
Vieux Chateau Mazerat 2011

CSPC# 763529

750mlx12

13.1% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

65% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Website

<http://www.teyssier.fr/chateau-teyssier/the-wines/vieux-ch%E2teau-mazerat.aspx?altTemplate=WinesPrint&lang=en>

General Info

In his book BORDEAUX David Peppercorn wrote about VIEUX CHATEAU MAZERAT - "It is the only unclassified cru in this sector just to the west of Saint Emilion, and doubtless if the wine comes to be put in casks it could easily achieve classification". In 1996, on the strength of that endorsement, a mainly Cabernet Franc parcel belonging to the Château was purchased which was rechristened LE DOME. Twelve years later the opportunity to purchase the Château itself was not something to give up. Indeed, it was noted by publications in France, Europe and America. Production is limited with vinification being reactive. The resulting wine is powerful, complex and persistent.

Vintage

It was not an easy growing season... The Spring was remarkably warm and dry and flowering took place early and in fine conditions. However, by late June the heat was becoming excessive and the lack of rain a real concern, with some vines actually in danger of shutting down.

July was cool and fortunately saw some rain, while August was mixed, cooler than average overall but with some heat spikes and some storms. September was warm and dry enabling the grapes to ripen fully, but the relative lack of heat in the key months of July and August meant that the wines do not have the richness and flesh which is found in the truly great warm vintages like 2009.

There was uneven ripening within the bunches of grapes, and this necessitated a huge amount of work in the vineyard and the cellar, sorting out and rejecting the less than perfect fruit.

Vineyards

The Château, in total four hectares, is made up of two parts – the main part of the vineyard neighbors the two Beausejour's and Angelus towards the village and is based on a bed of clay over limestone. This is called 'Les Verdiannes' and is made up of vines that date back to 1947. The smaller part of the vineyard lies between LE DOME and Angelus and is made up of sandy soils over a layer of Crasse de Fer at a depth of 40cm. This vineyard has the same name as the vineyard of LE DOME – Languitey.

Harvest

The grapes are harvested at the precise moment of ripeness, handpicked into shallow trays, and after double-triage are transported by conveyors into pristine wooden vats. Grapes were harvested between September 26 and October 3.

Vinification/

Maturation

Vinification involves both rotational pumping and pigeage. Secondary fermentation in French oak barrels is followed by a traditional approach to ageing.

Tasting Notes

Next to Angélu, in front of Beauséjour Duffau Lagarosse. Clay over limestone. 35% Cabernet Franc planted in 1947, the rest is Merlot. Very dense and velvet rich. Luxuriously plump, yet despite this almost chocolatey richness it keeps its energy and length.

Production

1,250 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2014-2024



Scores/Awards **89 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014
87-90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012
93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014
92-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012
90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012
95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2014
92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012
91-94 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012
17.5 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2012

Scores/Awards **93 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)
16-17 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2012
89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 24, 2012

Reviews *"Features dark fig, blackberry and plum skin notes, liberally coated with ganache and backed by a tarry finish. A bit of a brute now, showing buried energy and some lively acidity. Has a shot to stretch out. Best from 2015 through 2022. 1,250 cases made"*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Soft but focused, with gentle toast framing blueberry and plum fruit. Nice open feel through the finish"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"A spectacular effort from Jonathan Maltus, this inky/purple-colored, complex 2011 (made from 60-year-old vines and a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc) offers up notes of graphite, sweet blackberry and cassis, and hints of earth, espresso, spice and chocolate. Already drinking well, this rich, layered, full-bodied St.-Emilion was cropped at a low 30 hectoliters per hectare. It can be enjoyed now and over the next decade."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2011 boasts a black/purple hue (like many of Jonathan Maltus's wines in 2011), terrific intensity, a skyscraper-like mouthfeel, and multidimensional flavors of creme de cassis, kirsch, licorice, toast, chocolate and spicy oak. It is a big, dense, thick, full-bodied St.-Emilion that is nearly atypical for the vintage. No doubt the old vines and tiny yields had a significant influence on the formation of this wine. Give it 5-6 years of cellaring and drink it over the following 25+. From a vineyard planted in 1947 on clay and limestone soils, this 1,500-case blend of two-thirds Merlot and one-third Cabernet Franc is a blockbuster for the vintage. It was harvested between September 26 and October 3."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A blend of 65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Franc, the VCM '11 has a wonderful mineral-rich bouquet that is very well defined with black truffle, fresh fig and dried herbs all wrapped up in precocious dark cherry fruit. The palate is medium bodied with a very svelte texture, a keen thread of acidity and an opulent ravishing finish of dark cherries, liquorice and black truffle. Very persistent in the mouth. Tasted April 2012."
- NM, Wine Journal

"This powerful wine comes from a superbly sited vineyard in the heart of Saint-Emilion. It is concentrated with huge tannins laced with black plum juice, dark berries and a dense, brooding character. A powerhouse of both fruit and tannin, it needs to age. Drink from 2018. Cellar Selection."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"A powerful wine, with dark fruits and structured tannins. Impressively rich, it is dense and black in character."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"(65% merlot, and 35% cabernet franc): Deep ruby. Red cherry, blackberry and black pepper on the nose. Big, rich and dense, with red cherry and black cherry coating the mouth. The unctuous, chocolatey finish shows juicy acidity and a lovely uplifting floral note. The well-placed vines on clay-and-limestone soil are surrounded on three sides by those of Canon, Angelus and Beausejour Duffau Lagarosse. Jonathan Maltus told me the cabernet franc is from 1947, and because it's planted on clay over limestone, it gives the wine a unique mouthfeel and will require time and patience. This is a truly outstanding VCM, and one of the real successes of the 2011 vintage."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Dense and vibrant. Lovely purity of fruit. Lively and fresh (35% Cabernet Franc) on the palate. Lift and elegance this year. Drink 2018-2030. (17.5 points)"

-JL, Decanter.com

Reviews

"93. Reunited as one property since 2008, this is another finely balanced wine from Jonathan Maltus, although it is arguably less of a bargain than Laforge. Spice and chocolate on the nose, sweet oak, some Asian spices and good lift and depth of tannin, this is a very well-judged wine, marshalling the vintage with no little skill. 10+ years."

- TA, timatkin.com

"Maltus says at this point in the tasting, 'We are strong on colour, we like colour', and it clearly shows here! 12-day soaks at under 6 degrees centigrade, for colour and fruit without tannins. Two rack and returns, four small pump overs. They also have a turbo pigeage machine that is like a rack and return, but everything takes place internally to retain freshness. Rich, dark, deep, coffee, he's just run right over the constraints of the 2011s. Beep beep! Clay over limestone. 1200 cases. It works, but for different reasons than Le Carré."

JA, The New Bordeaux

"The château that has long been the source of Le Dôme. Roasted nut overtones on top of the dark fruits here. A very harmonious character, very deep and concentrated but again in keeping with the house style the fruit is pure, harmonious and not over-worked. Rich and ripe but certainly no softness here, there is a tense grip of tannins beneath the substance of the wine. This has an admirable substance, muscular in terms of its composition, but in no way over the top or out of balance. Impressive."

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"65% Merlot and 35% Cabernet Franc create a wine that is deep in color. With jammy black raspberry and stone, this intense wine is packed with minerality, iron and black cherry. Full bodied, severe, mineral driven and structured, the wine ends with coffee bean and black cherry. 89-91 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
