

CHATEAU FLEUR HAUT GAUSSENS 2015

Appellation Bordeaux Supérieur

~ Background ~

Chateau Fleur Haut GausSENS is located in Vérac, in the Fronsac region of Bordeaux. It has belonged to the Lhuillier family for 3 generations.

Since 1990, the family has embarked on an extensive renovation program to improve the vineyards and cultivation methods. Significant investments have been made since 1997 to completely modernize the winemaking facilities. They use slow, finessed vinification processes that result in well-balanced, outstanding wines of consistent quality that continue to improve each year.



~ Viticulture ~

The Lhuillier family has introduced intelligent, sustainable farming methods using organic fertilizers and herbicides.

- **85% Merlot, 5% Malbec, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc**
- 30 hectares with the vines planted on south-facing slopes
- Average vine age is 30 years
- Soil: clay-limestone
- Density of 5,000 vines/hectares
- Yield of 45 Hl/hectare
- Debudding and green harvest to reduce yields and concentrate fruit.
- Leaf thinning to promote optimal ripeness.
- Manual harvest over a 10 day period when each individual parcel is at its ripest

~ Tasting Notes ~

Lovely deep purple robe.

Intensely fruity, complex nose of vanilla, cocoa and fresh herbs.

On the palate, direct and straightforward with good fruit and very good structure. An easy-to-drink, perfect with any meat dish or full-flavored cheese.



~ Winemaking ~

- Two step sorting, with a machine blower, then manually by a 12 person team results in pure, clean grape selection
 - Cool maceration for 8 days at 10-12°C
 - Vinification of 3-4 weeks in thermo-regulated stainless steel tanks.
 - Malolactic fermentation in new barrels.
 - Stirring of the lees.
 - Aged 8 months with 50% new French oak
 - Final blending after ageing process.
 - No filtering or fining. Very light sediment.
- Upgraded to Bordeaux Supérieur in 2003.*



88 pts. The 2015 Château Fleur Haut GausSENS is plenty of feisty black cherry, wild strawberry, a touch of dark chocolate and cloves. This is quite structured and perhaps a little masculine, though there is adequate fruit. Perhaps I would like to see just a tad more persistence on the finish, but otherwise this is very fine and extremely good value.

88 Points. With the potential of a good structure and fruit, this is a warm ripe wine that has concentration and dense black fruits. The acidity at the end gives it a lift. Wait until 2019 to drink this Hervé Lhuillier wine.

