

Virginie de Valandraud Blanc 2023

CSPC# 102914

12x750ml

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

55% Semillon, 45% Sauvignon Blanc.

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

Bordeaux Blanc

Website

www.thunevin.com

Analysis

pH: 3.25

Sustainability

Château Valandraud has also led the way in terms of energy efficiency, having implemented bioclimatic architecture into their new winery, which opened in 2021. Bioclimatic architecture is an approach to construction that focuses on sustainability and energy conservation. Château Valandraud's new winery was designed with natural materials like wood, stone, and clay sourced from nearby suppliers, as well as solar panels on the roof for generating electricity. In addition to providing shade to reduce cooling costs, rainwater harvested from the rooftop is collected and reused for irrigation purposes.

The facility also employs an innovative ventilation system that reduces energy consumption while ensuring optimal temperature control at all times and seasons. Natural air currents are directed around the building in order to keep it cool during hot summer days. Any wastewater created by production processes is treated right onsite before being released back into nature, in a full-circle approach to winery efficiency and sustainability.

Incorporating these green initiatives has enabled Château Valandraud to ensure their operations leave minimal environmental impact while still maintaining their high standards of quality wine production. Investing in eco-friendly technology helps them build towards a more sustainable future.

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.

Wine consultant: Athanase Fakorellis.

Vintage

The 2023 growing season for Virginie de Valandraud Blanc was defined by a challenging, warm, and humid climate that created high mildew pressure, requiring intense vineyard management, but concluded with a dry, sunny late season that allowed for a successful harvest.

- Weather Patterns: The year was characterized by "up and down" weather, starting with a mild winter followed by a warm spring with regular rainfall. While the summer was warm, it was not excessively sunny, and the region did not face the extreme water deficit of 2022.
- Growing Season Challenges: The persistent humidity caused significant mildew pressure up until mid-July, requiring careful, constant attention from the estate team.

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

As the season progressed, the weather became hotter, drier, and sunnier, allowing for optimal grape maturity. Harvesting took place under favorable, dry conditions from September 13 to October 4, 2023.



Vinification/ Maturation	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. Fermentation in barrels. Manual harvest (3 selections), storage in cold room before pressing, long pressing of about 5 hours. Ageing 9 months in barrels of 1 or 2 wines and concrete tanks.
Tasting Notes	Virginie de Valandraud Blanc is an exceptional white wine produced from grapes carefully selected and grown according to traditional methods, with subtle aromas of white fruits and balanced acidity. An exceptional 2023 wine. This wine presents a lovely richness, with subtle thiol notes on the nose. Its acidity is remarkable, offering a lean and refreshing palate. The finish is delightful, with a hint of oiliness and a touch of leesy character adding depth.
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	500 cases made. 6000 bottles made.
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2037
Scores/Awards	89-91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2024 93-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2024 93 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - April 2024 93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2024 91-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2024 94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2025 91 points - Jean Marc Quarin - April 2024
