

Château de Fieuzal 2016

CSPC# 870078

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pessac-Léognan
Classification	Grand Cru Classé de Graves
Website	http://www.fieuzal.com/en/
Sustainability	Managing the vineyard by organic viticulture, which we undertook across the whole vineyard in 2016, turns out to be very rewarding but also very stressful.
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	<p>This vintage is unique in the way it played out and is characterised by some extreme climatic conditions. After a cold and wet period during bud break, followed 3 months which alternated between wet and warm weather. At the end of June no one at Fieuzal would have guessed that we would have such a high-quality harvest.</p> <p>In our vineyard we had a fairly classic bud burst between the end of March and the end of April, with a frosty period at the end of April which had a great impact on the future harvest. Then, heavy rainfall not only made flowering difficult but also managing the foliage and controlling vine diseases.</p> <p>Between July and October, the mild weather arrived with favourable temperature ranges (warm and dry during the day and cool at night), despite several stormy periods, which gave us an even veraison and then set the grapes up well with water reserves never seen before on our gravelly soils.</p> <p>Maturing was slow, which guaranteed excellent quality skins and seeds!</p>
Vineyards	The vineyards are planted on 39 hectares of land, the soil of which contains fine gravel. The average age of vines is 30-40 years, they are grown with a density of 8300 vines per 1 hectare.
Harvest	Harvest for making wine is harvested by hand.
Vinification/ Maturation	<p>Our red wine is of a rare pedigree. A rare tension from beginning to end which helps to bring the concentration under control. Balance, elegance and depth are the words which come to mind at the moment to describe this wine which needs time to develop.</p> <p>As we have done over the past few years, we adapt our extractions to each grape variety and each vintage. We also pay special attention to the ageing in order to extract the character of each of the 4 grape varieties and also their origin. Hence, Cabernet Franc and Merlot are matured in one year old barrels, mainly 225L but also some 400L. Some amphorae are being used as an experiment with great success on these delicate Fieuzal grape varieties. Cabernet Sauvignon and Petits Verdot are traditionally aged in new wood in 225L and 400L sizes.</p>



Tasting Notes Fieuzal is modern, inventive and youthful in spirit. It is refined and remarkable in the mouth. Fieuzal awakens the uninitiated and holds the attention of the most discerning. Fieuzal is impressively smooth, delicate, and exquisite. Expertly crafted, subtle but competent, Fieuzal seems effortless. Fieuzal dances on the palate, alive with a universe of complementary sensations. Precise structure holds together aromas and textures in a tight, unwavering equilibrium.

Our 2016 red wine offers a rare purity and tension from beginning to end, which offsets its remarkable concentration. Balance, elegance, and depth are the words which come to mind at the moment to describe this wine, which still needs time to evolve.

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 4,833 cases made

Cellaring Drink 2022-2032

Scores/Awards **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019
91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2017
90-92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - November 2018
90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - April 2017
93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - December 2022
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019
92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017
92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017
17- points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2020
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017
94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019
93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017
85-88 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017
92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019
88 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019
94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017
16+? points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2017
90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2017
89 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2017
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2018
94 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2017

Reviews *"Youthfully vivid, with lots of red and black currant and raspberry confiture flavors driving through, inlaid with anise and sweet tobacco hints. Vibrant throughout, with a roasted apple wood note giving the finish a second kick. Best from 2022 through 2032."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Quite ripe, with warm plum and fig notes melding with singed alder and bay accents. Shows a mineral edge. There's lots of flesh here, but has cut on the finish."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"A barrel sample, the deep garnet-purple colored 2016 de Fieuzal opens with cedary notes over a core of red and black currants, black cherries, and tobacco with wafts of fallen leaves and lavender. Medium-bodied with a firm, grainy texture, and oodles of freshness, it has plenty of compelling red and black fruit sparks and an earthy finish."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

Reviews

“The 2016 De Fieuzal, which has enjoyed the consultancy services of Hubert de Boüard for a few years now, was uncharacteristically subdued on the nose when I encountered it on three occasions. The palate has more to say, bolstered by rigid and slightly chalky tannin that lends this Pessac-Léognan an undercurrent of energy. I cannot ever remember a more taut Château de Fieuzal than this 2016. There is freshness here, but at least at this prenatal stage, it is unwilling to dole out enjoyment. I hope that there is more charm to discern once it is bottled. At the moment, my preference would lie with the previous vintage.”

- NM, Wine Advocate

“The 2016 de Fieuzal Rouge is deep garnet in color. It comes barreling out with bold scents of blackcurrant preserves, stewed plums, and boysenberries, plus suggestions of wild sage and tar. The medium-bodied palate is packed with taut, muscular fruit, supported by ripe, grainy tannins, and compelling freshness, finishing long with a skip in its step.”

- LPB, Wine Independent

“Very intense red-plum and dark-fleshed peach aromas, plus a hint of pomegranate, make this generous, well-structured Pessac-Léognan red very attractive. However, the full, moderately dry tannins need some time to resolve. Better from 2021, but with a long future ahead of it.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“A wine with depth and structure that’s defined by blackberry, blueberry, and chocolate character. Full body, chewy tannins, and a juicy finish. Shows potential.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Full of black fruits, this rich wine has structure and juicy berry flavors. The dry core of tannins balances the dense black fruits to give a wine with an excellent future. Drink from 2024.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“This wine is packed with black currant fruit. It is warm, ripe, and balanced by fine acidity. The structure will allow the wine to age well, with rich berry flavors and crispness in harmony.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Tasted blind. Savoury and dense. Lots of pace after initial inkiness. Not generous but minerally and fun and promising. Drink 2028 – 2045.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Rich blackberry-compote nose. Fresh finish and some real energy here. But it's pretty sinewy on the end. Not a standout. Too angular. Drink 2024-2038.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“The smoky oak is a little dominant but softens through the palate, giving a charred, smoky, cigar-box edge to the rich black fruits. This is bright and perky, with firm tannins, great impact and a feeling of fruit that was easily extracted due to beautifully ripe fruit. A good wine which will age well.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Deep rose-violet colour, showing how easily anthocyanins were extracted this year. This is a lovely rich, well extracted, intense wine of succulent black cherry and damson fruits coupled with cigar box scents. It has this stunning balance and 'essence of Bordeaux' spirit that Pessac delivers so well in its best vintages. Drinking Window 2025 – 2040”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Medium bodied, round, soft and generous with its round, soft, plush fruits on the nose and palate, the wine finishes with round polished, dark red sweet fruits. A little oaky at this stage of development, the wine will need aging before it all comes together.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *"A little oaky at the moment, but that will subside with aging as the medium bodied, round, soft, forward, earthy, licorice and cherry filled wine continues developing."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Fresh, polished, ripe and with an earthy, smoke and tobacco complexity that rides on top of the dark red fruits, this focused and reasonably concentrated wine will age and develop well."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Generally, I prefer the white Fieuzal to the red, but that's not the case in 2016, because this is a dense, vigorous, youthful, concentrated red that grassy, perfumed, and plush, with acidity driving the finish of the wine. Very impressive but needs time. 2022-30"
- Tim Atkin MW

"The nose is firm the start of the palate lacks a bit of richness but there is mid sweetness with ripe cassis some black cherry. The sweet fruit is underpinned by fresher black fruits, the back palate quite light and the finish is tight. 2025-37"
- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2016 de Fieuzal has an intense, floral bouquet, quite Margaux-like in style, with scents of rose petal infusing the blackberry, cedar, and mint aromas. The medium-bodied palate offers sappy black fruit that feels nicely enmeshed with the new oak. There is a modern sheen to this de Fieuzal, which shows touches of vanilla toward the finish and a sweet, candied aftertaste."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2016 de Fieuzal is powerful and racy, but also comes across as one-dimensional. There is good depth to the dark fruit, tobacco, menthol, and licorice flavors, and yet the wine lacks freshness. This was far more interesting from barrel."
- AG, Vinous

"The 2016 de Fieuzal is a powerful, plush wine endowed with explosive energy and fabulous balance. Exotic, ripe and inviting, it demands attention. Waves of dark-toned fruit, chocolate, spice and new leather build into the exotic, plush finish. Terrific."
- AG, Vinous

"The 2016 de Fieuzal has a detailed, focused bouquet, wonderfully focused and precise, featuring blackberry, cedar and black olive scents. There is a sense of classicism and class here. The medium-bodied palate offers supple tannins, perfectly pitched acidity and a harmonious, tertiary finish that lingers long in the mouth. This is an outstanding Pessac-Léognan that, before its identity was revealed, I speculated could be Domaine de Chevalier. Tasted blind at the annual Southwold tasting."
- AG, Vinous

"(70 Cabernet Sauvignon, 20 Merlot, 5 Petit Verdot, 5 Cabernet Franc) Chunky and a little abrupt and tannic, this is not a complex wine, and the fruit is rather blunt and lacking in dimensions. This is not a great showing for this famous property. 16+?"
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, subtle edge lightning, delicate vanilla, dark berry fruit, some nougat, attractive bouquet. Medium body, red berry nuances, delicate leafy spice, slightly rough tannins, slightly drying."
- PM, *Falstaff Magazine*
