

SUMMER 2012 NEWSLETTER

Summer 2012

Dear Club de Vin Member,

Summertime is finally here at Château Fonplégade!

As opposed to the warm early season in 2011, this year the sun played hide-and-seek until late May, with a cold, rainy April postponing the blooming of the vines. Since then, warmer days have helped the vineyard to catch up with usual growth. In the vineyard, Eloi has been busy sculpting the vines and getting rid of unneeded branches to enhance aeration between the rows, and ensure ideal grape development and ripening. In the cellar, summer means bottling time has come for Franck. It's been a treat for our visitors to watch him gently handling the barrels and finalizing the 2010 blend. Now, the much-acclaimed 2010 vintage will rest in its birthplace, slowly evolving, before joining your cellars! As is customary, Château Fonplégade was bottled after Fleur de Fonplégade, in order to benefit from extra days of wood contact. Château l'Enclos 2010 is also a superb wine to look for...

Fleur de Fonplégade Rosé 2011

Before the highly anticipated 2010 release, you can always enjoy a fresh glass of our Fleur de Fonplégade Rosé 2011! Savored under a bright sun, there are few greater pleasures, nor better ways to celebrate summer, then sharing a glass with friends. During our recent reception near Fonplégade's pool, guests were able to compare our Fleur de Fonplégade Rosé 2010 and 2011! Both were stunning examples of our delicate Rosé's ability to satisfy. While our Rosé is an ideal summer wine, it can be enjoyed year-round alongside spicy food, fish dishes or garden-fresh salads. But don't wait too long to order this small-production Rosé, it disappears quickly!

2011 FUTURES Opportunity

Following up on our last Newsletter, we received fantastic feedback from the press at the Futures 2011 tastings. Robert Parker applauded Château Fonplégade 2011 with an unprecedented rating of 92-94/100! James Molesworth from Wine Spectator gave us a score of 89-92/100, and renowned critic James Suckling rated us 90-91/100. We are also proud to share the comment of Jeff LEVE, U.S. contributor to The Wine Cellar Insider and many other noteworthy publications:

"This deeply colored wine begins with fennel, stone, coffee and black cherry aromas and opens to a wine filled with sweet, round and fresh blackberries. 91-93 Pts"

Based on these excellent comments, our 2011 futures have already captured the attention of many connoisseurs.

Turning away from exciting wines yet to come, this Summer Newsletter arrives with two exceptional Club de Vin selections: our Château Fonplégade 2004 and Fleur de Fonplégade 2009. After last spring's shipment of our 2009 Château Fonplégade and Le Petit Enclos, we invite you to continue your exploration of our 2009 vintage with Fleur de Fonplégade. 2009 was a milestone vintage in Bordeaux, and this wine shows why, offering beautiful fruit purity, with engaging intensity. If Fleur de Fonplégade 2009 reflects the vibrant charm of youth, Château Fonplégade 2004 offers the character and incomparable complexity of a perfectly aged Bordeaux, revealing deep, nuanced fruit and sophisticated truffle aromas. While it is a wine worthy of a special occasion, it is also the kind of wine that makes its own occasion.

Wishing you great tastings!

The Fonplégade Club de Vin Team
Bordeaux, France