

Château Fonplégade 2020

CSPC# 888285

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint-Emilion

Classification

Grand Cru Classé

Website

<https://www.fonplegade.com/Home>

Sustainability

Biodynamic. Certified organic since 2013

General Info

The name Fonplegade was inspired by the terroir. Fonplegade means full or bent fountain. It was derived from the natural fountain, located close to the center of the vineyard which supports numerous, small, running springs in various bent and twisted shapes that are located on the estate.

Skipping ahead about 1,500 years, in 1852, Jean-Pierre Beylot purchased Chateau Fonplegade. Beylot built the magnificent chateau that is still on the Fonplegade property today. In 1863, Chateau Fonplegade was sold to the Duke of Morny. Morny was the stepbrother of Napoleon the 3rd.

The Moueix family purchased the estate in 1953. Things changed again most recently in 2004 when Denise Adams and Stephen Adams bought the Right Bank vineyard of Chateau Fonplegade for 30 million Euros from Armand Moueix.

After a complete and very expensive renovation of the Chateau Fonplegade chateau, cellars and wine making facilities, they also replanted large portions of the vineyards. Next, the Adams family started taking a different approach with their vineyard management techniques.

They began a biodynamic farming program starting with the 2009 vintage. They were certified organic in 2013. Michel Rolland was the first consultant they hired. In 2015, they also brought in the team of Stephane Derenoncourt to help consult in the vineyard management and winemaking along with Corinne Comme.

Winemakers

Corinne Comme, winemaker. Stéphane Derenoncourt consults.

Sustainability

Certified organic in 2013.

Vintage

The 2020 vintage is a complicated vintage at Château Fonplégade because of the strong pressure of mildew on the vines in June. Part of the harvest was lost but this allowed the rest to give a future very great wine of Saint Emilion.

Vineyards

Château Fonplégade represents the purest and most typical expression of our terroir. Enriched with a mosaic of ideal soils and a wonderful diversity of geology and geography, our vineyard is divided into 27 parcels on 45.5 acres. These hand-farmed blocks comprise the artist's palette of our terroir, providing a wealth of flavor components for the development of our wines.

Harvest

The manual harvest took place from September 14 to October 1, 2020.

**Vinification/
Maturation**

To produce the wine of Chateau Fonplégade, the fruit is whole berry fermented, following a cold maceration for 5 days. The wine is vinified in 6, thermo regulated, large, 95 hectoliter oak vats and 2, 55 hectoliter oak tanks. 5% of the wine is barrel fermented in 500-liter oak barrels using the micro vinification process. 30% of the wine is vinified in conical shaped, cement vats.

90% of the Malolactic fermentation takes place in 60% new, French oak barrels, with the remaining 10% going through malolactic in cement, egg shaped tanks.

The wine is aged 50% new, 30% 1-yr-old barrels, 10% cement eggs and amphoras, for an average of 16-18 months, depending on the quality and character of the vintage.

Tasting Notes

The Château Fonplégade 2020 has a beautiful ruby color with bold purplish tints. Fresh cherry nose, complexified by a touch of exotic fruits and ending with subtle floral notes.

Powerful and vibrating mouth, beautiful touch of black fruits, ending by a salt and chalky final.

Serve with

Chateau Fonplegade is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Fonplegade is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.

Production

Approx. 3,000 cases made annually.

Cellaring

Drink 2025 – 2040.



Scores/Awards **92 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023
93-95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021
93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023
93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021
93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2023
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only) - April 2021
94 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023
94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021
95 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023
94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021
88 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021
91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021
94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023
92-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021
94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023
93-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021
91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023
91-93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021
95-96 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021
94-95 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021
95 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021
95-97 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - July 2021
95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021
16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021

Reviews *"Another successful vintage for this estate, the 2020 Fonplégade delivers aromas of cherries, plums, licorice, and pencil shavings, follow by a medium to full-bodied, deep, and refined palate that concludes with a saline, attractively floral finish. It's one 2020 that is more elegant than its 2019 counterpart."*
 - WK, Wine Advocate

"Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Fonplegade offers up notes of chocolate-covered cherries, mulberries and blackberry preserves, followed by hints of smoked meats, cinnamon toast, and potpourri. The medium to full-bodied palate bursts with juicy black fruits, supported by velvety tannins and well-balanced acidity, finishing long and fragrant."
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

"Attractive aromas of ripe black and blue fruit with crushed violets, walnut, and dark chocolate. Some dried leaves, too. Medium- to full-bodied with a plush and supple palate that offers an array of ripe, racy tannins and a crunchy, deep berry character. Structured and focused with a juicy finish. Drink after 2025."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A solid red with blackberry, blackcurrant, and spice character. Medium body, firm and silky tannins and a flavorful finish. Nice depth of fruit and focus."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This dense wine has some serious tannins as well as layers of black fruits. Its acidity and freshness are impeccable, giving finesse and a balance of fine acidity and structure. Drink from 2027."
 - RV, Wine Enthusiast

"This wine shines with ripe blackberry flavors and richly textured Merlot. There is a core of perfumes and acidity that retains the essential freshness of the vintage. Organic. Barrel Sample: 93-95."
 - RV, Wine Enthusiast
 - JL, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

"A sweetness to the blackcurrant fruit on the nose; perfumed, aromatic and interesting. Ripe and rich, this is a bold style, there's clear power, concentration, and drive. High-toned ripe fruit with spice from the tannins giving this heft right now. Long length. You feel they worked hard here to refine the overall expression, to not push too much. Lots of mint and liquorice, though, which do takeover. But this also has great freshness and cooling blue fruit touches. I love the finish, it's lifted, salty and strong. Wait for this."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Beautiful aromatics, vibrant, full of clarity and bright fruit delivery. Plum, blueberry, bursting with juicy life. Keeps delivering on the palate also, sprightly, and vibrant, and soaked in limestone, wet stone personality. Has good depth of flavour, with a kick on the finish. Will age well, this is great stuff, a brilliant example of St-Emilion limestone. A buy! First year certified biodynamic with Biodyvin (certified organic since 2013). A yield of 35hl/ha. Drinking Window 2026 – 2044."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Gorgeous, totally fulfilling its En Primeur promise. This has a mix of fresh, vibrant floral aromatics, with peony and raspberry leaf, set against concentrated plush damson plum and raspberry fruits with a kick of wet stone minerality. First year certified biodynamic with Biodyvin (certified organic since 2013). A yield of 35hl/ha."

- JA, janeanson.com

"The showy nose wants your attention due to its essence of flowers, minerals, licorice, mint leaf, and red fruits. On the palate, the wine is silky, fresh, and vibrant. Concentrated, rich, yet elegant, and light on its feet, this is a refined wine with finesse, length, and purity which is not afraid to offer its oceanic influences along with all of its layers of perfectly ripe, red, and black fruits. This will age effortlessly for two decades or more, but you can also enjoy it in its youth, if you are like me, and can't wait to see what it's all about. Drink from 2025-2045."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Crushed rocks, currants, cherries, flowers, licorice, smoke, cocoa, and espresso covers all the bases in the perfume. Elegant and edgy, silky, soft, and mineral driven, the fruits show a beautiful purity, freshness, and refinement on the palate, leaving you with salty tannins and sweet plums that continue to linger and expand in the finish. The wine is made from a blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2020 Fonplégade has an intriguing bouquet that oddly made me think of Burgundy! Plush red berry fruit, vanilla, blueberry jam and touches of sous-bois burst from the glass, hints of blood orange and marmalade lingering in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, quite effervescent thanks to the keen line of acidity, and a little zesty toward the finish. This brims with nascent vigor and should drink well once in bottle, perhaps one that might offer much in its youth."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2020 Fonplégade is elegant, gracious, and lifted, just as it was from barrel. Bright acids lend notable energy to this silky, nuanced Saint-Émilion. Crushed red berry fruit, cinnamon, mint, and blood orange are all woven together in this very pretty, alluring Saint-Emilion. This is beautifully done."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2020 Fonplégade is sensual, polished, and understated. This mid-weight, silky Saint-Émilion has more finesse than power. All the elements are so nicely balanced. Crushed rose petal, mint, raspberry jam, and mocha all grace the 2020. This is a very classy wine from Denise and Stephen Adams."

- AG, Vinous

Reviews

“Utterly classic notes of red and black cherries, chocolate, tobacco, and spicy wood emerge from the 2020 Chateau Fonplegade, a medium-bodied, pure, balanced, elegant Saint-Emilion that comes from a gorgeous terroir on the Cote Pavie. Based on 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc that was raised in 50% new oak, it has building tannins, a layered, mouth-filling texture, and outstanding length. Give bottles 2-4 years in the cellar and enjoy over the following 10-15. It's a complex, satisfying, impeccably made 2020. Best After 2025.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Emerging from a great hillside terroir on the Côte Pavie, the 2020 Château Fonplégade should be up there with the top vintages from this estate. Lots of cassis, blackberries, and earthy, violet notes define the nose, and I love its purity, freshness, and precision. These traits all carry over to the palate as well, and it's medium to full-bodied, with terrific tannins and a finish that keeps you coming back to the glass.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Dark ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, broader ochre rim. A clear herbal note, a floral touch of fresias, dark berries, ripe plums, mineral touch. Medium complexity, fresh cherries, integrated tannins, fine fruit expression on the finish.”
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“On the nose, it is precise and offers power as well as intensity and good definition. It reveals notes of wild blackcurrant, fleshy blackberry and more slightly strawberry associated with touches of cherry, violet as well as hints of pulpy berries as well as fine hints of gray spices and with a very discreet hint of tea. On the palate it is fruity, discreetly tight and offers smoothness, a fine creaminess, gourmandize, a nice definition as well as finesse, precision, and concentration. This wine expresses notes of juicy / fresh blackcurrant, juicy / fresh blackberry and more slightly fleshy / juicy purple plum associated with touches of raspberry, plum blossom, lily as well as hints of bean, tonka, mocha, blond tobacco as well as a subtle hint of toast and good bitterness (in the background). Good length.”
- Vert de Vin

“Pure and intense, layers of floral dark fruit, blackberry, tobacco, and a slight touch of oak. Very dense and concentrated with fine proportions, ample dark fruit notes and a very long powerful finish.”
- AL, Tasted.com
