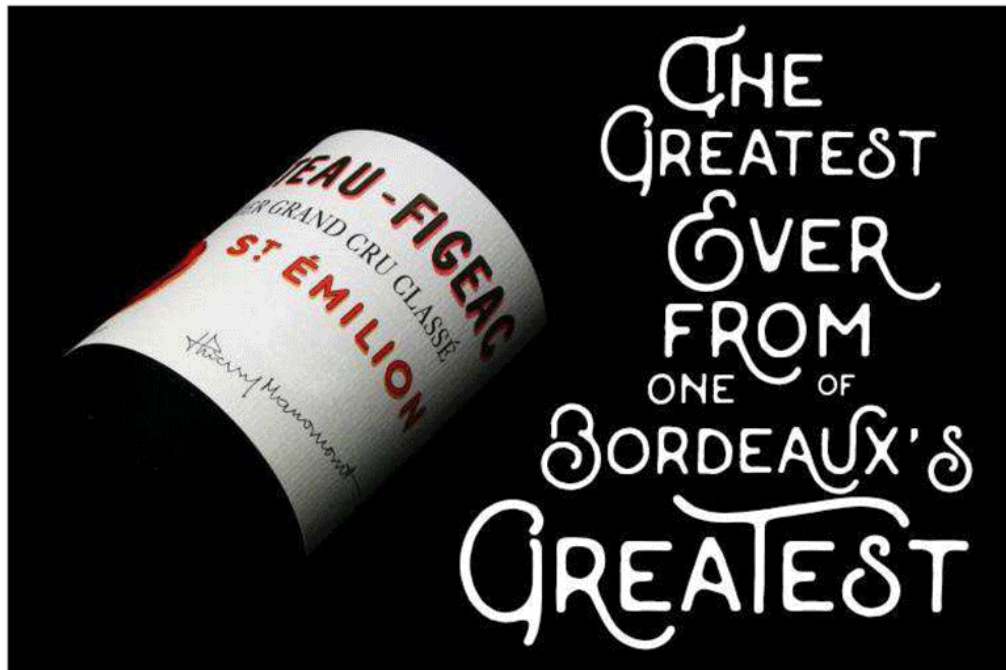



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2015 Bordeaux Futures Update: 97-99pt Ch. Figeac Generates Some Serious 'Buzz'

Aug
29



To all Wine Exchangers,

We here in America love the phenomena known as a "world vintage". It's what aficionados and collectors truly seek out when buying wine as an investment for their cellars. When everything is great (Bordeaux, Burgundy, Napa) the 'year' has an even healthier reputation. "Is it good?" "It's a 2015, buy it!" The 1990 harvest was a world vintage, and maybe 2005. In our opinion the latest vintage that 'fit the bill' was, perhaps, 2010, and the prices the Bordelaise were asking for the wines at that time didn't exactly scream "deal!"

But after tasting a global array of 2015's over the last several months, we can confidently say it's the next great "world" vintage. Trust us, it seems like everything we've tasted from 2015 is not just good but great! From Rosé to German Rieslings to little Cote du Rhones... it's going to be fun to sell these wines.

So now that the 2015 Bordeaux *En Primeur* campaign is all but finished, we're going to highlight what we think are the "must buys" of this spectacular vintage starting with one of the top appellations of the vintage, Saint Emilion, and one of its very finest wines.

First off, the top wines of the region all did spectacular. From Pavie to Angelus to Troplong Mondot to Cheval Blanc, all these estates were the best they've been in years.

Yet, there was one wine that was generating an even higher level of 'buzz'. Maybe due to the fact that it should have been generating this buzz for decades but never had. In short, many critics and merchants would point to this chateau as one of the great underachievers in Bordeaux for a number of years, though many did not have the heart



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Yes, Figeac. Whenever you drive past the property, your eyes are immediately drawn to it. It's different than the rest, noticeably different. There's hills, and bumps, and swales, it's not flat as a pancake like most of the west side of St. Emilion and neighboring Pomerol. This vineyard has *character*.

Unfortunately, the same could not be said for the wines, for a long time. Honestly, it was always an honor and a bummer tasting here. So much history, so much potential, and, year after year, a perfectly OK wine from one of the greatest terroirs not just in St. Emilion, but the whole of Bordeaux.



The chateau slowly began to change all that in 2013. That year, the chateau lobbied hard for a promotion from their current ranking of St. Emilion Grand Cru Classe B status to Classe A, along with Pavie, Angelus, Ausone and Cheval Blanc. If you consider their land, this upgrade was deserved. However, the governing board 'dropped the hammer' on them and maintained their current Classe B ranking (still not shabby). It was obvious work needed to be done and, bless the Manoncourt's hearts, they started to do it.

A new team was brought in, the cellars were revitalized and the vineyards given a once-over. A nip here, a tuck there, and BOOM, you have the 2015.

Folks, the 2015 Figeac is absolutely EPIC. I can't tell you how many times we were approached in Bordeaux by merchants, negociants, and so on who had no skin in the game, asking us if we had tasted Figeac.

The superlatives were flying, and with good reason. When Figeac does what it does well, there's no other wine like it, not just in Bordeaux, but the *world*. The vineyards' unique blend of roughly a third each Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot makes for a wine with another dimension of flavor and complexity. Its location, straddling the borders of St. Emilion and Pomerol, puts the wine texturally in both camps, generating a red of power, richness and polish, but with the savory Cabernet notes and a stronger sense of place than almost any Right Bank Bordeaux we can imagine.

Friggin' Figeac. *Nailed it.*

Then we started hearing from the critics, who got the same gustatory memo we did.

Wine Advocate's Neal Martin: *"The palate is drop-dead gorgeous, its foundation a lattice of filigree tannin and perfectly judged acidity. It is very fresh from its vivacious start to its pencil-lead finish imbued with effortless grace. It is almost comical that naysayers decry that Michel Rolland would turn Figeac into some kind of fruit bomb. Head winemaker Frédéric Faye has overseen a tip-top classic Figeac without any of the greenness that occasionally affected older vintages, now boasting a level of precision up there with the very best in the Right Bank. It was difficult to find fault with this quite astonishing Saint Emilion and who knows what could transpire once it is in bottle. 97-99 points (his second-highest score of the vintage)."*

Vinous' Antonio Galloni: *"The 2015 Figeac is superb. A blast of tannin hits the palate first followed by waves of inky purplish fruit, exotic spices, new leather, lavender and mint. Beams of pulsating acidity and structure give the 2015 much of its super-distinctive personality. The 2015 is powerful and built to age, that much is clear. In 2015, Figeac brings together the generosity of the year with the classic sense of structure that is so unique to Figeac, with a touch greater polish that Michel Rolland has brought since he arrived. The 2015 is compelling. It's as simple as that. 93-96 points."*

James Suckling: *"This is the most structured Figeac in modern times. I tasted wines from this estate from the 1920s and 1910s but this is something. Full and powerful. Pure and focused. Full of structure and complexity. 97-99 points."*

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Wine Spectator: *"This has eye-opening power and depth, with a well of currant, fig and blackberry fruit that is supported by fresh tobacco and warm stones notes. Grippy through the finish, with a loam note adding more bass, this still stays focused and integrated. 94-97 points."*

There has NEVER been a better bottling of this wine in our opinion and we're stoked to be able to offer futures of the **2015 Chateau Figeac** for \$144.98/btl (3 bottle minimum applies, delivery expected early 2018). This is top-notch wine and while not the least expensive Figeac, it is a flat-out contender for wine of the vintage, and a sure-fire legend in the making.

Chateau Figeac, with the assistance of the talented Michel Rolland, is now living up to its full potential, producing, in 2015, one of the most compelling wines in Bordeaux. Bravo.

Kyle Meyer and Tristen Beamon, Proprietors, Wine Exchange

FEATURED PRODUCTS



Figeac Saint Emilion 2015 Futures

97 – 99 Points! The 2015 Figeac is a blend of 29% Merlot, 28% Cabernet Franc and 43% Cabernet Sauvignon that was picked from 21 September with the Merlot until 15 October with the Cabernet Sauvignon at 41 hectoliters per hectare. The Cabernet comes through strongly on the nose – classic Figeac in many ways – black fruit, a touch of cassis, pencil and a touch of rose petal. The palate is drop-dead gorgeous, its foundation a lattice of filigree tannin and perfectly judged acidity. It is very fresh from its vivacious start to its pencil-lead finish imbued with effortless grace. It is almost comical that naysayers decried that Michel Rolland would turn Figeac into some kind of fruit bomb. Head winemaker Frédéric Faye has overseen a tip-top classic Figeac without any of the greenness that occasionally affected older vintages, now boasting a level of precision up there with the very best in the Right Bank. It was difficult to find fault with this quite astonishing Saint Emilion and who knows what could transpire once it is in bottle. Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com #224, April 2016

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