



VINTAGE 2012

Weather conditions during 2012 were excellent from May to August, although this was followed by a tricky period from mid-September onward.

Despite that, the 2012 blend is a highly successful mix of mainly Cabernet Sauvignon, with smaller additional amounts of Merlot, Cabernet Franc (which was particularly good in 2012) and finally, some of our ever-reliable Petit-Verdot.

In our 'cellar-kitchen' the different grape lots were, as always, separately vinified, to keep their aromas fresh and lively, with the Merlot and Cabernet Franc lying in stainless steel tanks, while the Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit-Verdot lots were kept mainly in concrete tanks.

A few batches of particularly rich Cabernet Sauvignon were additionally placed directly into five wooden vats.

The final blend is rich with aromas of berries, including blackcurrant, and spices – hints of vanilla and pepper – with subtle notes of wood.

Both the Cabernet Sauvignon and the Petit-Verdot are at the height of their powers here.

In the mouth the wine is, at first, dense and rich. By mid-palate it has developed a delicate finesse, without losing its structure. This is followed by a very vital, fresh finish, which bodes well for future aging.

Overall, a very good vintage in the style of 2008 and 2011.



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GRAND CRU CLASSÉ DE GRAVES
CHATEAU DE FIEUZAL
Pessac-Léognan

2012, a true Bordeaux vintage

I often say that no vintage is like any other, that they are all different in their own way, but truly, 2012 was a vintage unlike any other, and, a very stressful and demanding one.

Pruning at Fieuzal started in mid-December, during a patch of very wet weather, while the rest of the winter was very cold and dry.

The pruning was completed by mid-March and a patch of favourable weather saw green shoots arrive toward the end of the month – relatively early for us. April was cool and wet, which meant a prolonged bud break and the continual fear of a late frost.

May was a good month and the vines developed well, in particular the cabernets, which, despite the late bud break, came on reasonably evenly – more so than the merlot, which was less even and slightly later.

From here, we moved into a very capricious spring and right up to the flowering, extra care was needed in the vineyards.

By mid-June the flowering was halfway complete, although very prolonged. The uneven flowering meant, inevitably, an uneven fertilization, which varied according to the type of vine, but was apparent on both the clones and the rootstock.

The start of the summer was cool and damp, creating a bit more tension at the estate. Finally, in August, the sun appeared for a prolonged period and temperatures rose well above average – bringing smiles and sighs of relief to the vineyard team.

The good weather continued right up until mid-September and the wet spring weather was almost forgotten, replaced instead by tentative talk of a particularly favourable vintage.

Now, several months after the harvest, the wines are ready to taste and the results are surprisingly good.

The whites are rich and aromatic, with an unusually high proportion of very good sémillon in the blend – a level not seen since 2007.

The red wine lots are, in a word, remarkable: balanced, opulent and with perfect levels of acidity.

Stephen Carrier

Propriétaire

Brenda & Lochlann Quinn

Winemaker

Consultant

Stephen Carrier

Hubert de Bouïard

Assemblage

70 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 20 % Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc,

5 % Petit-Verdot



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