

Château Angélus

Château Angélus 2020 is a radiant expression of Saint-Émilion's right bank nobility, uniting density, purity, and floral elegance in a vintage of profound harmony.

ANGELUS

99 WineEnthusiast



1er Grand Cru Classé A 2020

Bordeaux, France

Region and Vineyards

Château Angélus is located in the **southern slopes of Saint-Émilion**, at the foot of the limestone plateau. The estate's vineyards are a mosaic of **clay-limestone and clay-silica soils**, offering optimal water retention and mineral expression. The amphitheatre-like configuration of the slopes ensures ideal sun exposure and drainage.

The 2020 growing season was shaped by **an exceptionally wet winter and spring**, building water reserves that proved vital during the **very dry, hot summer** that followed. Despite a long drought, the vines thrived thanks to their deep root systems and the water-retentive nature of the soils. Harvest took place from **September 15 to 30**, under perfect weather conditions, ensuring **healthy, ripe, phenolically rich fruit**.

Winemaking

The final blend of Château Angélus 2020 is composed of **60% Merlot** and **40% Cabernet Franc**, reflecting the increasing importance of Cabernet Franc at the estate. The grapes were harvested at optimal ripeness and vinified with utmost precision.

Although specific vinification details are not listed in the document, Angélus typically conducts **parcel-by-parcel vinification** in temperature-controlled vats, with gentle extraction tailored to each plot. Aging is traditionally conducted in **100% new French oak barrels** for approximately **18 to 22 months**, adding complexity, depth, and finesse.

The 2020 vintage yielded a wine with brilliant concentration, polished tannins, and a signature aromatic floral lift. The winemaking team, led by **Stéphanie de Boüard-Rivoal**, achieved a rare balance between power and precision—testament to both terroir and vision.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 60% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Franc

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep, opaque purple with violet hues, indicating perfect ripeness and optimal pH balance.
- **Aroma**: Bursting with dark fruits—wild cherry, blackberry, and blackcurrant—followed by floral notes of **peony and violet**, and a hint of fine spice.
- **Palate**: Silky and voluptuous, with refined tannins forming a spherical, persistent structure. The mid-palate is lush yet energetic, and the finish glides with **freshness, elegance, and tension**. A complete, expressive wine of great purity.

Did you know?

Château Angélus owes its name to the **Angelus bell** that once rang simultaneously from three nearby churches, audible from the vineyards. In 2012, the estate achieved the coveted **Premier Grand Cru Classé A** status—among the elite few in Saint-Émilion.

Sustainability is now a core focus of Angélus. The estate employs **biodiversity-focused farming**, including **cover crops, natural soil aeration, and agroforestry initiatives**. These practices reflect its commitment to maintaining balance between vine, soil, and environment for future generations.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Filet mignon with black truffle sauce**: Matches the wine's opulence and layered complexity.
- **Pigeon breast with red berry jus**: Echoes the fruit-forward nature and floral lift of the wine.
- **Wild mushroom and chestnut ragout**: A rich, earthy pairing that draws out the Cabernet Franc character.
- **Aged Mimolette or Beaufort**: Complements the wine's depth and mineral vibrancy.

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 99 Points (2020)

This wine brings together all the best elements of the vintage. It shows concentrated tannins laced with a velvety texture and a sustained intensity of black fruits. It shows a strong mineral element in the texture that gives complexity and a fine edge at the end. Obviously, it's a wine for long-term aging. Barrel Sample: 97-99

James Suckling (JS) : 99 Points (2020)

Blackberry and plum character with chocolate, too. Oyster shell. Full and very firm with a linear sensibility. Tight and powerful. Very pure fruit. Tension and energy there. Polished tannins. Some coffee bean and chocolate. Give this at least five or six years. 60% merlot and 40% cabernet franc. Try after 2028.

1er Grand Cru Classé A 2020

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 98 Points (2020)

The flagship from this great estate, the 2020 Château Angelus checks in as 60% Merlot and 40% Cabernet Franc that spent 22 months in new barrels. It's darker and more concentrated compared to the 2019, offering beautiful, medium to full-bodied aromas and flavors of redcurrants, black raspberries, sandalwood, spring flowers, and smoked tobacco. With just about flawless balance, it's not the blockbuster style of a decade ago, but it has gorgeous purity, ultra-fine tannins, a round, seamless mouthfeel, and a great, great finish. It's very much in the classic, balanced, structured style of the vintage, and a solid 7-8 years of bottle age are recommended. It will have 30+ years of prime drinking.