

Virginie de Valandraud Blanc 2021

CSPC# 102706

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

CSPC# 102914

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Semillon

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classe in 2012

Website

www.thunevin.com

General Info

In 1989, Jean-Luc Thunevin and Murielle Andraud bought a tiny 1.5-acre plot in Saint-Émilion near Châteaux Pavie-Macquin, Ausone, and La Clotte. Without the capital to build a full winery, a nearby garage was used...

Château de Valandraud was one of the first Garagiste wines with its inaugural vintage being the difficult 1991.

Created in 1992 as a second wine, Virginie de Valandraud since 1997 is its own wine, named after Jean-Luc Thunevin's daughter. The vineyard is the same as Château Valandraud, and the wine is made the same way, by the same team, under the supervision of Murielle Andraud, Jean-Luc's wife.

De Valandraud produces only about 400 cases a year and, not surprisingly, this very rich and concentrated St-Emilion is now one of the most sought-after wines in Bordeaux.

Valandraud was upgraded in the official 2012 St. Emilion Classification to Premier Grand Cru Classe B.

Winemaker

Murielle Andraud. Michel Rolland consults.

Vintage

If 2021 was drier than previous years, two intense climatic episodes impacted the vintage. The first one is the April frost which mobilized our teams for 9 nights. The second is linked to the strong episodes of rain in June, with nearly 180 mm of precipitation. The trio August / September / October was accompanied by low rainfall, allowing to harvest in optimal conditions and preserving the qualitative potential of the vintage.

Vineyards

They have 2 hectares of vines devoted to the production of white Bordeaux wine grapes, which are planted as follows: 50% Sauvignon Blanc, 35% Semillon, and 15% Sauvignon Gris. The parcels are located in various areas in Saint Emilion.

Harvest

Hand harvested.

Vinification/

The vinification of this wine is done in stainless steel vats at low temperature, with aging on fine lees for several months in order to obtain an incomparable texture and aromatic complexity.

Maturation

Tasting Notes

Virginie de Valandraud Blanc is a wine of great elegance, with a pale-yellow color and green reflections. It offers subtle aromas of white fruits such as pear, peach, and pineapple, as well as floral and citrus notes. On the palate it is very fresh, well balanced with lively acidity and a persistent and harmonious finish.

Serve with

Virginie de Valandraud Blanc is a wine that pairs perfectly with seafood dishes such as oysters, shrimp, and crabs. It also goes perfectly with grilled or roasted fish, as well as soft cheeses such as Brie, Camembert or Roquefort.

Production

800 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2023-2032

Scores/Awards

90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2023

89-91 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022

87-89 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - May 2022

92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022

91 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022

92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022

90-92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022

90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022

94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022

90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022

92-93 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022

92-93 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022



Reviews *“A light-bodied, gently persistent white, with mingling notes of lemon curd, honeysuckle, and salted butter. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2024. 800 cases made.”*
- JM, Wine Spectator

“The 2021 Virginie de Valandraud Blanc exhibits aromas of crisp orchard fruit, white flowers, and pastry cream, followed by a medium-bodied, lively, and nicely balanced palate. Since Sémillon suffered this year, Sauvignon Blanc, for once, predominates in the blend.”
- WK, Wine Advocate

“A full-bodied, serious white with complex notes already of flint, crushed stones, white pears, white lavender, cedar, fennel, and lemon grass. Mineral and subtly spicy finish. Structured. Nicely done.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Supple and fruity with a medium to full body and fresh acidity. Pretty pear and apple notes with some flint characters. Nicely ripe and textured with a focused finish.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Aromatic and expressive nose. Zesty and lively on the palate, a combination of lemon, lime and grapefruit touches with such gentle acidity but balanced by a creamy rich texture that you get a lovely weight in the mouth with gently driving flavours. Appealing with plenty of depth. A surefire easy white to enjoy with good acidity, juiciness, and freshness. Nicely balanced with harmony - I like this a lot.”
- GH, Decanter.com

“Flowers, yellow citrus, lemon grass, white peach, spice, and grapefruit pop on the nose. On the palate, the wine is even better with all of its juicy, sweet freshness, racy lemons and fresh pomelo with just a touch of spice in the finish. Drink from 2023-2032.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“It has quite a taut, linear bouquet with fine mineralité, bashful at first and requiring time to open. The palate is well-balanced with fine acidity, and quite spicy – you can feel the tongue tingling on the aftertaste. Good potential.”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2021 Virginie de Valandraud Blanc is a bundle of energy. Citrus peel, orchard fruit and white flowers race across the palate. Although nervy and very bright, the Virginie Blanc has a good bit of mid-palate texture and plenty of layers that open over time.”
- AG, Vinous

“Their 2021 Virginie De Valandraud Blanc checks in as 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Semillon, and while 2021 is an impressive vintage for the whites, it was slightly more challenging for Semillon, as it's more fragile with regard to frost and mildew. Crushed lime, chalky mineral, and more reductive yet clean, pure notes define the bouquet of this wine, and it's straight, focused, and chiseled on the palate, with good mid-palate depth. I think it's beautiful and will put on weight over the course of its élevage and have a long life.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“The nose is nicely led, fresh, luscious and reveals purity and a certain brightness. There are notes of pulpy/sparkling vine peach, lemon and some crunchy apple combined with discreet hints of apple blossom and an almost flinty quality. The palate is fruity and reveals freshness, juiciness, acidity, gourmandize, a fine pulpiness, delicacy, a certain volume, and purity. On the palate, this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy lemon, bright white peach and, more slightly, quince, combined with delicate touches of white flowers, as well as discreet zest and a subtle hint of yuzu. An imperceptible almost smoky hint in the background and a very discreet hint of positive bitterness on the persistence/retro. Good length.”
- Vert de Vin
