

Château Peby Faugeres 2011

CSPC# 763552

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

100% Merlot

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Website

<http://www.chateau-peby-faugeres.com/>

General Info

This luxury cuvee is culled from a 5-acre parcel of the Faugeres vineyard... this loaded St Emilion should turn out to be one of the finest wines of the vintages.

Heralded from the Faugeres vineyard (a parcel of primarily Merlot with small quantities of Cabernet Franc), this spectacular St.-Emilion represents the essence of flavour, with a beautiful elegance and complexity.

Vintage

The 2011 vintage was characterized by a particularly hot, dry spring, early and rapid flowering, an unusually long summer lasting from April to September, and a magical late autumn, with warm, dry conditions.

A dry, cool winter, lacking a really cold spell, gave way to a period of warmer weather and water deficit in April (no rainfall exceeding 5mm before the end of June), with temperatures 4°C higher on average compared with the previous years. Bud break started at the beginning of April and the first leaves appeared around 10 April. The earliness of flowering, concentrated around 20 May, was unprecedented. This was followed by a perfect fruit set at the end of May. There were summer temperatures from springtime onwards, reaching 39°C on 26 and 27 June. Fortunately, a cautious approach was adopted, omitting leaf thinning in order to shield the fruit so as to avoid or limit the effects of "scorching" on the grapes. The temperatures in July and August, through to mid-September, were close to the seasonal norm. Ripening also began very early (end of June), though the start was slow because of the water deficit; rainfall in the second half of July accelerated the coloration of the fruit, with ripening completed by 10 August. The rainfall in late August/early September might have weakened the skins had it not been for an anticyclone which settled in for a period in mid-September. This created conditions favourable to complete ripening of the Merlot Noir at Château Péby Faugères.

Vineyards

Peby Faugeres is a blend of the wines from Chateau Faugeres' best plots of land. The Chateau Faugeres estate covers 9 hectares, located in Saint Emilion on clay-limestone soils. The vines are 100% Merlot and are on average 40 years old.

Harvest

Harvesting was in progress between 23 and 26 September, on average some 12 days earlier than in 2010. The use of optical sorting equipment ensured that no grape was selected which had not reached perfect ripeness. Yields were around 28 hl/ha.

**Vinification/
Maturation**

Traditional viticulture methods are used, such as green harvesting, leaf pruning and manual picking. When selecting the grapes, two sorting tables are used to ensure the best possible quality. Maturation is conducted over 18 months in 100% new French oak barrels.

Tasting Notes

The 2011 vintage, which produced small grapes with thick skins, has high phenolic concentrations, very dark, easily extracted colours, and superb skin tannins, as well as very smooth and aromatic seed tannins. The level of alcohol is around 13.5°, somewhat lower than in 2009 and 2010. As in 2010, the acidity levels ensure a pleasing overall balance. The aromas, on both nose and palate, are elegantly powerful, with hints of black berries and liquorice, as well as mineral notes.

Production

1,000 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2016-2026

Scores/Awards

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014

91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

92-94+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012

94 points - James Suckling, James Suckling.com - January 2014



Scores/Awards **92-93 points** - James Suckling, James Suckling.com - April 2012
89-91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012
15.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012
16.5 points/4 stars - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2012
93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
83 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - November 17, 2013
87 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)
93 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)
19 points - Gault & Millau - April 2012 (score only)

Reviews *"Pure, fruit-laden and refined, with lovely blueberry, plum and blackberry notes that glide along, inlaid with licorice snap, fruitcake and hoisin sauce accents. The long finish drips with fruit, while a charcoal spine imparts balance. This estate is on a roll. Best from 2016 through 2026. 1,000 cases made"*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This goes for it, with bold mocha and ganache aromas followed by dark plum, blackberry and blueberry pâte de fruit notes. The dark, anise-filled finish flirts with over extraction, but ultimately there's beautiful mouthfeel and good vibrancy as the fruit echoes. An impressive effort. Score range: 91-94"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The estate's luxury cuvee, the 2011 Peby Faugeres comes from the oldest (averaging 45 years) sector of the vineyard and is essentially 100% Merlot. Yields were 26 hectoliters per hectare and the fruit was harvested at the end of September. The wine is packaged in a spectacularly beautiful engraved glass bottle. Opaque purple in color, the 2011 is one of the most intense, full and rich wines of the vintage. Notes of ink, graphite, blueberries, black raspberries, toasty oak, white chocolate and mocha are all present in this full-throttle, expansive, savory St.-Emilion. It should drink well for two decades or more. One of the up-and-coming stars of St.-Emilion, Faugeres is owned by Swiss entrepreneur, Silvio Benz (also the owner of the Lalique crystal company)."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"You know, my scathing review of the 2008 (blind) prompted a polite letter of enquiry from the estate. I have no problem with that (and at least the letter was polite!) The Peby-Faugeres 2011 was picked from 23rd until 26th September. It actually has a lovely opulent bouquet that is pure and not overpowering and has gorgeous floral aromas. The palate is medium bodied with crisp tannins on the entry with very good balance, crisp acidity and (I cannot believe I am writing this) engaging elegant finish. See...I like you, really. Tasted April 2012."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A full, very powerful wine for the vintage, with big, juicy fruit and velvety tannins. So much fruit and character here. A generous but polished wine for the vintage. Lots of blackberry and sexy wood character. Pure merlot. Try in 2017."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Very chewy with loads of ripe fruit and a wet earth and blackberry character. Dark chocolate too. Full and rich. Juicy. Rich depth of fruit. Pure Merlot as always."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"89-91. Barrel sample. While there is 100% new wood, the weight of fruit in this expression is sufficient to power through. It will be an impressive wine."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Dark black cherry colour. Very floral, combined with some oak char. Rich and chewy. Plenty of ripe fruit though the tannins and acidity are a bit aggressive. "
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
