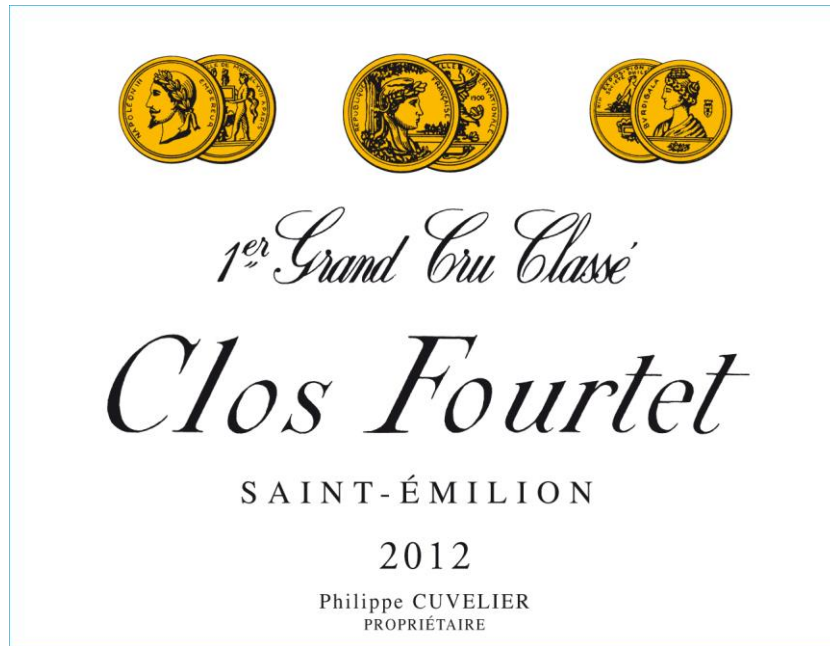


Clos Fourtet

- **Surface** : 20 ha
- **Grape Varieties** : 85 % Merlot, 10 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 5 % Cabernet Franc
- **Soils** : limestone and clay
- **Average age of the wines** : 25 years
- **Second wine** : La Closerie de Fourtet.



Vintage 2012

- **Bud Pushing** : April 2 nd
 - **Flowering** : June 7 th
 - **Véraison** : August 20 th
 - **Harvest** : 9 th to 17 th October
-
- **Blending** : 86 % Merlot, 10 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 4 % Cabernet Franc
 - **Yield of the year**: 36 hl/ha
 - **Production** : 42000 bottles
 - **Ph** : 3.70 **Alcohol** : 14.0 % vol
 - **Ageing** : 18 months' ageing with 60% new barrels

Clos Fourtet



Vintage 2012

Weather conditions

“Bordeaux

Cool, rainy weather during spring caused the vines to bud quite late. Until July, rain and damp were constantly present in the atmosphere.

Excess water made the vines shoot very quickly, and vineyard work was difficult to carry out. The threat of an outbreak of downy mildew was very high. Summer arrived after a slightly difficult flowering, which resulted in a significant but reasonable amount of coulure (shot berries).

Fortunately for the vines, the summer was hot and particularly dry, so much so that in some soils vines suffered at the end of August. The veraison process was long and uneven. Cutting away slow-ripening pink punches was necessary before the last stage of the ripening process.

Grape skins were thick and the ripening was slow. It was turning out to be an autumn vintage and picking would have to be late.

Rain in September was fatal for a number of vineyards as botrytis began to set in. Generally speaking however, the grapes were picked at satisfactory levels of ripeness.

Clay soils are often better suited to this type of year. It added up to an uneven vintage with wines of different levels of power according to soil-types and exposures. Merlot, being an early-ripening variety, performed pretty well.

No rule therefore in this vintage, which will nevertheless produce one or two superb bottles.

Stéphane Derenoncourt ”

At Clos Fourtet, we crop-thinned 3 times, the last one being at the end of the veraison process, enabling us to get rid of any green or pink bunches still on the vines and to have a homogeneously ripening crop.

Our clay soil and limestone subsoil helped the vines get through summer without suffering any water deficit stress.

In spite of the rain that fell in September, our grass cover-crop and clay soils enabled the vines to stay in good health until the harvest.

Tasting comment

The Merlot at Clos Fourtet put in a great performance in this 2012 vintage, as it did in 1998.

The wine was produced from fresh, healthy grapes at full ripeness.

Clos Fourtet 2012 has a deep vermillion hue, an intense, already complex nose with notes of black fruits and spices coming through together with floral touches of violets and lilies.

The palate is coated, silky, slightly liquorice and with a long, mineral finish

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PRESSE CLOS FOURTET 2012



The Wine Advocate (Robert Parker)

93-95

The 2012 Clos Fourtet was cropped at 32 hectoliters per hectare and achieved 14% natural alcohol. The final blend was 85% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. It offers an opaque dense purple color along with attractive blackberry, licorice, truffle and cassis fruit notes. It is full-bodied and dense with an authoritative mid-palate, sweet tannin and a layered mouthfeel that builds incrementally into a stunningly long finish. Precocious and charming already, it will drink better at an earlier age than the massive, prodigious 2009. Drink this killer St.-Emilion over the next 15+ years. One can't say enough about proprietor Cuvelier's 50-acre vineyard that has witnessed a profound transformation of quality over the last decade or more. Moreover, Cuvelier recently purchased three neighboring estates that are consistently reviewed positively in this publication, Les Grandes Murailles, Clos St.-Martin and Cote Baleau. These were previously owned by Sophie Fourcade. Interestingly, since these three properties are adjacent or close to Clos Fourtet, I would not be surprised if over the next decade they become incorporated into Clos Fourtet. Another great success for Cuvelier and his state manager, Tony Ballu.



Wine Spectator (James Molesworth)

92-93

This is a wine with layers of fruit and firm yet polished tannins. Full body, juicy and rich. It shows outstanding depth for the vintage

JAMESSUCKLING.COM

James Suckling

92- 93

This is a wine with layers of fruit and firm yet polished tannins. Full body, juicy and rich. It shows outstanding depth for the vintage.



Jean-Marc Quarin

17 // 94

Couleur intense et vive. Nez fin et parfumé. Raffiné dès l'entrée en bouche, aromatique au milieu, fondant, suave, ce vin délicieux avance avec beaucoup de goût, du corps vers une finale séveuse au tanin fin. D la délicatesse, du parfum. Un succès.

PRESSE CLOS FOURTET 2012



Bettane & Desseauve

17-17.5

Prise de bois lacyée, texture remarquablement complète, grande suite en bouche, grande réussite.

JancisRobinson.com

Jancis Robinson

15.5

Inky with purple rim. Rich, ripe and spicy. More damson than cassis but fresh. Chewy, some oak char, fruit not as rich on the palate as on the nose so finishes a touch too dry/stringy.

(JH)

PRIMEURS
TV

Andreas Larsson

95

Beautiful nose of wild berries, violet and fine spices, rather burgundian texture, soft and velvety with powdery tannin, plenty of fruit and density, excellent purity and length, great wine!

Markus Del Monego

95

Dark purple red with violet hue and black center. Very intense nose, complex aromas, dark fruit and slightly exotic spices, chocolate and vanilla. On the palate firm structure, good weight and excellent length. Opulent on the palate with complex flavours. A modern classic.

PRESSE CLOS FOURTET 2012



La Revue du Vin de France

17,5-18

Assemblage 86%merlot. Nez très vivant, pointu, retenu, qui introduit un vin délicat, hyper raffiné tout en étant gourmand (il rappelle le 2001), en équilibre entre le minéral et les épices, la tension et la finesse. Ce millésime confirme dans le verre le profond travail de fond entrepris dans le vignoble.

Quoi de neuf au château ? La famille Cuvelier a annoncé en mars dernier le rachat de trois propriétés à la famille de Sophie Fourcade, dont l'excellent Clos Saint-Martin et Les Grandes Murailles qui devraient à terme intégrer Clos Fourtet dans un futur classement.



Decanter (James Lawther MW)

18 // 93

Expressive red and dark fruit nose. Palate plush, ripe and harmonious. Fresh and long on the finish. Fine grained tannins. Gets the nod over 2011. 17.5/20pts (91/100pts)

Drink: 2019 - 2030

Taster:



Gault & Millau

17,5

Quelle souplesse sur ce millésime en général austère. Les tanins sont fondus, satinés, venant en support à quelques fruits pleins d'éclat et très biens dessinés.



Dupont

16/16,5

16/16,5 - Nez f r u i t s noirs assez boisé bouche souple et tendre tanique en finale, elle aussi tres fruits noirs Jolis tanins so\eux, dense, bonne longueur

O = 2017 G = 12 ans