

CHÂTEAU ROUGET 2018

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.

2018 VINTAGE: 2018: vintage of contrasts.

Rarely has the fight against the mildew been so intense. This vintage is a result of a hard work in the vineyard with spring climatology alternated between rainy and hot periods, and sometimes almost tropical atmosphere. The absence of rain from July to October, with warm but not too hot daytime temperatures altered with cool nights, has allowed the grapes to mature perfectly. At Château Rouget, the intensity of this vintage 2018 is clearly in line with 2005, 2009, 2015, but with a beautiful acidity that brings it close to 2010 and 2016. Born in pain but tasted with happiness, Rouget 2018 marks a new step in the steady progression of the property over the past few years.

JAMES SUCKLING - 97 POINTS

Blueberries, blackberries, elderberries, mushrooms and earthy notes. Spices as well. It's full-bodied with an unctuous texture. Balanced and savory with a fine, chewy tannin structure.

Flavorful finish with length. One of the best ever from here. Try after 2025.

VINOUS - 93 POINTS

The 2018 Rouget is not going to win any prizes for subtlety, but it sure is delicious. Racy and flamboyant to the core, the 2018 saturates the palate with super-ripe red fruit, mocha, spice and copious new French oak. I would give the tannins a few years to soften. There is certainly a lot to look forward to. Readers should expect a dense, heady style. -- Antonio Galloni

WINE ADVOCATE - 91+ POINTS

Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Rouget offers up expressive scents of baked black cherries, blackberry preserves and boysenberries with hints of underbrush, pencil lead and cedar chest, plus a waft of bouquet garni. The full-bodied palate is chock-full of muscular, oak-infused black fruit with lots of earthy accents and a sturdy frame of firm, grainy tannins, finishing just a little warm and tannic. There is a lot going on here, but it's all a bit disjointed right now.

Give it a good 4-5 years in bottle and drink it over the next 15 years or more.

