

# Chapelle d'Ausone 2011

CSPC#763555

750mlx6

15.0% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon

## Appellation

Saint Emilion

## Website

<http://chateau-ausone.fr/>

## General Info

The wines of Chapelle d'Ausone are impressive, full bodied and rich. They have notes of black cherries, cedar, figs, plums, liquorice, minerals and chocolate. They require 10 years of cellaring before approaching maturity and have good ageing potential. Chapelle d'Ausone is the Second Wine of Château Ausone and takes its name from the Madeleine Chapel which sits in its grounds. Centuries ago Ausone used to lie in the hamlet of La Madeleine, a dependency of the parish of Saint Martin de Mazerat, which was incorporated into Saint Emilion in 1790.

Château Ausone is one of only 2 wines, along with Château Cheval Blanc, to be ranked Premier Cru Classé A – which is the highest of the Saint Emilion Classification. Ausone is perched on the hillside outside Saint Emilion with south facing steeply terraced vineyards. Ausone is carved into the limestone hill and sits upon 3 troglodytic caves, the smallest of which is used as the wine cellar which ages the wines in a perfectly stable atmosphere. The Château takes its name from the 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman poet Decimus Magnus Ausonius who was famous for his writing on early Roman viticulture and it is believed that Château Ausone stands upon the foundations of his villa Lucaniac.

Only 3 families have owned Ausone – the Lescours family in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Chatonnet-Cantenat family during the 17<sup>th</sup> century and now their descendants the Vauthier family. In 1995 the Vauthier family gained sole ownership of Château Ausone and Alain Vauthier controls all aspects of the winemaking.

He began using Michel Rolland as the consulting winemaker beginning with the 1995 vintage.

With the influence of Michel Rolland beginning in 1995, the wines have started showing a great deal more fruit and extract in their youth. It remains to be seen how this will affect the aging that has been the hallmark of the wines from Ausone.

## Vintage

It was not an easy growing season... The Spring was remarkably warm and dry and flowering took place early and in fine conditions. However, by late June the heat was becoming excessive and the lack of rain a real concern, with some vines actually in danger of shutting down.

July was cool and fortunately saw some rain, while August was mixed, cooler than average overall but with some heat spikes and some storms. September was warm and dry enabling the grapes to ripen fully, but the relative lack of heat in the key months of July and August meant that the wines do not have the richness and flesh which is found in the truly great warm vintages like 2009.

There was uneven ripening within the bunches of grapes, and this necessitated a huge amount of work in the vineyard and the cellar, sorting out and rejecting the less than perfect fruit.

## Vineyards

Chateau Ausone has vineyards of 7.3 hectares (just under 18 acres) with an average age of the vines of 50 years. The planting of the vineyards is 50% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Franc. The vines are planted with a density of 6,000 plants per hectare. The vineyards are on rather steep slopes facing to the South. The slopes give perfect drainage but also bring some problems with erosion of the soil. The Southern exposure is ideal for ripening of the grapes. The soil and sub-soil of Chateau Ausone's vineyards are limestone. The soil characteristics of Ausone's vineyards are consistent through the entire property. The entire production is harvested by hand.

## Harvest

The grapes are hand-harvested with great emphasis on careful sorting on the vines. The bunches are brought to the cellar in small crates that prevent any damaging of the fruit.



<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	The grapes are hand-harvested with great emphasis on careful sorting on the vines. The bunches are brought to the cellar in small crates that prevent any damaging of the fruit. The vinification is carried out in temperature-controlled oak vats with a vatting period of 4 to 5 weeks depending on the vintage. Malolactic fermentation is done in new oak barrels, then the wine is aged for 20 months in Ausone's limestone rock caves.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The second wine of Ausone. This is another wine with a strong match-sticky notes of reduction here, but with time I can sense the fresh and dark fruit that lies behind it. The fruit character on the palate is polished, savoury, rich, and dark, the tannins really rather firm and cottony, but the acidity is fine. Rich and stylish. Again, a difficult wine to judge with that reduction but the substance and elements beneath are good.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2014-2029
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014</p> <p><b>91-94 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - November 5, 2012</p> <p><b>88-90 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012 (score only)</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012 (score only)</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>95+ points</b> - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2012 (score only)</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 24, 2012</p> <p><b>88-91 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Farr Vintner - March 2012</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2012 (score only)</p> <p><b>15-16 points</b> - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2012</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"The beautiful second wine is Alain Vauthier's 2011 La Chapelle d'Ausone. It possesses a dense ruby/purple color along with the nobility, class, finesse, precision, purity and copious blue and black fruits intermixed with a floral component, good minerality, and a medium-bodied, intense, rich personality. Never heavy or over-bearing, this is a beauty. As I have written many times in the past, the Vauthiers are making a "second wine" that is greater than many of the outstanding wines produced at this estate in the 20th century. This wine should drink well for 15 or more years."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2011 Chapelle d'Ausone offers a dense opaque purple color as well as striking floral notes intermixed with notions of blackberries and blueberries. It possesses full-bodied richness, good minerality, terrific palate-penetrating characteristics and an unreal finish. It, too, is one of the top wines of the vintage, and it should be drinkable at an earlier date than its bigger sibling."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The Chapelle d'Ausone has an intense bouquet with vibrant, slightly dusty black fruit that are very well defined and develop intriguing earthy, almost graphite aromas with aeration. Leaving it in my glass over five minutes is offers some gorgeous, yet subtle floral notes. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannins and a degree of composure and refinement. One feels that they could have easily tried to extract more from this wine but resisted temptation and consequently produced a better wine. Everything in its right place. Tasted April 2012."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"This is really excellent with creamy tannins and a lovely berry, currant and blueberry character. Full and luscious for the vintage. Superb. Second wine of Ausone."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"92-94. Barrel sample. A big wine that's packed with ripe dark-plum flavors, smoky tannins and richness. It shows a powerful, balanced structure."</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p>

- Reviews** *"Dark and coaly but opens up to some pure dark fruit. Restrained, dry and finely built. Richer in the mouth than some. Fresh and balanced and fruit more expressive on the finish with the Cabernet Franc showing through."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "The second wine of Ausone. The blend here is Merlot dominant, at 60%, with Cabernet Franc 30% and Cabernet Sauvignon 10%. This is another wine with a strong match-sticky notes of reduction here, but with time I can sense the fresh and dark fruit that lies behind it. The fruit character on the palate is polished, savoury, rich, and dark, the tannins really rather firm and cottony, but the acidity is fine. Rich and stylish. Again a difficult wine to judge with that reduction but the substance and elements beneath are good. 15-16/20"*  
- CK, The Wine Doctor
- "Medium to full bodied. Fine texture and tannins. Fresh and long. Well-crafted wine which is hard to fault. Drink 2018-2030."*  
- JL, Decanter.com
- "55% cabernet franc, 45% merlot. Michel Rolland consultant. No delestage (rack and return) or pumping over, just pigeage, punching down. Maceration fairly normal, just two or three days less than last year. So fragrant from the first nose. Tanks changed to tronconic in 2010. Here there is this sense of restraint that Ausone does so well, that beautiful mix of rich, firm blueberry fruit, with delicate violet and lilac aromas. Gravity only in the cellar. But it does not quite reach the heights of the past few vintages. 100% new oak. 15%ABV. 95+"*  
- JA, The New Bordeaux
- "Like its big brother, Château Ausone, this was showing some reduction when I tasted it from barrel. It's very closed at present - smoky and dense and oak-dominated - with evident tannins. But just like the grand vin, you sense that the wine is itching to express itself, to integrate those tannins and unfurl its fruit. 8+ years."*  
- TA, timatkin.com
- "Blending 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine opens with crushed stone, smoke, floral and cherries. Supple and sweet, the wine feels like polished black cherry. This is definitely the best second wine in Bordeaux today. 90-92 Pts"*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The nose is black fruited quite light but with attractive fragrances. The fruit on the mid palate feels ripe the rounded tannins giving suppleness and towards the back the layers of flavour give some complexity."*  
- Derek Smedley MW
- "Ausone's second wine is better than most other Saint Emilions but there are only about 500 cases of it produced annually. A blend of 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon from a hot south-facing terroir. One third of Ausone's total production, it receives the same elevage as the Grand Vin itself. Only 8000 bottles will be produced after ageing for 20 months in new oak. A sweet, showy nose. On the palate it is creamy textured with lots of glycerol and dense black fruit. Sexy, plump with silky tannins, there are notes of kirsch and ripe black fruit. Certainly, the best second wine that we tasted in 2011."*  
- Farr Vintners
- "This is a very aromatic Chapelle with spicy notes and lifted ripe blackberries. This wine has the most seductive aroma and flavour profile tasted thus far on day 3 of en primeur tasting. Gorgeous wine that is showing beautifully even at such a young age. Very long and seductive and will age easily for decades. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young."*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com
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