

## Château Villemaurine 2016

CSPC# 765999

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

St.-Emilion

**Classification**

Grand Cru Classé

**Website**

<http://www.villemaurine.com/en/>

**General Info**

Chateau Villemaurine, located not far from the picturesque, St. Emilion village is one for the history books. At least that's where Chateau Villemaurine found the inspiration for their name. During the 8th century, an army of invaders took up residency and made an encampment on the land where this this Right Bank property is located today. The camp was called, Ville Maure, which when translated, it means city of the Moors.

Chateau Villemaurine was purchased in June 2007 by Justin Onclin. Onclin immediately modernized the Bordeaux wine estate. He added a new vat room with numerous, temperature controlled, smaller vats as well as a new tasting area. The low-capacity vats allow for parcels to be vinified one at a time. They made another change at Chateau Villemaurine, they brought in Stephane Derenoncourt to consult. Which based on the wines being made today, was a very savvy move.

Chateau Villemaurine produces on average, close to 1,200 cases of Bordeaux wine per year. Villemaurine also makes a second wine, Les Angelots de Villemaurine. The Onclin family also owns Clos Larcis, which is located not far from Chateau Pavie. They also count another Bordeaux vineyard in their holdings, Chateau Branas-Grand-Poujeaux, located in the Moulis appellation.

**Winemaker**

Hubert de Boüard - Consultant Oenologist

**Vintage**

Despite very wet weather up till June 20, the flowering process went well. As from the last week of June, fine, sunny weather set in and began an unprecedented almost unbroken period of dry weather right up to the harvest. The month of July was sunny but quite cool with cold nights. In August, temperatures rose, reaching heat-wave levels on some days of over 35°C. However, diurnal temperature variation was at a ratio of one to two throughout the whole month, bringing very favourable conditions for the aromatic expression in our grapes and the preservation of freshness of fruit. Despite very low rainfall, our vines coped magnificently well on our clay-limestone soils, whose moisture enabled the vines to rehydrate themselves. Hot summer weather continued in early September with temperatures of 28°C to 30°C, day after day. Then in mid-September great white and grey clouds filled the sky and brought very welcome rain, which injected energy and strength into the vines, helping them to unblock the phenolic ripening process. Fine weather soon returned, the tannins slowly ripened, and the first red grapes were harvested on 10 October. Rain at the beginning of September, and the Indian summer that ensued, enabled the grapes to reach optimal ripeness. The quality of the crop was very homogeneous while the grapes were in perfect health.

**Vineyards**

The 7 hectare Bordeaux vineyard of Chateau Villemaurine rests on top of clay and limestone soils that are planted to 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. The estate plans to increase the amount of Cabernet Franc planted in their St. Emilion vineyards to as much as 20% over time.

**Harvest**

Hand harvested. Merlot from 10 to 21 October, and Cabernet Franc from 21-22 October

**Vinification**

Short pre-fermentation cold soaks produced fabulous results. Thanks to alternate punching down of the cap of skins and rack and returns, the musts very quickly gained in fruit character, structure, and depth of colour, and expressed the great anthocyanin-rich quality of this vintage. After long, post-fermentation macerations that allowed the skins to release all the power they held inside, the malo-lactic



<b>Vinification</b>	fermentations were carried out in barrels. The wines quickly revealed their flesh, volume, gentle tannic power in a lovely velvety, silky mouth-feel. The ageing in barrels is ongoing and shows all the promise of an outstanding vintage.
<b>Maturation</b>	Ageing in 80% new barrels, 20% second-fill barrels.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The wine displays a deep colour, very concentrated, with very suave fruit, lovely freshness, and round tannins. It shows a lovely, full length of flavour on the palate. Château Villemaurine 2016, with its great finesse and precision, expresses wonderfully the typicity of its clay-limestone terroir.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Villemaurine is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Villemaurine is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
<b>Production</b>	2,966 cases produced
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2020-2034
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>92+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - November 2018</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - April 2017</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - January 2016</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 11, 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine - May 2017</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - April 2017</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"The 2016 Villemaurine is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc aged in 80% new and 20% one-year-old barrels for 16 months. It has a deep garnet-purple color and lovely cedar, earth, baked cherries, and warm plums notions waft from the glass followed by nuances of pencil shavings, cloves, cinnamon stick, star anise and dusty soil. Medium to full-bodied bodied, the mid-palate slowly builds into loads of spicy layers with a pleasantly chewy texture and a long mineral-laced finish. About 2,966 cases produced."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Villemaurine, a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, has a ripe, glossy bouquet with maybe just a little more warmth showing through than some of its peers. There is more than enough black cherry and wild strawberry fruit here, though I would like to see more terroir expression. The palate is medium-bodied with supple red berry fruit laced with soy. I appreciate the acidic drive to this Saint Emilion and the precision and minerality that comes through on the persistent finish. Impressive."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A very elegant and beautifully balanced wine, in which the interplay of bright acidity, fine dry tannins and oyster-shell minerality is really fascinating. Very long, super bright finish."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"A solid Villemaurine with powerful structure and intensity. Full body, chewy tannins and a blackberry, walnut, and wet-earth character. All there."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Lush, round, medium bodied and packed with fresh, ripe red fruits, licorice, earth and mocha, the wine is forward, elegant and supple textured in the fruit filled finish."</i></p> <p>- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"With ripe, luscious, dark red fruits, freshness, licorice, black cherry and hints of cocoa and espresso, the nose isn't all that tells the story here. You also find an opulent blast of ripe, juicy, dark red fruits and licorice on the palate and in the finish."</i></p> <p>- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p>

**Reviews** *“80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc produced a wine with depth, flowers, licorice, plum and spice. The wine combines sweetness, length, and sensual textures. This is a real success for Villemaurine.”*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“The 2016 Villemaurine is a rich, seductive wine. Creamy and bold, with soft contours and plenty of exuberant fruit, the 2016 is not going to win any awards for subtlety, but it packs a serious punch and more than enough depth to drink well for a number of years. Chocolate, espresso, plum and licorice notes meld into the sumptuous finish. This is in a decidedly modern, extracted style, but all the elements are very nicely fused together. Hubert de Boüard consults. Tasted four times.”*  
- AG, *Vinous*

*“Deep dark ruby garnet, firm core, violet reflections, delicate brightening of the edge, black forest berry jam with a delicate floral background, precious wood touch, tobacco-smoky nuances. Medium complexity, ripe cherries, present tannins, red berry touch in the finish, somewhat wide-meshed.”*  
- *Falstaff Magazine*

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