

CHATEAU ANGÉLUS

TASTING NOTES

- 2017 -

VINOUS – NEAL MARTIN

94-96 (Twelve Best Wines)

The 2017 Angéus has a crisp, direct and very pure bouquet that is almost Burgundy-like in style. Crushed blackberry, hints of cassis, just a suggestion of bell pepper emanating from the Cabernet Franc and a faint estuarine scent all come through although unusually for this Saint-Émilion, they take three or four minutes to coalesce. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, but quite firm in the mouth. There is a marine-influence to this Saint-Émilion with a chalky, lightly spiced and, relative to 2015 and 2016, quite conservative and linear style. It feels very saline on the finish, perhaps more than I have encountered in recent years. It foregoes the roundness of recent vintages, perchance an Angéus that will be best shown on the dinner table instead of on its own. That's not a bad thing. Excellent.

JAMES SUCKLING

95-96

A layered and fine-grained young Angelus with very focused and integrated tannins that give the young wine form and focus. Full body and a subtle and fascinating fruit character. Should turn out beautifully.

JEAN MARC QUARIN

18/96

Couleur sombre, intense et belle. Nez intense, fin, fruité, mûr, avec une note très originale d'aiguille de pin cette année. Tendre à l'attaque, juteux au développement, très, très fruité, savoureux, le vin fond au palais, sur un corps minutieux doué d'éclat dans le goût. Il s'achève droit sur une belle longueur sèveuse et suave. C'est du Angéus ! Assemblage : 70 % merlot, 30 % cabernet franc. Vignoble touché par le gel à 10 %.

THE WINE ENTHUSIAST – ROGER VOSS

95-97

Big tannins and powerful fruit go together in this finely perfumed wine. It has a smoky backdrop, with intense fruits and juicy acidity. It is so fruity and juicy now, though the tension behind the fruit suggests that it will mature quickly and then be at its peak for many years.

FORBES – TOM MULLEN

Excellent

Rich and full. Blackberries, even a sliver of cocoa, butter, pencil lead. Plush in the mouth. A balanced beauty.

GOURMETWELTEN

19-19,5

Superfeine Nase, tolle Frucht, große Frische, knackig, Cassis und Kirschen, am Gaumen sehr elegant und große Finesse, wow, große Frische auch am Gaumen, sehr gute Säure, tolle Tannine, für den perfekten Wein fehlt nur etwas Länge.

BLOOMBERG – ELIN MCCOY

Top 12 wines

The dark, rich, ripe flavors are matched by bright, savory minerality.

DECANTER – JANE ANSON

96

Emmanuelle has been making wine here for 22 years now. The freshness of the Merlot in 2017 reminds her of 2001 - I would certainly agree, and maybe with a hint of 2014 too. It's a beautiful wine, voluptuous but elegant. These vines were not frosted, but the Cabernet Franc produced less than usual, and they also made an extremely careful selection overall, leading to a yield of 30hl/ha. The wine has great complexity, which is a standout character in 2017, with bilberries, charcoal and plush damson - the Angelus signature of power and glamour. There is good tannic density here and it will clearly merit long ageing. 85,000 bottles of Angelus produced, representing around 80% of total production. Matured in 100% new oak.

JANCIS ROBINSON.COM - JULIA HARDING

17,5

Lost around 20% to frost. 70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc. Inky crimson. Redolent of classy and spicy oak but the fruit fragrance is there too, waiting to emerge after the chocolate dies back. A fine note of graphite and Cabernet Franc leafy (but fully ripe) freshness. Spicy and fresh on the palate. Rich and finely textured, with the oak giving way to the fruit on the palate. Very good balance even at this early stage. Savoury dark-chocolate, clean finish.

JEB DUNNUCK

94-97

One of the darkest colored wines in the vintage is the 2017 Angélu. Its final blend is 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, which includes more Cabernet Franc than usual. It's a polished, elegant, layered wine that has beautiful notes of crème de cassis, spice, graphite, and minerality. It has medium to full-bodied richness, fine, silky tannin, beautiful purity and more elegance and charm than normal. I suspect it will put on weight with time in barrel and have two decades or more of longevity.

THE WINE DOCTOR – CHRIS KISSACK

94-96

Hubert de Boüard de Laforest was a veritable mine of information on how the frost hit the various right bank appellations. With specific regard to Angélu, he lost two parcels of Cabernet Franc to the frost, both parcels near the foot of the vineyard and thus more vulnerable. This had a significant effect on the blend, as it reduced the amount of Cabernet Franc available for the grand vin. These days there is 47% Cabernet Franc in the vineyard, and in recent years the blend of the first wine has been quite close to this figure, but in 2017 the reduced volume available after the frost was pushing the blend downwards to just 20% Cabernet Franc. Hubert and his team didn't feel this brought the Angélu style to the wine, so they chose to declassify some Merlot, bringing the Cabernet Franc up to 30% of the volume, the other 70% all Merlot. Aromatically this shows plenty of high quality oak, as is often the case here, with praline, cinnamon and toast coming in ahead of the fruit. The palate shows a very elegant repose, with a supple, broad and almost juicy-fresh character to the structure, with red cherry fruit wrapped in oaky praline and spices, dancing around some very grippy but controlled tannins and fresh acidity. Bright and medium-bodied, with plenty of grip, this is long, spiced, defined and focused. Overall it is a very imposing but elegant example of Angélu, with a long thread of tannic energy in the finish. Very good. From my Bordeaux 2017 primeurs assessment.

ANTHOCYANES ET GAULT ET MILLAU– YOHAN CASTAING

96-98

Composé de 70% de merlot et de 30% de cabernet franc, Angélu 2017 offre un très beau nez grillé et légèrement boisé. Mure, myrtille, de nombreuses fleurs composent le nez. Une très belle densité avec des tanins parfaitement murs, de la fraîcheur et une race superbe pour le millésime. Très belle amertume finale.

MATTHEW JUKES

18,5

THE WINE ADVOCAT – LISA PERROTTI-BROWN

94-96

A blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, the deep purple-black colored 2017 Angélu is a little closed to begin, opening out beautifully to notes of baked plums, fresh blackberries and chocolate-covered cherries with hints of mocha, bay leaves, beef drippings and wood smoke plus a touch of roses. Medium to full-bodied with a great density of mid-palate fruit and firm, fine-grained tannins, it finishes long and earthy with a compelling lift.

"Everything started very quickly in 2017 and we thought it would be a very early vintage," Angélu winemaker Emmanuelle Fulchi commented. "We got just a little bit of frost—a small part on the southern end of the vineyard, but this did not go into Angélu. We were lucky that August was not so nice, which slowed down the ripening and kept the acidity." The final 2017 blend has not physically been made, but the representation I tasted is "pretty much there."

Readers should bear in mind that Le Carillon d'Angélu is not a second label per se, but another label with grapes coming from other terroirs in Saint-Émilion. It can be cellared, but the aim is to make it approachable when young.

RIVIERA WINE ACADEMY - RODERICK SMITH MW
- SUR LE BLOG DE TIM ATKIN

95-97

Saturated glass-stainingly deep colour. Already lots of sweet spicy oak aromas. Warm black fruit and blueberry scents. Very rich approach with deep black fruits, some damson and plum. If there was anything green going on in the vineyards, then it went into the Carillon, because it is not present here. Black and concentrated fruit. Depth and power, but with freshness. A really good example of a success in the vintage. Mouthcoating grainy tannins on the finish suggesting a long life ahead, but super-complex and deep. 19+

BETTANE & DESSEAUME

18

Velouté avec une belle fraîcheur, Angélus s'impose en profondeur et en équilibre. Un style moins imposant que dans certains millésimes classiques de la propriété, mais d'une finesse superbe.

REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE – PIERRE CITERNE

17-18

Une olfaction ouverte évoque les cerises, le cassis, avec des notes épicées et florales (pivoines) et un élevage distingué. L'attaque est très veloutée à soyeuse, le milieu de bouche est dense, avec un corps dessiné dans l'allonge, rempli et charnu. La finale est longue, dynamique, très veloutée, fruitée, florale finement épicée, persistante, avec une fraîcheur adaptée à la matière. L'équipe a choisi de privilégier le croquant du fruit, notamment au moyen de fermentations menées à des températures assez basses. L'échantillon se montre d'emblée volubile et séduisant, un fruit très pur gracieusement paré de bois précieux, de mine de crayon. Délicat, soyeux, déjà articulé, il affirme avec éclat un classicisme raffiné faisant écho au vibrant 2016. Angélus entame officiellement la conversion en agriculture biologique de la totalité de son vignoble.

THE WINE SPECTATOR – JAMES MOLESWORTH

93-96

This is jazzed up a bit, with dark anise and black tea aromatics leading off, followed by juicy blackberry, boysenberry and bramble notes. Has some flashy spice on the finish and some expensive-feeling toast, but everything is in lockstep as this moves along.

THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER – JEFF LEVE

96-98

Blushing fruits, forest floor, truffle, mint and smoke fashion a bouquet that is enough to get you hooked on this outstanding creation. However, if you need more, the velvet textures, parfait of sweet red and black fruits, spice box and a sensuous finish seals the deal. The wine was made from blending 70% Merlot with 30% Cabernet Franc. With 13.5% alcohol. The harvest took place September 13-September 29. The Grand Vin was made from 80% of the harvest. Due to the frost, close to 20% of the vineyard was damaged.

WEINWISSER

19

B MY BORDEAUX - CHRIS BYKLUM

96-98

Ruby. Blackberries, anise, spices, blueberries, floral high notes, nuanced, scented, detailed and layered nose. Fresh acidity, ripe tannins, fresh, fruity, dark berries, anise, spices, blueberries, detailed, long.

VINOUS - ANTONIO GALLONI

92-95

The 2017 Angéus is impeccable. Bright and energetic, with terrific lift from the 30% Cabernet Franc, Angéus is super-expressive today. There is lovely depth and density to the fruit, even if the finish narrows just a touch. In 2017 Angéus is less powerful than it typically is, with less overt oak influence. Whether or not that is a reflection of the vintage alone, or indicative of a slight evolution in style is a question that can only be answered in the future. In the meantime, there is plenty to like about the 2017. The Merlot saw 3-4 weeks on the skins, while the Cabernet was macerated about a week longer. Aging is in 100% new French oak, with slightly lower toast levels than in the past. Production will be about 20% less than normal because of frost damage.

TERRE DE VINS

97

Les équipes d'Angéus ont dû composer avec les effets du gel en 2017. Extrêmement sélectives, elles ont signé un vin magnifiquement composé, un vin d'architecte, à la fois crémeux, velouté, enrobant, au fruit pulpeux et précis, aux tannins élégants, à la finale juteuse et fraîche. Moins tonique que le 2016, mais très accompli, c'est un costume trois pièces, un vin haute couture au style remarquable.

NZZ – PHILIPP SCHWANDER

Sehr gute

In St-Emilion begeisterten uns Angéus und Cheval-Blanc...

BECKUSTATOR -YVES BECK

95-96

Pourpre violacé profond. Bouquet intense, complexe qui révèle des notes de baies noires et d'épices. Le nez se révèle au fil des minutes et je relève des myrtilles ainsi que des mûres. Beaucoup de profondeur et d'élégance. Au palais le vin surprend par sa fraîcheur, son jus. Il a néanmoins de l'ampleur, de la vivacité et des tannins qui se révèlent en fin de bouche. Ils sont encore assez durs mais, parallèlement, ils confèrent une touche suave et sont en symbiose avec la vivacité. C'est la fin de bouche, pas suffisamment expressive, qui pénalise un peu Angéus... pour l'instant ! A suivre

WINE CHRONICLES – PANOS KAKAVIATOS

Parmi les 7 vins favoris de Saint-Emilion

Estate winemaker Emmanuelle d'Aligny-Fulchi explained that frost damage made things more difficult for their second wine Carillon d'Angélus, resulting in 25,000 bottles instead of 45,000. The second wine, at 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc is however very rich and bright: fruit driven, and quite tasty, clocking in at 12.8% alcohol. Some 85,000 bottles will be made of the grand vin, where it was important to have softer extractions, she said, and low temperature macerations. How is Angélus? Great in 2017. The blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc, made at a healthy 30 hectoliters per hectare, reminds Emmanuelle – who has been with the estate for over 20 years – of both the nuanced 2001 and the long 2014. I got some of the Cabernet Franc driven mentholated fragrance of their 1996 (her first vintage here) and had a blend of 60% Cabernet Franc and 40% Merlot. The 2017 conveys excellent density, but also soft and elegant expressions, with a juicy mid palate marked by ripe red and black fruit leading to a long finish. Bravo!

MARKUS DEL MONEGO

96

Deep purple red with violet hue and black core. Complex and aromatic nose with excellent structure. Distinct toasting aroma in balance with succulent fruit. Dark cherries, blackberries, dark chocolate and fresh ground coffee beans. On the palate well structured with ripe tannins, elegant fruit and fine oak flavour in the background. A very well structured wine with great length.

BERNARD BURTSCHY

96-97

La robe est sombre à nuances grenat. Le nez est intense, très épicé, belle complexité. Le vin est suave, charmant, presque crémeux, plus merlot que d'habitude, un peu moins de fraîcheur que 2016, des tannins fermes sous-jacents, jolie finale très élégante. Le vin a été élaboré avec 70 % merlot et 30 % cabernet-franc. Environ 85 000 b au lieu de 100 000 en 2015 et 2016. Il se fera un peu plus vite que 2016. 3-12 ans.

LE FIGARO – FREDERIC DURAND-BAZIN

Coup de cœur 18,5/20