

SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Summer 2011

Dear Club de Vin Member,

Cheers and sunshine from Château Fonplegade!

Summer started early this year, as temperatures rose tremendously beginning in late March. As a result, not only were our guests bringing out their picnic baskets earlier than usual, but in the vineyard, the cycle of growth is 15 days ahead of the average year. The first green leaves blossomed at the beginning of April, slowly adding beautiful life and color to the landscape. Among the vine rows, Eloi started to tie up the branches to get ready for the upcoming flowering.

Also, a new plot was planted down Fonplegade's hill, and another one was prepared for planting in front of the Château. We are constantly working to renew and enhance our vineyard, and though we love our old vines, and the wines they have given us over the decades, we are guided by quality. As old vines begin to decline (often around the 45-year mark), it is a wonderful opportunity for Eloi to upgrade the vineyard with optimum sun exposures and higher planting densities for improved concentration.

In the cellar, Franck just bottled our lush and appealing Fleur de Fonplegade 2009. This special wine doesn't need as much oak barrel aging as its father, Château Fonplegade. With a little patience, and some time to integrate in the bottle, it will be quite stunning.

The big news here in Bordeaux, was the Annual En Primeur tasting week that took place in April. En Primeur is a key event where professionals and journalists assess the quality of the newest vintage. We are excited to announce that our 2010 vintage received our highest rating ever during the En Primeur tastings, with renowned critic Robert Parker giving Château Fonplegade 92-94/100! We are very proud our efforts here at Fonplegade, and our investments in its future, continue to be recognized. Please find Mr. Parker's full tasting comment below:

"2010: 92-94/100 Now American-owned, Fonplegade has been pushing the envelop of high quality over recent vintages. The full-bodied, powerful 2010 reveals intense, concentrated red and black fruit characteristics, undeniable minerality, a perfumed style and authoritative flavors that linger on the palate. The tannins are noticeable, so this wine will benefit from 5-6 years of cellaring and keep for at least two decades."

Even amid the professional and press excitement around our 2010 vintage, please know that our Club de Vin Members will be ensured access to our 2010 Futures. Stay tuned for more information!

In the meantime, you can always savor our fresh and lively Fleur de Fonplegade Rosé... By the time you read these lines, we will have held our Summer Reception by the swimming pool, where the Rosé was greeted as a guest star.

Many of you have already ordered bottles of the Rosé in addition to your regular shipment, knowing that it will be the ideal companion to outdoor meals and friendly summer gatherings.

With the latest news shared, I'll let you turn your attention to the wines in your June shipment: Château Fonplegade 2008 and Château l'Enclos 2007. Offering exceptional freshness and tasty black fruits flavors, our Château Fonplegade 2008 recently earned 93 points from Robert Parker, propelling us to the Top 15 of best 2008 vintages in Bordeaux! As for l'Enclos 2007, we saved you the last remaining bottles.... this sought-after wine is sold out and will become a collectable!

Wishing you all the enjoyment of long summer days!

Rachida HAMMOUCH
Fonplegade Wine Club & Boutique Manager

Bordeaux, France