Château Rouget 2014
POMEROL

The history of Château Rouget began several centuries ago. Already known at the end of the Roman Empire, the Estate's terroirs were at that time merged with Saint-Emilion's ones. Château Rouget is certainly the Estate in Pomerol which has made the most progress during last 20 years.

Grape Varieties: 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc
Planting Density: 3,000 vines per acre / 7,500 vines per hectare
Average Age of Vines: 40 years
Soil Management: Vineyards are farmed sustainably, using practices such as cover crops and ploughing.

Terroir:
- Soils are gravelous, either mixed with clay or with sand.
- This soil composition, combined with an exceptional exposure, confers all the typicity, elegance and finesse to Château Rouget wines.

Harvests:
- Grapes are manually picked and carefully transported in small 20 kg crates.
- Harvest occurs in several steps, in order to secure an optimal maturity level.
- Bunches are sorted a first time as soon as they arrive in the cellar.
- Then, once the grapes are fully destemmed, they go through another double sorting table.

Winemaking and Ageing:
- Vinified batch by batch, in oak or SS vats, then aged for 18 months in oak barrels (33% new).
- The wine is fined traditionally, using fresh egg white.
- This vintage was bottled on a fruit day according to the lunar calendar, to allow the wine to express itself fully.

Tasting Notes: (Tasted in September 2015)
- Appearance: Intense ruby red colour with purple reflections.
- Nose: Elegant black fruit notes with exquisite and spicy and truffle touch.
- Palate: Beautifully delicate, with subtle flavours of black fruit and plums that embrace the palate while keeping pleasant freshness on the finish.
- Ageing Potential: more than 20 years. We recommend to wait for 10 to 12 years for this wine to express itself.

Vintage 2014:
Much to the delight (and surprise) of many tasters, Bordeaux has produced very good wine in 2014. It is certainly the best since 2010 and much of the talk at the en primeurs has been about where it ranks and which vintages it most resembles. But many winemakers there argue Bordeaux 2014 is even better. Perhaps even on a par with 2001. The problem in 2014 is not quality but quantity. - Decanter

Vinous - 93 Points
The 2014 Rouget is a wonderfully complete wine that melds together super-ripe, racy fruit and structure. Succulent red cherry, rose petal, mint and white pepper give the wine its distinctive aromatic and flavor profile. Even with all of its flamboyance, the 2014 has plenty of structural underpinning. A few years in bottle should help the wine soften a bit. Even so, this is a decidedly opulent Pomerol.

The 2014 was quite impressive both times I tasted it. -- Antonio Galloni

Also: Wine Advocate - 91 Pts.