

Château Faugères 2018

CSPC# 801707

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
Appellation	St Emilion
Classification	Grand Cru Classé
Website	http://www.chateau-faugeres.com/chateau-appellation-saint-emilion-grand-cru-en/chateau-saint-emilion-vintages.html
General Info	Château Faugères is a St Emilion Grand Cru that is now producing textbook new wave St Emilions. In 1823, the Esquissaud family acquired the estates of Châteaux Faugères and Péby Faugères. Then in 1987, the land was inherited by Pierre-Bernard Guisez. Up to then, all the wine produced had been sold to a single local merchant. P. Guisez and his wife Corinne wanted to become more involved in the vineyards, setting out on a quest for the finest quality. Their wish was to see these exquisite terroirs become jewels in the crown of the Saint-Emilion Grand Cru appellation, a desire that was to be fulfilled in a short time with the help of Michel Rolland. Since 1997 the property has been owned by the film producer, Péby Guisez and his wife Corine and they have energetically breathed new life into it.
Winemaker	Michel Rolland consults.
Vintage	“A rather difficult beginning with record rainfall during the first six months of the year. Nevertheless, rather early budding, fast plant growth and early, even ripening. Virulent attacks of downy mildew, but simulation now enables more precise detection and more targeted treatments. Grape colour change at the beginning of August heralded early harvests, but dry weather from the second week of July somewhat delayed the picking for the red grapes. The grapes that did reach perfect ripeness have produced excellent wines. I would even dare to strongly suggest that the 2018 vintage is the best ever! Perfect ripeness ensured top-quality aromatic profiles for all the grape varieties. It is always easy to make high-quality wines from this terroir. 2018 will be one of this estate’s great successes.” - Michel Roland, Consultant oenologist
Vineyards	There are 20 hectares of vineyards planted with Merlot (70%), Cabernet Franc (25%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (5%). Surface area: 37 hectares; Soil: limestone plateau (asteria limestone subsoil) dating back to the upper Oligocene; limestone and clay slope (limestone soil on clay-limestone molasse) dating back to the upper Eocene and Oligocene; Grape varieties: 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon; Average of vines: 35 years; Planting density: 6,000 vine stocks/hectare
Harvest	Our Merlot, particularly those on hillsides, behaved admirably this year. We must also pay tribute to the success of the Cabernet Sauvignon and Franc, and their breathtaking aromatic radiance. Precise management of the harvest ensured that we retained freshness and crisp fruit. The dry summer months resulted in fairly small-sized grapes, and low yields meant that the fruit was naturally very concentrated. Harvest started September 25.
Vinification/ Maturation	The vinification was traditional, in cuvees, with malolactic fermentation and élevage in barrels, 50% new, 50% second fill.
Tasting Notes	Dark and intense in colour with rather generous alcohol levels, opulent on the palate, with smooth, silky tannins. This is a powerful, concentrated, rich vintage. Sublime, sunny 2018 can be compared to the exceptional 2009 or even the great 2005.
Serving info	Chateau Faugères is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift.
Serve with	Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.



**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2024-2032

92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2019
91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019
97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2021
98-99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019
95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019
16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019
92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020
91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021
86 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019
92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019
92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019
92-94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020
95-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019
93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021
15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019
91-92 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - April 2019

Reviews

"Ripe, with crushed plum and boysenberry puree notes, yet fresh, showing good lift throughout. A swath of roasted apple wood flavors on the finish needs to get soaked up, but there's enough depth of fruit for that. Barrel Sample: 92-95."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2018 Faugères, which was harvested beginning September 25, is composed of 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Deep garnet-purple colored, it slips sensuously from the glass with notions of blackberry compote, wild blueberries, and redcurrant jelly with hints of cardamom, cigar box and dusty soil plus a waft of star anise. Full-bodied and built like a brick house, it has a firm backbone of rounded tannins with bold freshness and loads of black fruit preserves layers, finishing long and spicy. Barrel Sample: 91-93. Fans of Château Faugères and Péby-Faugères, owned by perfume designer and owner of Lique crystal, Silvio Denz, might be expecting an atomic bomb in a glass from the 2018s. But there was an obvious, concerted choice to pull back on the ripeness this year. Not to say that the wines are shrinking violets—hardly—but at 14.5% alcohol in a year that a lot of Right Bank properties are facing alcohol levels of 15% or more, this is certainly more restrained than usual. And it pays off. The wines maintain all the richness that fans will expect, with lovely vibrancy and freshness. Bravo!"
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"An extremely polished Bordeaux with silky tannins that are integrated and creamy-textured. Lots of blueberry and blackberry character. Such pure fruit here. It's already long and delicious but has plenty of structure and needs at least four or five years of bottle age. Try after 2024."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Wow. Really savory this year with an extremely dense and gorgeous palate of ripe fruit and ripe tannins, but an underlying minerality and intensity. Shows really integrated and melted tannins, but then it kick-starts at the end. Neoclassical."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The blackberry and blueberry character is impressive on the nose with some licorice and graphite. Salty. Full-bodied. tannic and velvety. Powerful finish. Chewy. Best Faugères ever?"
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Barrel sample. Darkest core and bright purple rim. Dark-fruited and chappy on the nose. Nicely dry in texture, like many layers of paper but could do with a bit energy and it builds to a pretty dry finish. Might well come round as there's good fruit in the middle. (JH)"
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

"This 2018 is true to the Faugères signature of big, bold and totally confident in its tannic and fruit structure. It's high in alcohol but also high in acidity, with great structure without trying to push its agenda. The big, chewy tannins are reflective of its cooler terroir on the eastern edge of St-Emilion. This impressive wine will age well. Drinking Window 2026 - 2040."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Cassis notes dominate this wine, twisted through with acidity and edged with espresso and grilled sarments. It's high impact but does settle down, its confidence on display. Matured in 50% new oak, with malolactic also carried out in 50% new oak. Michel Rolland consults."

- JA, Decanter.com

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"Dark in color, the wine instantly hits you with licorice, chocolate covered cherries, plums, smoke and espresso. Lush, polished, rich, and velvety, there is good density, lift and length here. This wine is forward in style and should be great to enjoy with just a few years of age, if you can keep your hands off it for that long."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2018 Faugères has a very seductive bouquet with dark cherries, blueberry and light cassis scents mixed with violets and iris flower. The oak is nicely integrated. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins, fresh and actually one of the more elegant Faugères that I have tasted from barrel. The finish displays fine energy and tension. Recommended."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Faugères is fresh, lively and quite deep, with a striking interplay of floral top notes and rich, layered fruit. I sense a shift towards a more refined style. Even so, there is plenty of the depth and textural richness readers have become accustomed to. Dark red fruit, espresso, cedar, and dried flowers add lovely shades of aromatic nuance as well as energy. The 2018 is beautifully rendered. The blend is 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Proprietor Silvio Denz and consulting winemaker Michel Rolland turned out a gorgeous Faugères in 2018. My only real critique is that Faugères and the pure Péby Faugères are more closer in style than they usually are, which is remarkable as the blends are totally different! Tasted three times."

- AG, Vinous

"Juicy black cherry, jammy raspberries, toasted spices, and leafy herbs notes all emerge from the 2018 Château Faugères, which is medium to full-bodied and has a soft, elegant texture, a kiss of chalky minerality, and remarkable purity of fruit. A blend of 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and the final 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, brought up in 50% new French oak, this builds nicely with time in the glass, will positively improve over the coming 2-4 years, and cruise in cold cellars over the following decade or more. It's a beautiful wine."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"From older vines on the Saint-Émilion and Castillon border, the 2018 Château Faugères is a full-bodied, powerful, yet beautifully pure 2018 that has ample blue fruits, flowers, and earthy aromas and flavors. This wine always seems to deliver, and the 2018 is no exception. Full-bodied, rounded, and pleasure-bent, yet with elegance and purity, drink it on release and over the following 15 years or more. The blend of the 2018 is 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, all still aging in 50% new oak. Tasted twice. Barrel sample: 92-94."

- Jeb Dunnuck