

Château Figeac 2009

CSPC# 749819

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety

33% Cabernet Franc, 33% Merlot, 33% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

St. Emilion

General Info

Figeac is a very ancient estate, going back at least as far as the 2nd century AD, during the Gallo-Roman period, when a certain Figeacus gave his name to a villa he built on this location. The site has been continually inhabited ever since then, as proved by vestiges: a water-supply system dating from the Gallo-Roman period, foundations of buildings from the Middle Ages with defensive walls, and the remains of a Renaissance chateau reflected in the present-day chateau's great door and tower. Figeac belonged to the same family for more than 500 years and was nearly 200 hectares by the late 18th century. Unfortunately, the estate was sold a number of times in the 19th century. Successive owners sold numerous plots, which explains the birth of various chateaux that appended the name Figeac to their own. However, Figeac continues to be the largest estate in the commune of Saint-Emilion, with 40 hectares of vines. The central part of the chateau, built in a very pure, classical architectural style, dates from the late 18th century.

Vineyards

Figeac is owned by Thierry Manoncourt and is located in the north-west of the appellation with its vineyards adjoining those of Cheval Blanc. Its 40 hectares of vineyards (Cabernet Sauvignon 35%, Merlot 30%, Cabernet Franc 35%) lie on a deep, Médoc-like gravel topsoil ('Graves') over a flinty, iron-rich subsoil. with the vines averaging about 35 years of age and sitting at a density of 6000 vines/ha. Evidence for this selection of varieties comes not from mere opinion, but from the work of Thierry Manoncourt who, for many decades, would bottle some of the Figeac wines unblended so that he could assess how wines from different grape varieties and different portions of the vineyard matured in bottle.

Vinification/ Maturation

Come harvest time the fruit is collected manually, pressed using hydraulic equipment, and vinified in the *chai* which includes both the original wooden and the new, stainless steel fermenters. The oak vats are open-topped, and the cap is submerged using a grid which pushes the floating matter below the surface of the wine. Aged 15 to 18 months 100% new barrels

Tasting Notes

There is an attractive racy freshness on the nose with a mix of bright red fruits. Bramble and black cherry take over at the start of the palate the mix of flavours giving real complexity. Towards the back the ripeness of the fruit and the rounded tannins give it a fleshy richness.

Production

10,000 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2017-2035

Scores/Awards

96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012
97-100 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - Web Only 2012
96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012
92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010
17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010
18 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2011
17.5-18.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010
18.5 points/4 stars - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2010
97 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010

Reviews

"Distinctive, with atypical (for St-Emilion) force and drive to the black currant, roasted cedar and maduro tobacco flavors, which are supported by a dense, loam-tinged structure. Terrific roasted espresso, ganache and fig paste notes wait in reserve. Very muscular, but with the cut for balance. Best from 2017 through 2035."
- JM, Wine Spectator



Reviews

“Really fabulous on the nose, with sweet milk chocolate, flowers, currant and plum. Full-bodied, with incredible length. The tannins are so silky, but they are warm and cuddly. You just want to hug it. Powerful but so attractive. The blend is one third each of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Score range: 97-100”
- JS, Wine Spectator

“The aromas in this are amazing, with blueberries, blackberries and fresh mushrooms. Black olives. So aromatic. Full-bodied, with super velvety tannins and lovely depth of ripe fruit. Balanced. Wild flavors on the finish of, meat, berries and forest fruits. Hints of decadence. 33% Cabernet Franc, 33% Merlot and 33% Cabernet Sauvignon. Best Figeac ever. Try after 2020.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“A ripe year like 2009 is kind to the Cabernet Sauvignon of Château Figeac. The wine is perfumed with new wood and sweet fruits, delicious black currant flavors giving both ripeness and freshness. The wine has weight and impressive density. A star of the vintage.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“92-94 Barrel sample. This is relatively light, with freshness over the bright spicy acidity. The wine dances almost, with its wood element well integrated. A delicious final freshness, but certainly not weighty.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Paler than most. Luscious, opulent nose – very come-hither. Cool and fresh. Complete. Still a bit simple but there are no excesses here. Just slightly timid on the palate. Real juice though – not exaggerated. Sweet and juicy and friendly even if not the most dramatic. Dry end. Will get there. As discreet and distinctive as usual.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Really quiet an intense character on the nose, dark and sooty, with green peppercorn and very typical Cabernet Franc perfume coming through. I find it hugely appealing, although I know others think the exact opposite! The palate seems very dry and reserved, bold in terms of substance and this is not matched, at present at least, by the flesh of the fruit. The midpalate does show a little more harmony though, and there is no shortage of grip and extract. On returning to it the tannins build but they are ripe if rather substantial. A wine I find impressive, given time it will develop a fine perfume to go with all this structure. A good dry tannic finish. I like it. From a tasting of 2009 Bordeaux at two years of age. 18/20 (October 2011)”

- CK, The Wine Doctor

“The nose here is very fresh, deep and characterful. Quite a cool style on the start of the palate, rather stony-fresh texture, with well controlled moderate substance. An appealing tannic core, good acids, plenty of grip. Seems quite appropriate, with lovely bright red-black fruit. Elegant and understated, with a very fine balance of components. An impressive wine, although with its definition and elegance in amongst all these rich Merlot-heavy wines from its neighbours it seems more 'left bank' than ever in this vintage, reflecting its gravelly terroir and Cabernet-dominated blend (the vineyard is 35% each Franc and Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and the wine is usually similar). Very fine indeed though. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 17.5-18.5+/20 (March 2010)”

- CK, The Wine Doctor

“Figeac to a T. 2013 long, fresh and distinctly Médocain in style. Fragrant, cassis-dark fruit aroma and flavour. Pure and exact, no false notes.”

- JL, Decanter.com

“The high percentage of Cabernet is the key to the success of Figeac in 2009. Unlike some badly over-blown wines in St Emilion, this is poised and beautifully balanced, with the perfume of the Cabernet Franc complementing the structure of the Cabernet Sauvignon and the plush fruit of the Merlot. The wine has a delightful rigour about it. One to cellar for 15+ years.”

- TA, timatkin.com
