine Advocate

"Blackberry and plums sit amid violets, earthy notes and gentle, hazelnut oak. The palate delivers attractively smooth, supple tannins that carry long flavors of fresh dark cherries. Try from 2020."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Lots of blackberry and black currant aromas and flavors. Full body, round tannins, salty and earthy undertones. Very long and flavorful."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This wine is a little austere, while showing good aging potential. It has spice, acidity and the weight of fruit as it develops. With its juicy berry flavors still submerged by the firm tannins, it will take its time. Wait till 2025."
 - RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Tasted blind. Blackish crimson. Weak rim. Heady, exotic tropical-lilies nose. Rich and sweet. Arguably a little overdone but delivers lots of hedonistic pleasure with a smoky barbecue note. Drink 2023-2035"
 - JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Light to mid rather dull crimson. Light leafy nose. Very sweet palate entry. Lacks a little freshness. Workmanlike. Drink 2023-2032"
 - JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews *“Mid cherry red. Leafy, dark-fruited freshness. Dry and cedary on the palate and pretty tightly furled at the moment. Really dry and withheld, almost austere, fine-boned. (JH) 14.5%. Drink 2022-2030.”*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“High-toned kirsch aromas. Very ambitious. Dark, tight-knit fruits with good hold from the charcoal and graphite tannins. Impact favoured over restraint, but a well-constructed, high-quality wine. 60% new oak.”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Medium bodied, with a nose already showing secondary notes of tobacco, tar, espresso bean, dark red fruits, and forest scents. Soft, polished, silky, and sweet, the wine delivers freshness and character in an open style that offers early drinking pleasure, as well as the stuffing to age for up to 2 decades.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Licorice, caramel and smoked black cherries on the nose, this wine is elegant, medium-bodied and soft on the palate.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Consistently good wines are produced here at this Irish-owned Chateau. The prices remain modest despite the quality and the wines are always typically Graves in style. Strong efforts are being made here by winemaker Stephen Carrier with Hubert de Bouard of Angelus consulting. The 2015 has 70% Cabernet Sauvignon in the final blend and Stephen says that he considers it to be a baby 2010 with more style and freshness than the 2009. A vivid ruby-purple in the glass with plummy fruit and a hint of vanilla on the nose. The palate is silky on entry with a typical gravelly Graves tannin texture. There is a good firm frame for the ripe, juicy fruit and there are notes from lightly smoked savoury spices on the finish.”
- Farr Vintners

“The nose is tight and the start of the palate fresh bright but lacking richness. There is more depth at the back sweet fruit, but the tannins are firm and tend to hold back the fruit and close down the finish.”
- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2015 De Fieuzal is powerful and a bit burly but certainly not lacking in personality. Smoke, grilled herbs, tobacco, cedar, dried cherry, and smoke add nuance to this attractive, midweight wine. All things considered, the 2015 shows quite well today. Drink it over the next few years. 2018 – 2028.”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2015 De Fieuzal comes across as a bit simple next to the other wines of the appellation. There is good up-front appeal to give the wine its attractive, if somewhat one-dimensional, personality.”
- AG, Vinous

“Straight down the middle with its flavour and balance and while this might seem safe, it certainly is more successful than many other Châteaux in this vintage.”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, subtle lightening of the edges, delicate strawberry confit, ripe plums, tobacco-herbal spice, a hint of precious wood. Juicy, floral nuances, red wild berry confit, subtle tannins, good freshness, mineral touch, developed ready to drink.”
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fruity, fine, racy, and relatively powerful. It reveals notes of blackberry and cassis associated with fine touches of flint, graphite and slight notes of spice and a hint of Sichuan pepper. The palate is fruity, gourmand, mineral (racy minerality, terroir), balanced, relatively fat and offers precision, elegance, suavity as well as a fresh and unctuous matter. On the palate this wine expresses notes of blackberry cream, plum and slight notes of cassis associated with touches of licorice as well as a hint of chocolate and a touch of oak. Tannins are fine and well built. Good length and persistence with slight notes of toasted oak and almond.”
- Vert de Vin