

Clos Fourtet 2021

CSPC# 831127

750mlx6

13.5% 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>

Sustainability

Chateau Clos Fourtet is committed to minimal environmental impact, employing organic and biodynamic treatments in the vineyard. Fallow plots are allowed to regenerate naturally, and the presence of cows helps fertilize the soil. Wildflowers and shrubs encourage biodiversity, creating a harmonious ecosystem and allowing the natural environment to thrive.

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 Derenoncourt

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

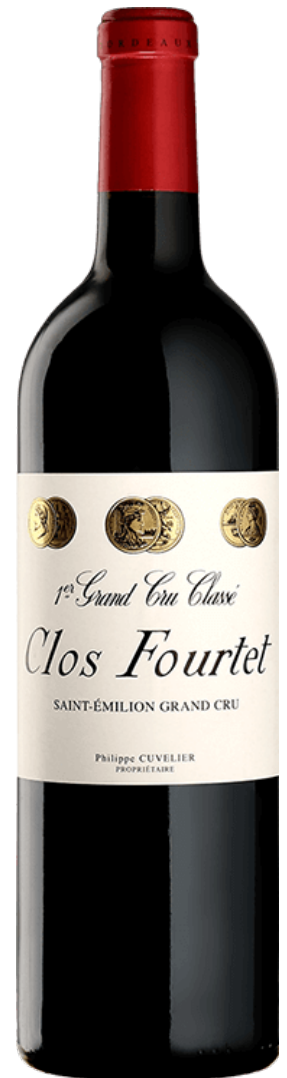
Thanks to the spare no expense attitude of the new owners, Clos Fourtet is doing what it takes to make the best wine possible. This effort begins in the vineyards. They practice sustainable, vine-growing methods. Grass is seeded between the rows to help reduce excess water. The soil between the vine 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. Yields 34 hl/ha. The harvest took place, September 28 - October 15.

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 (50% new oak, 2% amphoras, saignée (for added concentration) on 20% of the vats) for 16 months. It is bottled unfiltered.



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| Tasting Notes | Deep crimson. Inky dark plum, praline aromas with herb garden/ sage notes. Well balanced wine with dark plum, blackberry fruits, fine slinky/ chocolaty textures, and dukkah/ vanilla oak complexity. Finishes chalky firm and minerally. Very good density and torque. |
| 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 | 4,000 cases made |
| Cellaring | Drink 2025-2041 |
| Scores/Awards | <p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - December 2023</p> <p>92 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Zekun Shuai, JamesSuckling.com - December 2023</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>16.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p>93 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - December 2023</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>17.5 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>91 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>97-98 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p> |
| Reviews | <p><i>"Shows a sleek, refined core of black cherry and cassis flavors, lined with lengthy but filigreed chalky threads and backed by an alluring whiff of black tea. Drink now through 2036. 4,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Clos Fourtet opens in the glass with notes of dark berries, plums, spices and subtle hints of smoked meats and toasty oak. Medium-bodied, fleshy, and ample, with powdery tannins that assert themselves on the gently structured finish, this remains a strong effort, but it doesn't quite deliver the depth and plenitude it seemed to en primeur."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A bend of 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc, the 2021 Clos Fourtet offers up inviting aromas of wild berries and plums mingled with hints of black truffle, violets, potpourri, and dark chocolate. Medium to full-bodied, supple, and enveloping, it's lively and layered, with beautifully refined tannins, bright acids and a long, sapid finish. The harvest lasted until October 15, which shows in unusual depth and plenitude for the vintage. Tasted three times."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2021 Clos Fourtet needs a lot of swirling to unlock notes of black cherry preserves, ripe blueberries, and violets, followed by hints of cracked black pepper and star anise. Medium-bodied, the palate is tightly wound with loads of delicate black fruit and spicy nuances, framed by ripe, rounded tannins, finishing long and fragrant. The yield was 34 hl/ha. It is aged in French oak barriques, 60% new."</i> - LPB, Wine Independent</p> <p><i>"Lots of vibrant blue berries, black cherries, and violets followed by eucalyptus and vanilla beans with subtle black ink and stony mineral notes. Full-bodied, solid tannins with soft acidity. Wonderful frame and structure with density. Sophisticated. Try after 2026."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> |

Reviews *“A polished and creamy red with bright currant, raspberry, and clove character. Silky, supple tannins and fresh acidity. Excellent length.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Cask sample. Quite a bit of charm aromatically. Floral notes – iris and dried rose. Fleshy but polished, the tannins very fine. Freshness and grip on the finish so some persistence. Elegance over power. Drink 2028 – 40.”

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

“A little high toned initially, the fruit is bright with good acidity but lacks a little density with slightly astringent tannins. It's polished though, there is a nice clarity to the strawberry and red cherry fruit but is missing some weight on the mid-palate. Liquorice and crushed stone come in on the end showing the terroir in the glass. The tannins are fine and well-integrated and support the black fruits, this is gentle and delicate. Perhaps less showy and forward than some but has a delicate and almost shy nature at the moment. A little bit harder to understand right now but this does feel well worked with refinement on show. It will be interesting to taste after ageing.”

- GH, Decanter.com

“The skill and class of this estate has come through more strongly after ageing, and this is a single point up score. Very much on the savoury subdued side at this point, but there is beautiful finesse and a kick of oyster shell salinity. Austere still, but the floral aromatics give extra depth. A reasonable yield of 40hl/h (normal for the property) as its location again protected from frost. Clay-limestone soils. 50% new oak, 2% amphoras, saignée (for added concentration) on 20% of the vats.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“In years like 2021, you look to estates at the level of Clos Fourtet as ports in a storm, and this delivers, if not entirely escaping the influence of the vintage - a real sign of the issues, as this is such a brilliant wine, able to circumnavigate so many obstacles. You are going to find finesse and mouthwatering salinity, marks of limestone and skill in the cellar, along with cool blue fruits and pumice-scrape salinity. It will fill out further during ageing, and will go the distance, but there is austerity here, and not the smile-inducing brilliance of a usual Clos Fourtet vintage. Tasted three times. A reasonable yield of 40hl/h (normal for the property) as its location again protected from frost. Clay-limestone soils. 50% new oak, 2% amphoras, saignée (for added concentration) on 20% of the vats.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“The wine pops with flowers, black cherries, espresso beans, licorice and lack cherries. Medium-bodied, elegant, and vibrant, the supple, almost creamy finish is loaded with plums cherries and a refreshing sprig of mint to wrap things up. The wine blends 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink from 2025-2049.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Dark plums, chocolate, blackberries, espresso, smoke, and wet earth on the nose. The palate is medium-bodied, soft, fresh, and silky and with a sweetness and energy to the red fruits with a touch of spice and salt that come in the endnotes. Refined and fresh, this is a refined vintage of Clos Fourtet. 13.5% ABV. The harvest took place, September 28 - October 15. Drink from 2024-2049.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep ruby colour. Immediately sweet, smoky wood sits on the nose, which slowly reveals roasted plum and cherry jam. The palate has a peppery, herbal tone to mitigate the riper fruit. Chewy, grippy tannins are full but not over extracted. Spicy and lined with increasingly chewy structure on the finish. This is tight and will need time to soften.”

- TP, Farr Vintners

“The 2021 Clos Fourtet was picked September 28 to October 15 and matured in 50% new oak. Around 20% of the vats underwent saignée. This has a powerful bouquet of dark cherries, red plum, mint, and violets. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins. A less concentrated Clos Fourtet, even with the bleeding, but it

Reviews *retains balance and displays salinity and precision on the finish. This is promising, though it might be eclipsed by the 2019 and the 2020 in the long term. Still, I can see this maturing in style. (13.5% alcohol)."*

- NM, Vinous

"The 2021 Clos Fournet is a dark, imposing wine. Blackberry, gravel, scorched earth, leather, incense, and clove infuse the 2021 with tons of character. This is definitely a wine from a cold year—a year lacking in sunshine. In that sense, Clos Fournet is wonderfully expressive, as it paints a very accurate portrait of a place and a growing season. All it needs is time to soften."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2021 Clos Fournet is very clearly one of the wines of the vintage on the Right Bank. Towering in its stature, the 2021 is a regal wine endowed with tremendous energy and vibrancy. This classically austere Saint-Émilion oozes class from the very first taste. Blue/purplish fruit, spice, lavender, and menthol are some of the aromas and flavors that build into the resonant, deeply pitched finish. What a wine."

- AG, Vinous

"A wine that needs air to show at its best, the 2021 Château Clos Fournet is a Merlot-dominated blend that includes 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon, all of which spent 14-18 months in 50% new oak. Its deep ruby/plum hue is followed by a solid yet inward bouquet of ripe black cherries, smoked earth, graphite, and chalky minerality. This carries to a medium-bodied Saint-Émilion offering plenty of tannins, good mid-palate density, and the straight, focused, linear, yet concentrated style of the top wines in the vintage."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Another terrific Saint-Émilion from the upper plateau, the 2021 Château Clos Fournet is 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Cabernet Franc that's pulled from 70% of the total production. The soils here include slightly more clay than its neighbor, Canon, and the wine is always a touch more powerful. The 2021 has 15% of the blend go through malolactic fermentation in barrel, and the élevage will span 16-18 months in 60% new oak. Dense purple-hued, with ample black fruits, roasted herbs, chocolate, and chalkiness, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, a great mid-palate, ripe tannins, and one heck of a finish. It's an undeniable success that will shine in its youth yet also evolve gracefully."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Clos Fournet is always a fairly powerful and four-square creation, but this is a more sensual side to this estate, and I like the feel of the fruit and the brightness of the tannins. I rather like the dark chocolate and plum notes on the nose, and the fruit is plush and not troubled by the tannins either, making this a successful wine. The Merlot theme is pure and accurate, making it a sure-fire winner for the future. 17.5."

- Matthew Jukes

"Deep dark ruby red with a purple tinge at the rim. Dark forest berries, restrained cranberries and red cherries, a little nougat. Medium-bodied, subtle cherry fruit, fine tannins, delicate herbal savouriness on the finish, medium length."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is fresh, fruity and reveals a lovely harmony and delicacy in its racy power. There are notes of pulpy blackberry, violet, bright blackcurrant and more slightly ripe raspberry, violet plum combined with delicate touches of roasted cherry as well as fine hints of liquorice, bourbon vanilla, a very discreet hint of delicate sweet spices and a subtle touch of bergamot. The palate is fruity, elegant, racy, melodious and offers juiciness, acidity, good definition, depth, purity (of fruit), a multi-layered side, an airy side, a beautiful acidity, finesse, fine density and a very fine richness. Fleshy fruit and freshness. The palate is nicely marked by the terroir. On the palate this wine expresses notes of bright red cherry, pulpy strawberry/ and more slightly juicy/acidic blackcurrant combined with touches of blueberry, violet, fine hints of star anise, caramelisation, toastiness, a discreet hint of bergamot, fresh flowers as well as a subtle almost bergamot and vanilla. A nice saltiness/savour. Subtle chewiness on the finish. Good work on the bitter taste in the background. Good length. The tannins are soft and fine."

- Vert de Vin
