

# THUNEVIN

## Château Valandraud

### Saint Emilion 1er Grand Cru Classé

In 1989, Jean-Luc Thunevin and Murielle Andraud became the proud owners of a small plot of land of 0,6 ha, in the valley of Saint Emilion, between Pavie Macquin and La Clotte. In 1991 they produced and bottled their first vintage. Since then, their estate portfolio has grown with properties in Saint Christophe des Bardes, Saint Sulpice de Faleyrens or Saint Etienne de Lisse.

In the early days, wine critics nicknamed this production « garage wine », but even as Château Valandraud had not –yet- entered the Saint Emilion classification, it was considered by most wine critics, including Robert Parker, as a major player in Bordeaux.

In 2012, Château Valandraud has been promoted as a 1st classified growth of Saint Emilion.

In 2017, Château Valandraud became a full member of Union des Grands Crus de Bordeaux

#### Technical information

Surface: 8.88 hectares

Soil : clayey limestone

Grape varieties 65 % Merlot, Cabernet Franc 25 %, Cabernet Sauvignon 5%, Malbec 4%, Carmenère 1%

Average age of the vines : 30 ans

Manual harvest, with several sorting and Tribaie technology

Vinification in thermo regulated stainless steel , concrete and wooden tanks , Malolactic fermentation in barrels.

Ageing: 18 to 30 months in new barrels

Production: 35 000 bottles

Blending may differ according to vintage

#### Tasting notes

**2015 :** The 2015 Chateau Valandraud is founded upon Jean-Luc Thunevin's ever-reliable Merlot parcels, and this year the blend is augmented with 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a glorious and damn irresistible bouquet of crème de cassis, blueberry, crushed violets and a scintilla of citrus fruit, all beautifully defined and very precise. In 2015 it is determined to put a gap between itself and the Virginie de Valandraud. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, creamy in texture but not in the slightest cloying. The acidity is well judged with layers of caressing black fruit towards a finish for which I could only deploy the word - nubile. This will be a stunning Valandraud to savor over the next couple of decades, though it will be difficult to resist temptation in its youth.

Neal Martin The Wine Advocate



#### Notes

##### Vintage 2012 :

Wine Advocate: 95+/100

Wine Spectator: 94/100

##### Vintage 2013:

Wine Advocate : 90/100

Wine Spectator: 91/100

##### Vintage 2014 :

Wine Advocate 94/100

Wine Spectator : 95/100

##### Vintage 2015 :

Wine Advocate : 95-97/100

Wine Spectator: 94-97/100

##### Vintage 2016 :

Wine Advocate : 95-97/100

Wine Spectator : 96-99/100



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