

Château Figeac 2019

CSPC# 813879

750mlx6

14.1% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

36% Cabernet Franc, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classé

Website

http://www.chateau-figeac.com/index_en.php

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.

One of the great names and terroirs of Saint Emilion whose wines exude class and sophistication rather than raw power. There have been some serious improvements here recently under winemaker Frédéric Faye. Michel Rolland has been brought in to consult - but not to change the unique Figeac style. Modern techniques such as vibrating sorting tables, destemming and an optical laser sorting line are being used, as well as 100% new oak barrels from 7 different coopers. As a consequence, the wines produced now seem a little riper and more polished than before but are still fine, pure and classic. Unusually for the right bank there is only 30% Merlot in the vineyard with 35% Cabernet Franc and - rare on the right bank - 35% Cabernet Sauvignon. Valmy Nicolas from La Conseillante has been brought in to sort out the commercial side. A sizeable part of production is relegated to the second label - Petit Figeac. After two stunning vintages in 2015 and 2016 Figeac is one of the hottest properties in Bordeaux. The 2018 harvest lasted nearly a month from the picking of the first Merlot to the last Cabernet. The blend is 37% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 33% Cabernet Sauvignon with a yield of 39 hl/ha and 100% new oak. 14 degrees. 10,000 cases with 4500 of Petit Figeac. Frederic compares this wine to his magnificent 2016 but describes it as being "more crystalline and focused".

Winemakers

Frédéric Faye. Michel Rolland consults.

Vintage

With unusual weather conditions influencing the vine growth cycle, the strategic choices made by our team yielded a very great Château-Figeac. 2019 will remain a benchmark vintage in Figeac's history, an absolutely exceptional wine showing balance, freshness and perfect maturity across the three grape varieties. The Cabernets are expressed in magnificent floral aromas and notes of fruit such as bilberry and Mara des Bois strawberry. A succulent and dense attack extends harmoniously into a caressing mid-palate enfolded in the texture of our Merlots. Balance remains throughout an exceptionally long finish on which the refined, mineral texture of the Cabernets takes wing on fruit-driven freshness.

2019 started with alternating spring and winter conditions. An exceptionally cold spell in early May, with late frost, meant all hands-on board; fortunately, the vines suffered no damage. Dry and sunny weather set in from mid-June, enabling the vines to catch up the growth cycle in short order. The grapes matured slowly over the summer, favouring concentration of aromas and flavours. Freshness was preserved by moderate use of leaf-thinning, limiting the grapes' exposure to the sun.

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



Vineyards	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.
Harvest	Picking started early at Figeac. The crop, though small, delighted us with its quality. Harvest was between 13 September to 7 October.
Vinification/ Maturation	The winemaking was carried out with the greatest respect toward the fruit, with gentle extractions and low fermentation temperatures to maintain the freshness, aromatic complexity, and balance of the juice.
Tasting Notes	The color of the 2019 with its deep, brilliant, amaranthine red hue and bright purple glints testifies to the beautiful ripeness of this vintage. The nose is intensely aromatic, pure and reveals great finesse. Our Cabernets find their full expression through notes of flowers and fruit, such as blueberries and Mara Des Bois strawberries. Delicious and dense on the entry to the palate, the wine develops harmoniously on the mid-palate with the gentle, enveloping texture of the Merlot. Showing exceptional length of favor, the wine maintains a balance that follows right through to the finish, in which the fine, mineral texture of the Cabernets is elevated by the freshness of the fruit flavor. 2019 will go down in the history of Château-Figeac as one of its benchmark vintages.
Serve with	Chateau Figeac is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Figeac is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	9,062 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2065
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>99 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>98-100 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>98-99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p>18.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>98 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - March 2022</p> <p>98 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>97-99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>95-98 points - Farr Vintners - May 2020</p> <p>98 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>97-99 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>99 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>97-99 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>98 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>98-100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>100 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - January 2022</p> <p>100 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Large-scaled, capturing all the rich and flamboyant cassis, steeped plum and blackberry reduction notes that are hallmarks of the vintage, along with a broad swath of loam and warm gravel underneath as tobacco and alder accents fill in wherever possible. Muscular and toothy along the edges but rock-solid in build, with enough fruit to round into form eventually. Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2024 through 2040. 9,062 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2019 Figeac has turned out brilliantly. Wafting from the glass with aromas of blackberries, cassis, warm spices, violets, and pencil shavings, framed by a deft touch of nicely integrated new oak, it's full-bodied, deep and concentrated, with terrific depth at the core, powdery structuring tannins and lively acids, concluding with a long, precise finish. Rich but vibrant, this 2019 reflects the new precision that Frédéric Faye has brought to Figeac; but while it's richer and more polished than the wines of yesteryear, the estate's identity hasn't been lost. Drink Date 2029 – 2065.</i></p> <p><i>Director of Château Figeac since 2013, Frédéric Faye emphasizes precision and timing when he characterizes the estate's evolution over the last decade. Harvest now lasts three or four weeks, stopping and starting, so each</i></p>

parcel of this 41-hectare vineyard can be picked at optimal maturity. Farming is similarly adapted parcel by parcel, emphasizing sustainability. And a brand-new winery triples the team's working space, with small tanks so each parcel can be vinified separately. Yet the objective is to polish Figeac, not to change it. If the estate's wines are now suppler and fuller, their classically Cabernet-rich assemblage hasn't altered. Old-fashioned approaches such as submerged-cap fermentation for fruit growing on gravel soils have been retained. And of course, the estate's distinctive soils haven't changed. Faye and his team have turned in a brilliant performance in 2019, and the Manoncourt family have every reason to be delighted with the new lustre that he has brought to this reference-point château."

- WK, Wine Advocate

"The 2019 Figeac.....harvested from the 13th of September to the 7th of October. The alcohol this year is 14.1% and the pH is 3.7. Steal-your-heart scents of mulberries, black raspberries, Black Forest cake and cassis prance ever so gracefully out of the glass, followed by nuances of plum preserves, red roses, cinnamon toast, and clove oil plus just a waft of lavender. Medium to full-bodied, the palate shimmers with electric energy, framed by a solid backbone of wonderfully ripe, grainy Cabernet-led tannins and bold freshness, finishing with fantastic persistence and with tons of emerging earth and floral layers. This is a simply stunning, seemingly effortless, beautifully harmonious expression of the vineyard and the vintage - bravo!"

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"This is a really beautiful red with crushed-berry, plum, bark, mushroom and earth character. It's full and creamy-textured with lots of tannins, but they are integrated and polished and flow across the palate. So much depth and intensity, yet there's underlying grace and class. Try after 2025."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is one of the most structured and linear Figeac with very fine tannins, yet at an intense level. So complex on the nose with notes of white flowers, blueberries, and graphite. It's full-bodied, very balanced, and agile. So transparent and linear with brightness and raciness."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"96–98. Barrel Sample. This is another magnificent vintage from this estate. It has density, elevated tannins, and the purest black currant fruits. The Cabernet Sauvignon that always gives structure to the wine from this estate is there in abundance. The tannins are rich and dry, a combination that will ensure long-term aging."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Exquisite wine. Fragrant, floral nose with a perfect pitch of fruit. Cool, mineral edge alongside. Very pure and precise, the crafting spot on. Lovely line and length with plenty of drive and persistence. Refreshing, saline finish. A classic Figeac in its elegance and restraint. Gets the nod over '15 & '18 - at least on a par with '16."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"A higher amount of Cabernet Franc than usual in the blend, really get the Cabernet impact on the nose and on the attack, could easily say Left Bank with the liquorice root, menthol, and leafy character. A rich creaminess comes in through the mid palate, with sappy raspberry fruits alongside salinity and minerality. The exuberance of a warm summer is there but it is well hidden under the precision of the tannic structure overall. An extremely impressive and signature Figeac. Juicy on the finish and oh so careful in its tannic delivery. 100% new oak. A yield of 34hl/ha, higher than 2018. 3.7pH. Drinking Window 2028 – 2046."

- JA, Decanter.com

"This is a gorgeous Figeac, balanced and finessed and full of promise for the future - and interesting to note that its blend is almost back to the classic third-of-each-variety of the pre-Rolland days. Just love the clarity and the chiseled quality to the fruits, blueberries, bilberries, cassis - all smooth, concentrated, with excellent acidity but high sweetness, and muscular tannins. Clear smoked sandalwood also but not a hint of dryness and will clearly melt together with another five or six years in bottle. Can't wait to follow this wine as it ages. Cigar smoke and grilled sandalwood on the finish, the poise and precision on display here is just unmissable. Harvest September 13 to October 17, 100% new oak."

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

Reviews

“Fragrant straight from the first moment, this is a great Figeac, with waves of concentrated flavour. The focus is on graphite, salinity, saffron, crushed stone, smoked earth, builds gently through the palate, and has the finesse and elegance that you find in the best vintages of this wine. Poised, creamy, carefully carved out fruits, full of life. Clearly extremely measured with the extraction. 100% new oak. Frederic Faye CEO, with both Michel Rolland and Thomas Duclos as consultants.”

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

“Not quite at the level of the over the moon 2016, but not too far either, this sublime gem is almost opaque in color. This is so concentrated, silky, rich, and decadent, it's almost off the charts. Blackberry, espresso, black currants, licorice, flowers, and wet earth with cherry blossoms crowd into the perfume. Fresh, vibrant, lively and structured to age and evolve for decades, the wine ends with waves of perfectly ripe, vibrant, red and black fruits that simply do not want to quit! Drink from 2035-2060.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Beautifully dark, almost purple/garnet in color, the wine gets you going with its nose of flowers, blackberry, dark plums, spice, smoke, vanilla, cherries, licorice, and tobacco leaf. As good as that is, when the wine hits your palate, the show starts with its majestic textures. Voluptuous, opulent, and silky, the wine seeks attention, but it's not loud, it's discreet. Classic and yet, voluminous, the flamboyant palate-coating finish, with its multiple layers of fruit stays with you for close to 60 seconds. The wine was made from a classic blend of 36% Cabernet Franc, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot reaching 14.1% alcohol with a pH of 3.7 and is aging in 100% new, French oak barrels. The harvest took place September 13 - October 7.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2019 was harvested between 13th September and 7th October - a long harvested chosen deliberately with early picking for aromatic freshness in some parcels and later picking (after the September rains) for full ripening of some Cabernet parcels. The blend is 36% Cabernet Franc, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot. there will be 7,000 cases from a yield of 32hl/ha this year. 14.1% abv. Deep ruby colour in the class, with a complex nose of fresh red fruits that interplay with darker blackcurrant and chocolate. The Cabernets add a wonderful, fresh herbal note as well as a touch of pencil shavings. The palate is initially forward and fleshy, showing the rounded fruit of Merlot before the crunchy grip of the Cabernets come through. The tannins are mouthcoating but ripe, adding savoury graphite minerality to the dense core of red and black fruits. The spice is subtle and smoky, lifted by bright acidity. Taut and compact at the moment, this will need time in bottle but shows great potential. Tasted in Bordeaux and in London.”

- Farr Vintners

“The 2019 Figeac was bottled in mid-July. Deep in color, with a bouquet that is initially backward and reticent. It requires a few minutes to shake off the veil of oak from the élevage. As I observed last year, the Cabernet Franc is very expressive this year, contributing blackberry and graphite notes and lending a more Left Bank-style bouquet. The palate is very fresh from the first moment, and very well structured, delivering layers of black fruit struck through by a fine bead of acidity. The tannins are very fine, and that crucial saline element appears toward the persistent finish. This is overtly classic in style and will require cellaring to reveal its full potential. But what potential! Chapeau, Frédéric Faye, and team Manoncourt. Drink 2028-2060.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2019 Figeac was picked from 13 September to 7 October, a total of 4 weeks picking. There is a little more emphasis on the Cabernet Franc this year - 36% of the blend. It is quintessential Figeac on the nose, that is to say that the enticing mélange of Merlot and Cabernet together creates more than a sum of their parts. Here the blackberry, crushed stone and graphite elements are seamlessly enmeshed with the more ravishing red fruit aspects delivered by the ripe Merlot. It is exquisitely defined. The palate is medium-bodied. First impressions are of a Figeac that leans more to the Cabernet/Left Bank side of its personality, quite structured with black fruit dominating, saline and marine-influenced. The Merlot really comes through towards the close delivering that almost clinical mineral-driven finish. Winemaker Frédéric Faye and his team have conjured a deeply impressive, intellectual Figeac this years, amongst the canon of greats that stretch back to the 1940s. 2028 - 2060.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2019 Figeac is without question one of the wines of the vintage. All the promise it showed as a young barrel sample, is all there in bottle, too. Estate Director Frédéric Faye crafted a towering, statuesque Figeac built on vertical energy and a feeling of vibrancy that never lets up. Deep layers of red/purplish fruit, cedar, tobacco, mint

Reviews *and dried flowers are framed by a super-classic expression of structure that keeps things in balance. There is a bit more Cabernet Franc in this year's blend, and that definitely comes through. Readers who can find the 2019 should not hesitate, as it is truly majestic. Drink 2034-2069."*

- AG, Vinous

"A stunning vivid wine, the 2019 Figeac may very well turn out to be one of the wines of the vintage, when all is said and done. Cabernet Franc is 36%, a bit higher than the norm, which has been closer to 30%. The 100% new oak is barely perceptible. Rich and dramatic in the glass, the 2019 soars with magnificent intensity. Graphite, cured meats, smoke, licorice, menthol, and spice develop with aeration, but the 2019 is dense and very primary today. It is a truly grand Grand Vin in the making.

Estate Director Frédéric Faye describes a year of starting and stopping in terms of maturity. He chose to start harvest with the young vine Merlots on sand early to preserve freshness but waited on the parcels with Cabernet on clay/gravel, where the soils retain more moisture. Faye opted for gentle winemaking as he was concerned over-extracting the Cabernets in particular."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2019 Château Figeac checks in as 36% Cabernet Franc, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 30% Merlot, and it's another brilliant wine from Frédéric Faye. This deep purple-hued effort offers a beautiful Pauillac-like bouquet of ripe black cherries, cassis, damp earth, leafy herbs, chocolate, and smoked tobacco. It has classic Figeac herbal, earthy goodness (no doubt due to its high percentage of Cabernet) and is medium to full-bodied on the palate, has perfect tannins and flawless balance, all making for a brilliant Saint-Emilion that brings richness and power paired with finesse and elegance. Give bottles 4-5 years, count yourself lucky, and enjoy over the following 30+."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Reminding me of the 2016 with its pure, classic style, the 2019 Figeac checks in as 36% Cabernet Franc, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 30% Merlot, and the Cabernet certainly takes center stage at this point. Deep purple, with an incredibly pure bouquet of crème de cassis, spring flowers, tobacco, lead pencil shavings, and damp earth, you'd be excused for guessing Pontet Canet (or maybe Lafite) blind as it has a distinctly Left Bank style. Full-bodied and flawlessly balanced, with beautiful concentration, it's one of those wines that offers serious power and richness, yet no sensation of weight or heaviness. In addition, the tannin quality is off the charts and could not be any better. If you love classic Bordeaux (or just great wine for that matter), you should buy this wine. Barrel Sample:98-100."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Dark ruby, purple reflections, subtle watery rim. Nuances of oak, dark forest fruit, a hint of cassis and liquorice, fine tobacco nuances, spices, orange zest, still a little reserved. Complex, cherries, well-integrated tannins, mineral, and lasting, elegant style with a fine fruity finish, salty on the aftertaste, delicate liquorice in the finish, immensely harmonious, absolute ageing potential, however, patience is required. Leave to mature."

- Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is elegant, delicate, racy and offers a beautiful finesse/delicacy, power, deepness, a beautiful finesse of the grain (very discreetly tight) as well as harmony. It reveals notes of fleshy/fresh blackberry, cornflower, small notes of ripe/juicy small berries associated with small touches of Cuban pepper, nutmeg, sweet spices as well as a discreet hint of cardamom and tea. The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers a beautiful finesse, an acidulous frame, a beautiful definition, roundness, elegance, a beautiful finesse of the fat, a finesse of the grain, suavity, a fine tension, harmony as well as a small racy minerality. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/pulpy blackberry, juicy/pulpy cassis and small notes of violet associated with small touches of small bright blue fruits, fleshy/juicy raspberry as well as fine hints of nutmeg, chocolate, cornflower, a racy minerality, very discreet hints of sweet spices, hazelnut, black tea, and almond. Tannins are fine, elegant, and slightly coating. A gourmand persistence on notes of chocolate and almond. Beautiful persistence. Splendid Cabernet Franc! A wine that needs time to reveal all its beauty in the glass with a beautiful intensity all in finesse!"

- Vert de Vin