

Virginie de Valandraud Saint Emilion Grand Cru

Established in 1992 as a second wine, Virginie de Valandraud (Virginie is the name of Jean-Luc Thunevin's daughter), is grown and vinified in the same way as Château Valandraud by the same teams with the same care and the same methods, under the direction of Jean-Luc Thunevin, the chef de culture Christophe Lardière and the cellar master Rémi Dalmasso.

Technical data

Surface : 8,88 ha vineyards in Saint Emilion Grand Cru

Soils : clayey limestone

Grape varieties planted on the property : 65 % Merlot, Cabernet Franc 25 %, Cabernet Sauvignon 5 %, Malbec 4 % and Carmenère 1%

Winemaking: Hand wine harvest - Sorted of the grapes by the pickers and densimetric sorting berries to the winery on "Tribaie".

Vinification with temperature controlled stainless steel tanks, manual punching of the cap, pumping-over, maceration about three weeks.

Average age of the vines : 30 years old

Ageing : 18 to 20 months in 100 % new oak barrels

Production : 15,000 bottles (average)

Blending varies depending on the vintage

Tasting notes :

2011 : WINE ADVOCATE 89

An attractive, richly fruity, spicy wine, the 2011 Virginie de Valandraud reveals hints of Christmas baking spices, mocha and black cherries along with supple tannins, decent acidity and a round, corpulent mouthfeel. Drink it over the next 10-12 years. RP

2014 : WINE ADVOCATE 90-92

The Virginie de Valandraud 2014 has a very pure bouquet, precise and elegant as usual, with precocious dark cherry and crème de cassis scents merged with violet petals. The oak here is nicely in sync. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe, chalky tannin over-layered with surprisingly minerally dark berry fruit that dovetails into a long spicy finish. There's a lot going on in this deuxième vin and it should be fascinating to re-visit later on during its evolution. It surpasses many a self-aggrandising "big gun" in Saint Emilion. Neal Martin



Ratings:

Vintage 2009

Wine Spectator: 91/100
JR : 17/20

Vintage 2010

RP: 91-93 /100

Bettane -Desseauve 16-17/20

Vintage 2011

RP 89/100

WS 90/100

Vintage 2012

RP 88-90/100

