

CHÂTEAU FERRIERE

3rd Classified Growth in 1855 – Margaux

Vintage 2012

**Owner**

Claire VILLARS LURTON

Winemaking consultant

Eric BOISSENOT

Surface of vineyard

12 hectares

Soil

Deep gravels on limestone substrate

Plantation

65 % cabernet sauvignon,
30 % merlot and 5% cabernet franc

Average age of vineyard

45 years old

Density

10 000 plants/ha

Yield

700 g/plant

Vinification

Traditional in concrete and wooden vats,
whose volumes are proportional to the plot.
Control of temperature.

Fermentation on skins

18 to 24 days

Blending

68 % cabernet sauvignon, 30 % merlot
and 2 % cabernet franc

Ageing

40 % of new oak
Ageing during 18 months

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VINTAGE

In 2012, after an especially difficult Spring and beginning of Summer, the weather conditions were very favorable for the plants from mid-July.

Indeed, the Winter was very cold and dry, with an important deficit of rainfall. When the temperatures became warmer at the end of Winter, the budburst began but was long, which resulted in a heterogeneity especially for the merlot. The phenological shift also delayed the flowering, which was very disrupted by rainfall. At the berry set, there was sagging of the merlot and the yields were rather low. Generally, Spring was very wet with a heavy pressure of mildew. Prophylaxis and the balance of the vines played an important role in the control of fungal diseases. The rains stopped in mid-July for more than 2 months, which is extremely rare.

From this date, more favorable temperatures allowed to catch up but the high temperatures of August and especially the lack of water locally slowed the ripening of the young vines that do not have a sufficiently developed root system. Finally, in late September rainfall led to the development of the skin and accelerated the maturation. We started the harvest on October 1st to end on October 10th, 2012. But we had to hurry to get healthy harvest because the rains came back on October 7th.

The distribution of the harvest on the foot (low yields) and the good condition of the vineyard, combining with a very precise work of sorting, were capital to optimize the quality of the vintage.

Quickly, the merlot showed a remarkable flesh that we haven't tasted for a long time. As the cabernet sauvignon, they did not disappoint us and were faithful to our land of Medoc. They are soft and rich of elegance. We will have powerful wines, tender and digestible. 2012 is a very good vintage and many successes are waiting for us ahead.