

Clos Fourtet 2019

CSPC# 848137

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

1st Grand Cru Classé

Website

<http://www.closfourtet.com/en/index.html>

General Info

Thanks to the geology of the Saint-Emilion plateau (chalk overlaid with aeolian sand), its fine wines boast a unique reputation, and Clos Fourtet, occupying a prime site, is among one of Saint-Emilion's oldest and most renowned estates. Medium in size (20 ha of vineyard), Clos Fourtet is built around an authentic private residence dating from the end of the Ancien Regime and itself stands at the very gates of the medieval city. It was in fact built over magnificent underground quarries where its wines are aged both in barrel and in bottle. The site itself is one of those most frequently visited and greatly admired. Throughout the 18th century, the Rulleau and de Carles families contributed largely to its growing renown, fully exploiting the land's potential. Here, thanks to the thin layer of arable soil, vines root easily, yet yield little, this "stress" being a fundamental prerequisite for the production of great wines. An exceptional terroir, the primary condition for production of a very great wine, associated with judiciously selected grape varieties cultivated in the time-honored fashion, traditional winemaking controlled by the latest techniques and finally aging in new barrels, ensure that Clos Fourtet takes its rightful place among the most highly esteemed growths in the appellation and in the region. In 1949, the Lurton family bought the chateau. They helped the vineyard to progress particularly the last 10 years. In 2001, Clos Fourtet has been repurchased by Philippe Cuvelier who continues the modernisation.

Winemakers

Jean-Claude Berrouet and Stéphane Deroncourt

Vintage

Winter: very mild. Spring: cool. Summer: exceptionally hot and dry. Autumn: very fine start to the season, some rainfall end September.

Vineyards

Thanks to the spare no expense attitude of the new owners, Clos Fourtet is doing what it takes to make the best wine possible. This effort begins in the vineyards. They practice sustainable, vine-growing methods. Grass is seeded between the rows to help reduce excess water. The soil between the vine plants is ploughed. The vines are pruned keeping two long canes, which are later de-budded to the required number of buds. De-leafing is done on the east-facing side at the end of June, and on the south-facing side at the end of August. Crop thinning is carried out at the beginning of the grape-colour change. As a result, the bunches are evenly spread out and well ventilated for good ripening. The 20-hectare Bordeaux vineyard of Clos Fourtet, is situated a stone's throw from the village of St. Emilion right on top of the limestone plateau. The vines are planted to 85 % Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon with vines that average 30 years of age. The wine is aged for 18 months in 60% new oak barrels. There is a second wine, Closerie de Fourtet.

Harvest

By hand, using small baskets. The harvest took place September 24- October 10.

Maturation

The alcoholic fermentations began within 24 hours of the berries being sent into vat. During the fermentation process, we carried out 10 pigeages (punching down the cap) during the middle part of the process, so as to gain a good extraction. The vatting period lasted on average 28 days. The wine is vinified traditionally and is aged in oak barriques (60% new, 40% used) for 16 months. It is bottled unfiltered.

Tasting Notes

Purplish purple. Finesse and elegance are the first two adjectives that come to mind when smelling the bouquet of Clos Fourtet 2019. Inviting notes of raspberries and cherries as well as floral nuances. Touch of black pepper and liquorice. On the palate the wine is marked by freshness. It has finesse, length and displays a beautiful tannic structure. The tannins are tight, perfectly integrated and in phase with the acid structure. A Clos Fourtet built on finesse and persistence. Very nice success.



Serve with	Best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Clos Fourtet is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	3,500 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2038
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>96+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>95-97+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2022</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>98 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>97+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>95 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p>17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“There’s ample dark cherry, plum and boysenberry compote flavors in this red, along with a rare hint of brightness for the vintage. Licorice root and applewood accents fill in through the finish, while an underlying chalky minerality gives this additional form as well. Very solid. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2025 through 2038. 3,500 cases made.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“Attractive aromas of wild berries, pencil shavings, vine smoke, black truffle and violets introduce the 2019 Clos Fourtet, a medium to full-bodied, deep, and seamless wine with a concentrated core of fruit, beautifully refined tannins, and lively acids, concluding with a long, saline finish. elegant and complete, this is a brilliant wine from this 19-hectare vineyard situated on the limestone plateau of Saint-Émilion, just outside the village, which has been on a qualitative roll since the 2001 vintage. drink date 2025 – 2060.”</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2019 Clos Fourtet has a knock-out nose of baked blueberries, boysenberries, and stewed plums with hints of chocolate-covered cherries, spice cake, candied violets and woodsmoke plus a touch of cast-iron pan. The medium to full-bodied palate is packed with layer upon layer of blue and black fruit preserves with loads of floral and mineral sparks and firm, rounded tannins, finishing long with fantastic energy and depth. If you’re looking for that “iron fist in a velvet glove” experience in 2019, look no further. 2024 – 2055”</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2019 Clos Fourtet tumbles effortlessly out of the glass with fragrant scents of baked plums, stewed black cherries, and red currant jelly, leading to suggestions of violets, star anise, and crushed rocks. Full-bodied, the palate is intense and wonderfully expressive with a ripe, plush texture and bags of freshness, finishing very long and fragrant. An impressive wine!”</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Independent</p> <p><i>“Lots of purple fruit with white pepper and crushed stones in the nose. It’s full-bodied, yet tight and poised with a very chalky and salty undertone to the purple fruit. Flavorful finish. Linear and long. Try after 2026.”</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>“A beautiful core of ripe fruit in the center palate with deep, dark-chocolate undertones. It’s full-bodied with layers of fruit and ripe tannins. Flavorful finish.”</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *“This is a ripe and structured wine that has a dense structure and concentrated blackberry fruit, yet it still shows the freshness typical of the vintage. It has an excellent long-term aging potential.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Deliciously seductive nose, heady! Crystalline texture and purity here with a pulsing drive from start to finish. The fruit is super glossy and shiny, it feels precise and purposeful with blackcurrant and black cherries at the fore. Tannins are well integrated, just perceptible giving a nice weight and frame to the palate. Succulent and sophisticated. Drinking window: 2025-2045.”*
- GH, Decanter.com
- “Starts out slowly, this is well built and muscled, and has no desire to show its hand too quickly. Instead, the concentrated yet cooling cassis and blueberry fruits build ever so slowly, the tannins lightly etched at first then tightening their grip. An excellent Clos Fourtet, up there with the brilliant 2018, and one that shows off the full potential of this excellent property to withstand the hot dry summers that are becoming so common in Bordeaux. A yield of 38hl/ha.”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “20ha of prime St Emilion limestone, punching at the very top of its game. This is muscular, less exuberant than the exceptional 2018 but this is still easily one of the wines of the vintage, salinity, and austerity but creamy in texture, with pure, well chiseled blueberry, blackberry and raspberry fruits with peony flowers on the finish. Biodynamic farming, but not certified. 38hl/h yield. 50% new oak, 2% amphoras.”*
- JA, Inside Bordeaux
- “Even better in the bottle after its aging period, the wine explodes with flowers, black cherries, plums, mint, espresso, cocoa, licorice, and crushed rocks. The wine is full-bodied, opulent, rich, silky, fresh, and long. The palate is coated with layers of dark red pit fruits with that elusive touch of salt, silky tannins and purity in the fruits that radiate from the mid-palate continuing all the way through to the long, velvety, harmonious finish. Give this at least a few years in the cellar and it should offer pleasure for the following 3 decades with ease. Drink from 2025-2055.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Deep in color, the wine opens with licorice, flowers, smoke, dark cocoa, wet earth, and truffle nuances. The wine is fresh, rich, concentrated, and balanced. With silky tannins, elegance and purity to the fruits, the supple texture combines the purity of fruit, lift, refinement, and harmony in the fruit-filled, spicy finish. The wine blends 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14.5% alcohol. The harvest took place September 24, ending October 10.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “The 2019 Clos Fourtet has a beautifully defined bouquet of vivacious red berry fruit, wild hedgerow, cassis, and crushed violets, intense at the moment, and yet I think this is going to close down. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, blackberry, a touch of tar, and a pinch of white pepper on a finish that fans out gloriously. A long-term prospect.”*
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2019 Clos Fourtet continues its strong run of form under the direction of Mathieu Cuvelier and his team. It sprints out of the blocks with intense blackberries, raspberry coulis, blood orange and crushed violet aromas, touches of iodine developing as it musters ever increasing delineation. The palate is medium-bodied but (as expected) contains more weight and girth compared to its peers. Firm grip, solid and yet graceful, there is a crescendo of flavours towards its heady, focused and very persistent finish. Wonderful salinity in the mouth, the aftertaste is one of the longest you will find on the Right Bank. Fabulous.”*
- NM, Vinous

Reviews

“The 2019 Clos Fourtet is positively stellar, just as it was from barrel. It presents a beguiling mix of dense, plush fruit packed into a classically structure frame. The first impression is one of opulence, until the minerality of Saint-Émilion's famed plateau begins to emerge. Black cherry, plum, leather, exotic spice, licorice, and blood orange build into the statuesque, explosive finish. The 2019 is a magnificent effort from the Cuvelier family and longtime consulting winemaker Stephane Derenoncourt.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2019 Clos Fourtet is exotic and beguiling in the glass. Inky dark fruit, licorice, espresso, menthol, and lavender all run through this sumptuous, beautifully resonant Saint-Émilion with bright mineral underpinnings that extend the finish effortlessly. A regal, exquisite wine, the 2019 has so much to offer. I can't wait to taste it in bottle.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2019 Château Clos Fourtet is another gem from the Right Bank that delivers the goods. From the upper, limestone plateau and always a bigger, richer wine than its neighbors (Canon, Beau-Séjour Bécot), it still shows incredible minerality and limestone character in its deep black cherry, currant, and mulberry fruits as well as scorched earth, chalky minerality, roasted herb, licorice, and white flower-like aromas and flavors. Rich, full-bodied, concentrated, and structured on the palate, it's flawlessly balanced, has ripe, broad, building tannins, an expansive mouthfeel, and a great, great finish. It needs a decade of bottle age, but it's truly brilliant stuff.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The nose is fruity, elegant, beautifully racy and offers a beautiful aromatic power (full of finesse). It reveals notes of wild cassis, wild blackberry, small notes of fleshy wild strawberry associated with small touches of pepper, spices, nutmeg as well as fine hints of crunchy violet plum, lily, and a discreet hint of grilled (in the background). The palate is fruity, mineral, well-balanced, elegant, beautifully racy, very discreetly tight and offers a fine acidulous frame, a beautiful elegance/finesse of the construction, freshness, power in finesse as well as a silky touch. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/ripe wild raspberry, ripe/juicy wild cassis, small notes of violet associated with small touches of ripe/juicy plum as well as fine hints of liquorice stick, fresh mild tobacco, a very discreet hint of cardamom and an imperceptible hint of pepper (in the background). Tannins are elegant and racy. Good length.”

- Vert de Vin
