

## Clos Fourtet 2000

CSPC# 753467

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon

**Appellation**

St. Emilion

**Website**

<http://www.closfourtet.com/>

**General Info**

Thanks to the geology of the Saint-Emilion plateau (chalk overlaid with aeolian sand), its fine wines boast a unique reputation, and Clos Fourtet, occupying a prime site, is among one of Saint-Emilion's oldest and most renowned estates. Medium in size (20 ha of vineyard), Clos Fourtet is built around an authentic private residence dating from the end of the Ancien Regime and itself stands at the very gates of the medieval city. It was in fact built over magnificent underground quarries where its wines are aged both in barrel and in bottle. The site itself is one of those most frequently visited and greatly admired. Throughout the 18th century, the Rulleau and de Carles families contributed largely to its growing renown, fully exploiting the land's potential. Here, thanks to the thin layer of arable soil, vines root easily, yet yield little, this "stress" being a fundamental prerequisite for the production of great wines. An exceptional terroir, the primary condition for production of a very great wine, associated with judiciously selected grape varieties cultivated in the time-honored fashion, traditional winemaking controlled by the latest techniques and finally aging in new barrels, ensure that Clos Fourtet takes its rightful place among the most highly esteemed growths in the appellation and in the region. In 1949, the Lurton family bought the chateau. They helped the vineyard to progress particularly the last 10 years. In 2001, Clos Fourtet has been repurchased by Philippe Cuvelier who continues the modernisation.

**Vintage**

During the growing season, there was low rainfall with the exception of April (130mm/5.1 inches). August and September rainfall was very low (18mm/0.7 inch and 38mm/1.5 inches respectively). On the other hand, temperatures were not excessively high over these 2 months, making the conditions very favourable for good ripening of the grapes. July, August and September were ideal in temperature with little rain, enabling an even change of colour, and thanks to earlier crop thinning, high quality homogeneously ripe grapes at the moment of picking.

**Vineyards**

Clos Fourtet has 19 hectares of vineyards planted with Merlot (72%), Cabernet Franc (22%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (6%). The wine is vinified traditionally and is aged in oak barriques (60-70% new) for 18 months. It is bottled unfiltered.

**Harvest**

20 September to 10 October

**Maturation**

The last year of a single sorting of the crop before de-stemming and pumping into vats just after the de-stemming. The wine is aged for 18 months in 80% new oak barrels. There is a second wine, Closerie de Fourtet.

**Tasting Notes**

The colour is dark. The nose is fine and elegant. Oaky on the palate with sweet tannins, giving a round, silky mouthfeel. A pleasant vintage.

**Production**

4,580 cases made

**Cellaring**

Drink 2010-2020

**Scores/Awards**

**92 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003

**92-94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001

**93 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #189 - June 2010

**90 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003

**90-91 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 2002

**90 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 2001

**90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2011

**90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2008

**90 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2003

**89 points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2003



**Scores/Awards** **16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2010  
**18.7 points** - Decanter.com - August 11, 2010  
**89 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**90 points** - Wine & Spirits Magazine - October 2008  
**91 points** - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 24, 2012 (score only)  
**91 points** - Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine (score only)  
**17.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**16.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**2 stars** - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2004

**Reviews** *"Starts off a bit earthy, but then turns to lovely ripe, almost decadent fruit. Full-bodied, with soft and round tannins and a long, refreshing finish. A beauty. This is really good for Clos Fourtet. Best after 2006. 4,580 cases made."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Lots of floral and berry character here. Full-bodied, with super, well-integrated tannins and a finish that lasts for minutes. Score range: 92-94"*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"The first offering in what turned out to be a remarkable decade for this property, the 2000 Clos Fourtet was the finest wine produced here in many years, but it was subsequently eclipsed by the 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2009. The dense plum/purple-tinged 2000 exhibits notes of wet rocks, camphor, blackberries, and cassis. Full-bodied with tremendous density, it appears to have shed much of its tannin, and is through its adolescent stage. It should continue to evolve effortlessly for another decade."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"This is a substantial, large-sized wine for Clos Fourtet. A saturated dark plum/purple color characterizes this full-bodied effort. This impressive, dense wine displays plenty of power as well as notes of charcoal, blackberry jam, licorice, and toasty new oak. With good size, firm tannin, outstanding ripeness, and overall richness, this exceptional offering is the finest Clos Fourtet produced in many years. It will also be long-lived. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2022."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"This impressive, dense effort displays plenty of power as well as notes of charcoal, blackberry jam, licorice, and toasty new oak. With good size, firm tannin, outstanding ripeness, and overall richness, this exceptional offering is the finest Clos Fourtet produced in many years. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2017."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"A strong effort from this premier grand cru classe, Clos Fourtet's 2000 exhibits a black/purple color as well as an exotic, flamboyant bouquet of jammy black cherries and blackberries intertwined with licorice, smoke, and new oak. Deep, opulent, and sexy, with low acidity, abundant glycerin, and concentrated fruit, it will be hard to resist after bottling. Anticipated maturity: now-2020."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The Clos Fourtet '00 has a backward nose that takes time to evolve in the glass. Very pure dark berried fruit with cassis, blueberry, blackcurrant and noticeable glycerin. The palate is full-bodied with succulent tannins that have softened over the last couple of years. Ravishingly smooth in texture and still carrying a little unresolved oak on the finish, I would afford this wine another 2-3 years in the cellar. Tasted November 2010."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"This is developing into a lovely wine with a ripe nose of dark fruits, chocolate, a touch of mocha and leather, a bouquet that reminds me of Troplong Mondot in a way. The palate is full-bodied, chewy tannins, good acidity, still quite backward will slightly brusque tannins that should mellow with time and to this effect, the longer this remains in glass, the more refined and silkier the texture. Smoky, leathery finish, broody though, almost surly with a cedary aftertaste. The finish has an attractive, unassuming quality to it but it never really takes of like I want it to. Drink 2014-2025 Tasted July 2008."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

**Reviews** *“This was the last vintage at Clos Fourtet under the ownership of the Lurtons. They made fine wine, but the potential of the property was never quite realized. The wine just fails to excite: it is rich and concentrated with ripe tannins and some sweetness, but at the same time, there is a layer of acidity and structure which gives the wine a firm, solid shape.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Medium ruby-red. Nose initially juxtaposed inky and medicinal notes with a slightly stewy aspect but grew riper and plummier with aeration. Offers good volume and richness in the mouth, with flavors of cherry, chocolate, tobacco leaf and menthol and a hint of herbaceousness. Finishes with fine but slightly drying tannins and good lingering sweet fruit.”*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

*“Heady and bloody. A bit awkward. Rich on the finish though.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Lovely, fragrant wine, evidence of Cabernet Franc. Great class and length. Excellent expression of Merlot ripeness backed by Cab Franc lift and elegance. Perfect balance and length. A great wine. Drink from 2010”*  
- JL, Decanter.com

---