

CHÂTEAU
ALCÉE



2012

“Second vintage. On the plateau. Old vines – 50+ years. Very dark crimson. Smells of little ripe wild berries. Hint of Cab Franc’s more linear character even though it is only 5%. Good combo of dry minerality and sweet fruit.”

Score: 16/20

Jancis Robinson, jancisrobinson.com, Avril 2013

“Deep ruby. Musky berries, violet and spices on the nose and palate, complicated by nuances of soy sauce and flint. At once smooth and juicy, offering a light floral touch and plenty of energy for a wine with this much volume. Finishes smooth and long, with sneaky concentration and rising, ripe tannins. A major success in 2012. This is a new project for Nicolas Thienpont: a three-hectare vineyard planted at a high density (for the appellation) of 6,500 vines per hectare with an average age of 40 years. The vineyard sits on the clay and limestone plateau--the eastern extension of the same plateau that cuts a path through the heart of the Saint Emilion appellation--where the red clay is fairly shallow and the fossil-rich limestone runs deep. Stephane Derenoncourt and Julien Lavenu consult here.”

Score: 87-89/100

Ian D’Agata, *Vinous*, Mai 2013

“The 2012 Alcee, an impressive blend of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc that finished at 14% natural alcohol, reveals abundant finesse along with considerable richness, medium to full body, a distinctive minerality (it tastes as if rocks had been liquified in a Cuisanart), and a plump, round, generously endowed personality. Drink it over the next 6-8 years. From a tiny 7.5-acre parcel not far from the border of Puisseguin St.-Emilion, this project boasts Nicolas Thienpont as its director.”

Score: 88-90/100

Robert Parker, *Wine Advocate*, Avril 2013

“The second vintage for Nicolas Thienpont was made from 95% Merlot and 5% Caberent Franc, the wine is a step up after the debut vintage. Licorice and dark berries provide a sweet, fleshy, jammy wine with freshness and minerality.”

Jeff Leve, *The Wine Cellar Insider*, Avril 2013

Score: 88-90/100

“Un vin droit et strict, assez tannique comme en 2011, mais il ne manque pas de densité et il évoluera bien en bouteille.”

Score : 15/20

Le Figaro Vin, Avril 2013

“A Castillon ridge mix of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, this perfumed wine has new wood and mint flavors that balance with the black fruits and tannins. It's ripe, with fresh acidity as well as structure. There's just 8,500 bottles from 7.5 acres. This will age well, so drink from 2017. Owner Nicolas Thienpont purchased the vineyard in 2011.”

Score: 91/100

Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast, Décembre 2014

“The 2012 Alcée, Nicolas Thienpont's Côtes de Castillon, is absolutely delicious and a great example of how compelling this appellation can be. Sweet floral and spiced notes wrap around the supple, silky finish. The Alcée is mostly Merlot with a dollop of Cabernet Franc. Best of all, the 2012 should be a terrific value.”

Score: 89/100

Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Janvier 2016

“A fine and minerally red that has more terracotta and fine berry character. Medium body, fine tannins and texture with finesse. Better in 2016.”

Score: 88/100

James Suckling, jameessuckling.com, Février 2015