

Virginie de Valandraud Saint Emilion Grand Cru

Born in 1992 as the second wine of Château Valandraud, Virginie de Valandraud is named after Jean-Luc Thunevin and Murielle Andraud's daughter.

Since 1997, and the ever increasing Thunevin vineyards in the Saint Emilion area, Virginie de Valandraud has developed its own identity while being grown and vinified the same way and by the same team in charge of Chateau Valandraud.

If Virginie de Valandraud may be seen as a second wine, it's mainly because of its high quality standards but it has stepped out of its "big brother's" shadow to rightfully become an independent cuvée.

Technical information

Soil : clayey limestone

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

Average age of the vines: 30 ans

Manual harvest with several sorting including Tribaie technology

Vinifications in thermoregulated stainless steel tanks

Ageing : 18 to 24 months in new barrels

Average Production : 50 000 bottles

Blending may vary according to vintage

Tasting Notes:

The 2015 Virginie de Valandraud is matured in 100% new oak, according to Jean-Luc Thunevin. It has an intense, quite powerful bouquet with red cherries intermingling with blueberry and candied orange peel. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, a "juicy" Virginie with plenty of puppy fat, but the oak feels nicely integrated and does not obscure its personality on the silky, sensual finish. Perhaps on reflection, I would have liked, say 80% new oak instead of 100%, but why let figures get in the way of this Saint Émilion that should be enjoyed over the next decade.

Neal Martin the Wine Advocate



Notes

Vintage 2010

Wine Advocate 90/100

Wine Spectator : 92/100

Vintage 2011

Wine Spectator : 90/100

Vintage 2012

Wine Spectator : 89/100

Vintage 2014

Wine Advocate : 91/100

Vintage 2015

Wine Advocate : 90-92/100

Wine Specator : 89-92/100

Vintage 2016

Wine Advocate : 91-93/100