

# Château Dauzac 2017

*Appellation Margaux, Grand Cru Classé en 1855*

*As wine-makers can attest, years ending in 7 always have surprises in store...*

After a rather dry and sunny winter, the month of March was mild, causing the first vine leaves to appear very early.

The heavy spring frost in the Bordeaux region at the end of April spared all of Château Dauzac's vineyards with their bench of gravel located near a river. There were mild temperatures in May, with rapid and even flowering at the end of the month. The summer, with average temperatures, was marked by a water deficit. The first rainfalls in September were worrisome but once again, Château Dauzac's geographic location between a river and forest which causes air to flow through clouds limited rainfall during harvesting. The harvest was rapid: we started the Merlot on 14 September and ended the Cabernet Sauvignon on 4 October. The main terroirs were harvested primarily on fruit days according to the biodynamic calendar. The harvest was highly homogeneous with impressive maturity. Careful intra-plot selection work resulted in high-precision vinification.

## **Tasting notes:**

Very nicely balanced, the 2017 is refined and complex. Fresh and pure fruit gives way to a full and round mouth where red fruits and spices excel. The minerality of Cabernet Sauvignon adds a touch of freshness, enabling the strong tannic structure to construct a generous finish.

## **Our suggestions:**

White meat, poultry, red meat, game, cheese

## **Ageing potential:**

Peak expression after 5 to 10 years, can be aged for 20 to 30 years.



**Blend :** 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot

**Production of certified 100% VEGAN wine**

**Production area :** 42 hectares (104 acres)

**Soil type :** Deep gravel outcrops

**Rooststock :** 101-14, Riparia Gloire and 3309

**Fertilizer :** Organic fertilization

**Planting density :** 10,000 vines/hectare

**Average vine age :** 35-40 years

**Grape varieties on the property :** 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot

**Pruning system :** « Double Guyot » pruning with disbudding

**Harvest :** By hand in small crates and sorting on tables before and after de-stemming.

**Vinification:** Use of gravity-flow vatting to supply the fermentation room. Fermentation in wooden vats with transparent double staves.

**Fermentation temperature :** 28°C (82,4°F)

**Malolactic :** Yes

**Finish:** with plant proteins if necessary

**Ageing:** 100% French oak barrels (including 65% new barrels) for 15 months with racking based on tasting results.

# Château Dauzac 2017

*Tasting notes*

vinous

90-93

« The 2017 Dauzac was picked from 17 September and finished at the end of the month. Matured in 65% new oak it has a surprisingly intense black cherry, blueberry and violet, a vivacious bouquet that I hope is in situ once this is bottled. The palate is medium-bodied with dense black fruit, wild strawberry, quite grippy in the mouth with a structured but elegant finish. Don't under-estimate this Margaux because under Laurent Fortin the team produced a delightful Margaux. --Neal Martin »



16,5-17

« This beautiful Margaux has a lot of strength, a distinction of fruit and some great quality tannins. Admirable density, tension and persistence. Complete. »

Robert Parker  
WINE ADVOCATE

90-93

« Pure, with a streak of iron adding some tension to the mix of damson plum and red currant flavors. A light floral hint weaves over the top. Fresh acidity. --J.M. »

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 

92-93

« This builds on the palate with medium to full body. Lots of dark fruits and a full tannins that drive the finish. Shows energy and length. Precise and transparent. Could be better than 2016 ? »



94

« The nose is aromatic, elegant, racy and offers a nice smoothness. The mouth is fruity, elegant and offers great delicacy, harmony and a nice roundness. Tannins are fine, elegant and slightly firm. »

Wine Spectator

90-93

« Pure, with a streak of iron adding some tension to the mix of damson plum and red currant flavors. A light floral hint weaves over the top. Fresh acidity. --James Molesworth »

bettane +  
desseave

16,5

« Très droit, intense, un rien durci pour le moment par ses cabernets, mais se rattrapant en fin de bouche par un tanin complexe et racé, d'une grande précision dans l'extraction. Attendre encore six mois pour voir s'il dépasse ou non le 2016. »

Terre de Vins

94

« The mouth is lively, attractive with an explosion of red fruits ! »