

CHÂTEAU RIPEAU

VINTAGE 2017

JEB DUNNUCK - WWW.JEBDUNNUCK.COM

93-95/100

A rocking effort, the 2017 Château Ripeau gives up loads of crème de cassis, chocolate, graphite, and hints of spice. It's ripe, opulent and seamless, with sweet, silky tannin. A blend 70% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Cabernet Franc that was partially vinified in barrel and is still aging in 100% new French oak, it should drink nicely with short-term cellaring and cruise for a decade or more..

YVES BECK - WWW.YVESBECK.WINE.COM

92-93/100

Pourpre violacé. Bouquet filigrane, élégant, révélant subtilement son élevage avec des notes fumées. Notes de menthe, de baies noires et de truffes. Attaque savoureuse, suave où je retrouve les notes fumées. Le corps est crémeux, charmant et doté d'une structure rafraîchissante. Les tannins sont bien intégrés et assurent les arrières avec la structure. Un vin à la finale expressive, vive et au caractère charmant. Le côté suave est bien encerclé par la tension qui équilibre. 2023-

JEFF LEVE - THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER

92/100

Showing intense color, the wine pops with layers of fleshy, soft, dark plums, damp licorice and creamy tannins. There is body and richness here with loads of deep, concentrated fruit in the finish. The new owners are spending with no end in sight to make the best wine possible here. This is a property to watch.

ADRIAN VAN VELSON - VVWINE BLOG 93/100

Profondeur, nez noble, fruits noirs, des masses de mûres, de la fumée, des herbes, du bacon avec plus d'air et de la Tourbe, des épices, de réglisse, très complexe. Attaque puissante et riche de fruits noirs, beaucoup de mûres et de cassis et de cerise noire, corps, tanins distinctifs, très fin, structuré et équipé d'une excellente acidité, dense et avec un très fort milieu de bouche épicée, la finition d'excellente longueur. Très réussie, doit mûrir, a de très bonnes réserves. 2023-2036.

ANTONIO GALLONI - VINOUS 90-93/100

The 2017 Ripeau is a rich, explosive wine. An infusion of blueberry jam, chocolate, spice, new leather and grilled herbs gives the 2017 its distinctive personality and character. Frost decimated yields to just 4.000 bottles from 12 hectares of vineyards, which is to say a reduction of around 90%. Tasted two times.

NEAL MARTIN - VINOUS 88-90/100

The 2017 Ripeau was 80% damaged by the frost this year and as such, not second generation fruit was used. It matured in 100% new oak, 600 liters barrels for Cabernets. It has quite a rich bouquet with heady blackberry and crushed strawberry fruit, touches of crème de cassis and iodine. The palate is medium bodied with ripe tannin, crisp acidity, quite dense and structured although the new oak speaks over the terroir towards the finish. I would be interested to revisit this after bottling, although I suspect it will need three or four years to absorb the wood.

JONATHAN CHICHEPORTICHE - VERT DE VIN

92-93/100 - 16.25/20

Le nez est fruité, élégant et offre de la concentration, un joli grain, une certaine délicatesse ainsi qu'une jolie densité. On y retrouve des notes de fraise charnue, de cassis, de framboise et plus légèrement de baies rouges sauvages mûres associées à de fines touches d'épices, à une pointe de poivre de Sichuan, de fleurs/iris ainsi qu'à une très discrète pointe de toasté/boisé et de fève tonka/cacao. La bouche est fruitée, équilibrée, précise, racée et offre une jolie définition, de la délicatesse, de la finesse, une bonne structure, une trame acide, une bonne finesse du grain, de la suavité ainsi qu'une certaine densité. En bouche ce vin exprime des notes de fraise charnue, de framboise sauvage charnue et plus légèrement de cassis mûr/écrasé associées à de fines touches de petites baies sauvages, de boisé, d'épices ainsi qu'à de discrètes touches de cacao, de thé noir, de poivre de Cuben, à une imperceptible pointe de fleurs et de tabac blond. Les tannins sont fins et bien menés. Bonne longueur. De la gourmandise en fin de bouche/persistance. Présence d'une imperceptible pointe d'amande fraîche sur la persistance.

JANE ANSON - DECANTER 91/100

«This has good purity of flavour, very much on the black fruits side with cassis and bilberry. The austerity of the vintage is well-handled, even if it is clear that the fruit is on the fresh side. It opens extremely well in the glass, the silky texture and softness of the tannins becoming more evident. The vines for Ripeau are in a single stretch around the château, with trees in places offering protection from frost - despite this, 80% was affected. Second generation fruit was only used for the second wine, so there's just a very small amount of the grand vin this year : 4,500 bottles from 1,5 ha of vines unaffected by the frost. As a result, the blend is a little different this year, using a slightly higher percentage of Cabernets Sauvignon and Franc. The Grégoire family, owners of this property since 2015, have really started to focus on quality here, and they are so happy with the result in 2017 that they hope to use a similar blend in the future. The key for winemaker Julien Salles was to keep the temperature very low during the fermentation, not going above 22°C. The wine is aged in barrels ranging from 225 L. up to Stockinger casks, all 100% new oak that marks the finish without swamping it. 3,5pH. Drinking window 2024 - 2036».

JAMES SUCKLING 90-91/100

This is a solid and dense red with dark-berry and -plum character, round and polished tannins and a juicy finish. Nicely done for the vintage.

YOHAN CASTAING - TERRE DE VINS 90/100

Un nez de fruit noir cuit, légèrement toasté-torréfié, cède la place à une bouche riche, ample voire grasse, assez concentrée, avec des tanins un peu grillés. Un style plutôt gourmand qui aura ses adeptes.

BETTANE & DESSEAUVE 14,5/20

JANCIS ROBINSON 18,5+/20

Intense dark crimson. Savoury graphite freshness. The Cabernets show beautifully in the fresh, juicy black fruit and the definite but super-fine tannins. Long, cool finish with sustained fruit.

VINTAGE 2016

ANTONIO GALLONI - VINOUS 88-91/100

The 2016 Ripeau, 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, shows great power and density. The wine exudes richness in its deep blue/purplish-hued fruit, and the 100% new French oak adds to the opulent, full-throttle feel. Overall, the 2016 is a big wine with quite a bit of potential. Claude Gros is the consulting winemaker.

JANCIS ROBINSON 16,5+/20

Very distinctive, sweet and relaxed. Settled and rich but not excessively sweet. Slightly reminiscent of Terre Rote-boeuf. Good meat extract stuff with real length. Drink 2024-2038

JANE ANSON 90/100

Bright and firm fruits, very much on the intense fruit register, but with excellent balance and elongated tannins. Drink 2027-2050

JEFF LEVE FOR THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER 91/100

Dark in color, this wine offers floral, dark berry, licorice, smoke, chocolate and sweet cherries. Round, fleshly, forward and fresh, the wine was produced from blending 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc.

PIERRE CITERNE POUR LA RVF 16-17/20

Issu d'une vinification très spécifique (fermentation à basse température), il persiste dans la voie ambitieuse initiée par le 2015. Un fruit particulièrement dense, encore primaire, qui nourrit une structure puissante mais déjà déliée, d'une grande cohérence.

NEAL MARTIN FOR THE WINE ADVOCATE

RVF 14,5-15,5/20

Le vin de la famille Grégoire continue à affirmer une personnalité originale, découlant d'un protocole de vinification spécifique (fermentation à basse température). Le vin est bien mûr, charnu et doté d'un fruité très expressif, un peu réduit, mais sans dureté.

89-91/100

The 2016 Ripeau is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc picked between 12th and 20th October and matured in 100% new oak. It has a hedonistic and decadent bouquet with exotic black cherry, crème de cassis and licorice scents that are lacking delineation and do not really articulate the growing season. The palate then turns volte face and is nicely structured with grainy tannin, a dash of spice and good definition on the finish. I suspect that the aromatics will gain more composure by the time of bottling. Drink 2021- 2038.

TIM ATKINS 92/100

New to my report this year, this was one of the discoveries of the Saint-Émilion Grand Cru Classé tasting. Comparatively forward and approachable in style, it has silky smooth tannins, some chalky freshness, nuanced oak and a core of plum and bramble fruit. 2020-26.

YVES BECK 91-92/100

Robe pourpre violacé. Bouquet de bonne intensité révélant des notes de fruits confits et d'épices. À l'aération je relève également des notes de craies et de fruits noirs. Attaque suave et minérale. Le corps est marqué par une structure vive, dure et chaleureuse en finale. Tannins serrés qui ont la matière pour tenir tête à l'acidité. Un vin séduisant, qui assume bien cet état de fait, car il sait se montrer convaincant de par sa fraîcheur et sa tension. Drink 2022-2041.

VINTAGE 2015

JAMES SUCKLING 94/100

This is the first year from the new owner of this small Château in Saint-Émilion and it shows beautiful refinement and depth. Its full-bodied yet very polished and refined with pretty tannins. Hints of smoke and spices on the finish. Watch this space. Beautiful now but can age beautifully.

JEB DUNNUCK 95+/100

From an estate owned by the Grégoire family and managed by Julien Salles that's seeing huge investments and renovation, the 2015 Château Ripeau checks in as 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc brought up all in new oak. It's a gorgeous wine on all accounts, which given that this terroir is located near Cheval Blanc, La Conseillante, and Figeac, should surprise no one. Beautiful notes of crème de cassis, blueberries, toasty oak, lead pencil shavings, and Asian spice all emerge from the glass and this beauty is full-bodied, concentrated and layered, with enough underlying structure to warrant 3-4 years of bottle age. This estate also utilizes consultant Claude Gros and this estate's bandwagon is worth getting on for readers looking for an up and coming superstar.

JEFF LEVE - WINE CELLAR INSIDER 91-93/100

The first vintage from the new owners shows a nice dark color, rich, supple tannins, sweet, lush, juicy fruits and chocolate-covered plums in the finish. This clearly marks a rebirth of the estate.

NEAL MARTIN - THE WINE ADVOCATE

89-91/100

The 2015 Ripeau is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc that was picked between October 1-7 and matured in 100% new oak. The bouquet marks amelioration vis-à-vis older vintages, a little more refinement and precision coming through, just flirting with over-ripeness, but wisely choosing not to step over the line. The palate is medium-bodied, a little chewiness on the entry, but there is good depth and a clean and gently grippy finish. Watch out for future vintages of this estate owned by the Gregoire family.

PIERRE CITERNE - RVF 16,5-17/20

Pour leur premier millésime, les frères Grégoire frappent fort. L'ambition est patente et les options techniques clairement définies. L'échantillon affiche beaucoup d'intensité et une fraîcheur de fruit remarquable (fermentation à basse température), cadrée par un élevage précis (100% bois neuf, barriques de tailles diverses et chauffés faibles).

SOMMELIERS INTERNATIONAL 5/5 TASTEVINS

Château Ripeau 2015 : une pépite rare, à découvrir et posséder de toute urgence.
De la classe de la haute couture... Difficile de trouver mieux même chez les plus grands crus classés.