

2020 Vintage  
Vineyards

VINIV

BORDEAUX

A life explored, a story bottled



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# Introduction

This booklet summarises the characteristics of each VINIV vineyard and allows you to take notes as you discover the wines that may become a component of your blend.

With very few notable exceptions, the most complex and vibrant Bordeaux wines combine several grape varieties that unite to create a perfect balance. Traditionally, château owners are confined to using grapes exclusively from their own property to benefit from using that property's name and appellation. As a result, they take great care to plant the varieties that best match the soil and climate to ensure that they produce the best possible wine.

At VINIV, you have the freedom to blend across several of the most prestigious appellations from both the left and the right banks of Bordeaux to produce a wine that truly corresponds to your own personal taste. We select varieties from the vineyards where they grow best: all of our Cabernet Sauvignon parcels are in the Médoc (Margaux, Pauillac, Saint-Éstephe) and our Merlot and Cabernet Franc parcels come from Saint-Émilion and Pomerol.

Blending grapes from different appellations may be taboo to Bordeaux traditionalists. But making wine with VINIV is all about flair and daring to be different, ensuring that you have a truly unique story to tell every time you serve your wine.

## **DETERMINING YOUR WINE STYLE**

As a VINIV winemaker, you must first decide on the overarching characteristics of your wine and your ageing objectives. The style of wine you intend to produce will drive your discussions and blending sessions with the VINIV winemaking team and help define the specific vineyards and varieties and their overall weighting in your wine.

Here are some questions to consider which will drive this decision:

- What style of Bordeaux wine do you want to produce?
- When do you intend to drink your wine – soon, or would you like to age it for a length of time?
- Do you have any preferred properties or appellations in Bordeaux?

We hope you enjoy your tasting.

*A puzzle that comes together  
in the blending room*



“2020 has ended up being a really good but variable year with wines of outstanding potential for many Bordeaux estates. The growing season follows a similar pattern to 2016, 2018 and 2019, in that we had a wet spring followed by a dry, hot summer, topped off by a warm, dry harvest. Unlike 2016 and 2019, it was an early vintage – not unlike 2018, timing wise.”

**GAVIN QUINNEY**

### Gavin Quinney's 10 Things To Know

#### **TIMING**

2020 was an early harvest but there was some pretty fortuitous timing. The early budbreak led to an early flowering in May, which was really lucky – and the vast majority of red grapes ended up being picked in September, just before heavy rain in October.

#### **TREATMENTS**

Rather like 2018, the mildew threat early on was considerable. How growers treated their vines during the spring was crucial – and challenging when the ground was sodden. Some vineyards lost a fair amount of volume through mildew.

#### **TEMPERATURE**

From December to May, five of the six months saw average temperatures at around 2°C above the 30-year average. Later, a long hot patch in the summer and again during the September harvest left a significant stamp on the vintage.

#### **TERROIR**

The make-up of a vineyard is always important but rarely more so than in 2020. The soils, subsoils and slopes had to ward off late March frosts, withstand copious amounts of rain in the spring, and provide just enough sustenance during the periods of drought and heat in the summer and mid-September.

#### **THIRST**

From 18 June to 11 August, 54 days of drought, then 20 more with no rain at all after the last weekend of August left many vines parched, what with the serious heat at the end of those stretches.

#### **TESTING**

The vines give no concessions and it was a challenge to manage people and tasks from the start of the growing season, just as lockdown came into play, all the way through to the harvest. The work in the winery continues, of course.

#### **THUNDERSTORMS**

The stats show a lot of rain. But this was more about thunderstorms in May, June and August than tedious downpours. These double-edged storms, more often than not at night, ended up being welcome at most vineyards, though unlucky for those which were hit by hail.

#### **TRAINERS**

I can't recall seeing pickers wear trainers for a full month during harvest before, from the crémants and dry whites in the second half of August through to the rainy weekend of 20 September. This one was early, prolonged, warm and dry.

#### **TERRITORY**

With thunderstorms, the rain could be heavy in one village and almost non-existent in the commune next door. There was also a noticeable difference in the amount of mid-August rain on the left bank compared to the right bank.

#### **TRIUMPH**

We treat this imposter just the same but there'll be some terrific wines from 2020. Yields for many estates are lower, with less juice due to heat and drought, but the quality is high – albeit variable.

# Your 2020 Vineyards

## MERLOT

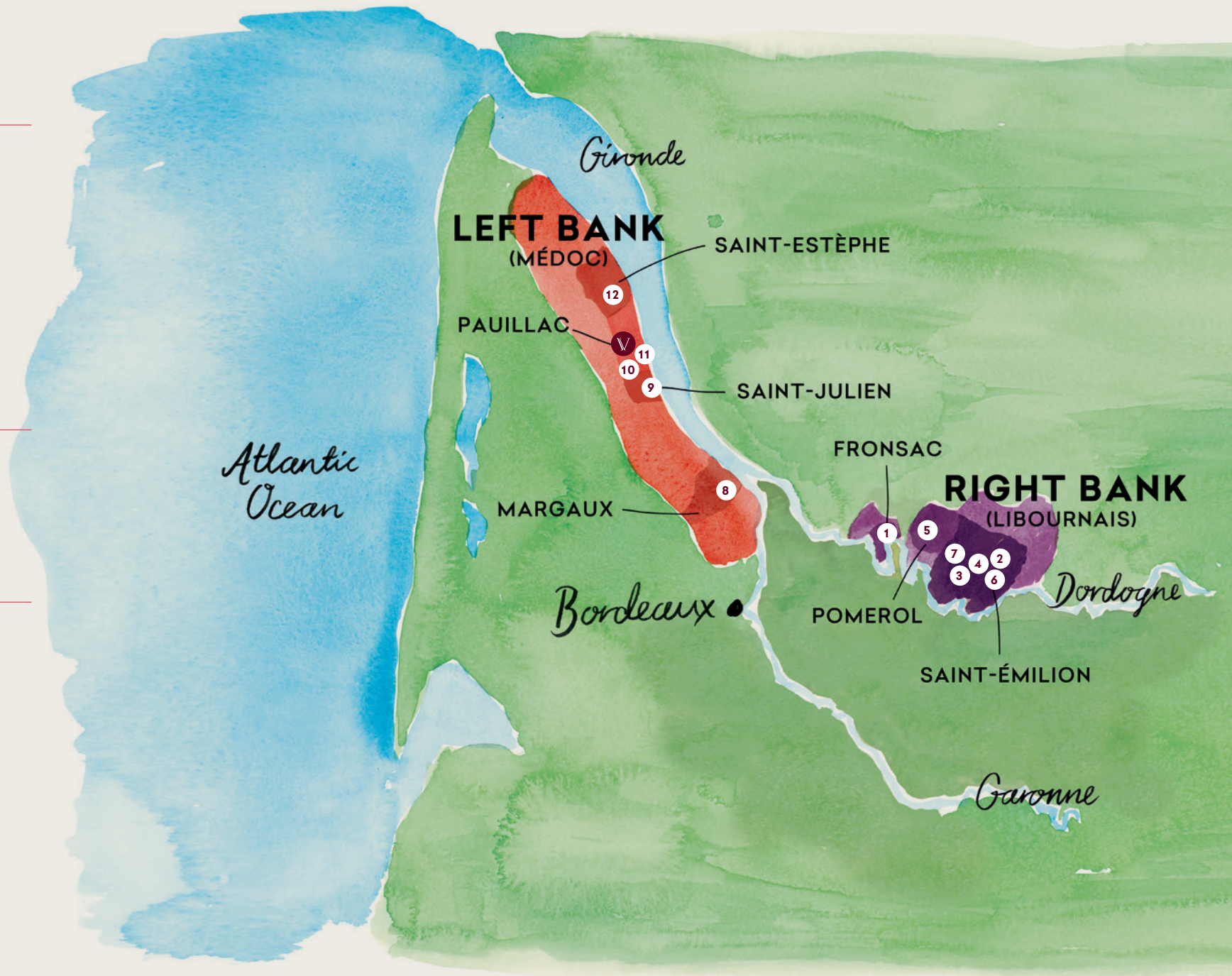
	VINEYARD	APPELLATION
1.	La Plateau	Fronsac
2.	La Pierre	Saint-Émilion
3.	La Pyramide	Saint-Émilion
4.	Les Terrasses	Saint-Émilion
5.	Colette	Pomerol

## CABERNET FRANC

	VINEYARD	APPELLATION
6.	Le Barrail	Saint-Émilion
7.	La Carrière	Saint-Émilion

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

	VINEYARD	APPELLATION
8.	Le Marquis	Margaux
9.	Juillac	Saint-Julien
10.	Grande Catélie	Pauillac
11.	L'Enclos	Pauillac
12.	Demi-Lune	Saint-Estèphe





THE VINEYARDS

# Merlot

LUSCIOUS, UNIQUE TEXTURES

# Merlot

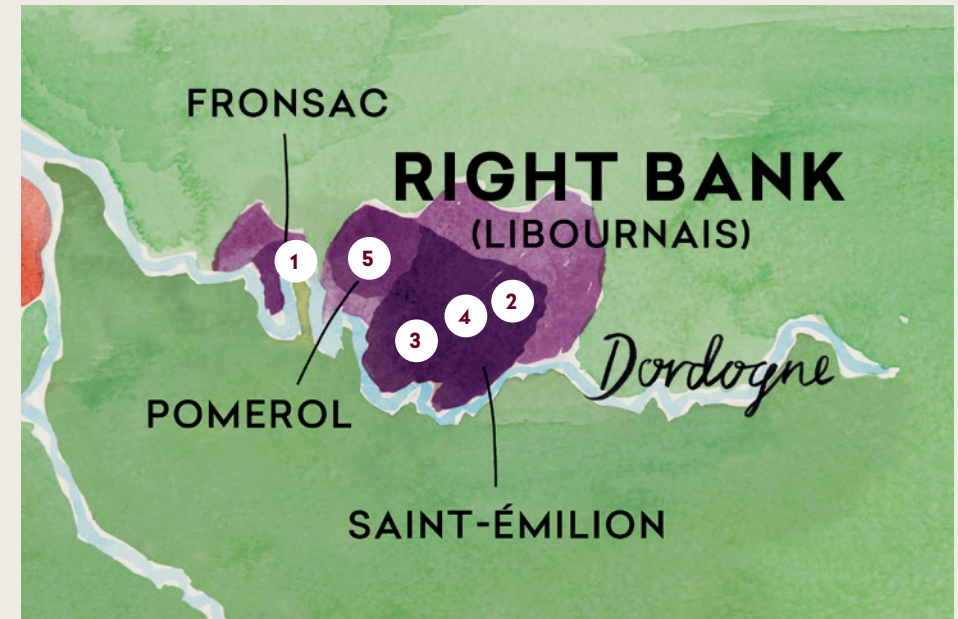
## VARIETAL DESCRIPTION

The most widely planted grape varietal in Bordeaux, Merlot is also the most adaptable varietal in the region. It is at home on many different soil types, but finds its greatest expression on the clay and limestone, gravel or sandy soils of Bordeaux's Right Bank (Saint-Émilion and Pomerol). Merlot is precocious at budburst, grows easily and ripens more quickly than Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, which make it particularly suitable to the cooler soils of the Right Bank.

As a stand-alone varietal, Merlot has a lighter, smoother tannin structure than its Cabernet counterparts. It provides fruit, volume, alcoholic richness and accessibility to any wine blend. Vineyards located in the higher sections of Saint-Émilion are capable of producing wines with impressively persistent tannins, whereas the wines from Pomerol's gravel and clay plateau provide a creamy richness along with tannic intensity.

Merlot produces colourful wines that tend to evolve more quickly than Cabernet Sauvignon. These wines develop aromas of ripe fruit (cassis, strawberry) and can evolve towards enjoyable hints of jam and leather with longer ageing.

VINIV only selects Merlot vineyards from Bordeaux's Right Bank, where this varietal reaches its greatest expression.



## YOUR VINEYARDS

VINEYARD	APELLATION	NEIGHBOURS	DESCRIPTION
1. Le Plateau	Fronsac	Moulin Pey Labrie, Vrai Canon Bouché	A balance between fruit and structure, without ever overpowering a blend.
2. La Pierre	Saint-Émilion	Valandraud, Peby-Faugères, Faugères, Pressac	A vibrant, tannic and expressive wine with a lengthy finish.
3. La Pyramide	Saint-Émilion	Tertre Roteboeuf, La Mondotte, Pavie	An intense and powerful Merlot. Tension combined with elegance.
4. Les Terrasses	Saint-Émilion	Tertre Roteboeuf, La Mondotte, Barde-Haut, Godeau	Full-bodied wine which maintains incredible freshness.
5. Colette	Pomerol	Beauregard, Taillefer Figeac (Saint-Émilion)	Expressive, creamy, velvety Pomerol Merlot.



# Le Plateau

## FRONSAC

SOIL: CLAY OVER LIMESTONE

### WINE PROFILE

Le Plateau is ideal for those seeking complexity without overpowering their overall wine blend. The wine presents a balance between an intense, ripe tannic structure and the classical, rich fruit characteristics of this varietal. This is an ideal vineyard for those seeking to create an impressive wine that begins to reveal itself a bit sooner than its Saint-Émilion counterparts.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

This vineyard is located on the ridge of the picturesque amphitheatre of Fronsac, where the best properties of the appellation are located. This location benefits from ample sunshine and heat retention and is located in a sector where the friable limestone can be found just underneath a base layer of clay.



# La Pierre

## SAINT-ÉMILION

SOIL: CLAY ON FRIABLE LIMESTONE

### WINE PROFILE

La Pierre is a choice for winemakers aiming to produce a classic, age-worthy, top-of-the-line Saint-Émilion-style blend. With its persistent tannins, the wine can be tight in the younger years. It ages beautifully, however, to reveal all of the elegance of Saint-Émilion Merlot. This is a precise, linear wine with plenty of expressive fruit and refined tannic structure. The reputation of this plot's neighbours – almost all Grands Crus Classés – clearly outlines the pedigree of this vineyard.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

This hilltop vineyard overlooks the entire valley of Saint-Étienne-de-Lisse, one of the highest-quality sectors in the appellation of Saint-Émilion. Barely 20 to 50 centimetres of clay separate the vines from the limestone base. Its elevation ensures strong winds and austere conditions throughout the growing season, resulting in high fruit concentration.



# La Pyramide

## SAINT-ÉMILION

SOIL: SOIL LIMESTONE AND THIN LAYER OF CLAY

### WINE PROFILE

This Merlot is characterised by the pedigree of its 'terroir', producing an intense, silky yet powerful wine. The fruit and the tannins are very expressive and emphasise strength and tension over pure elegance, with a slight hint of licorice. What remains uncompromised is the overall freshness of the wine.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

La Pyramide lies just east of Saint-Émilion on the top of the appellation's southern ridge in an area dominated by well-known classified growths. The vines are planted directly on the limestone bedrock (an ancient quarry is located right underneath) with very little clay acting as a topsoil buffer. As a result, the vineyard is constantly in search of water, ensuring great concentration.



# Les Terrasses

## SAINT-ÉMILION

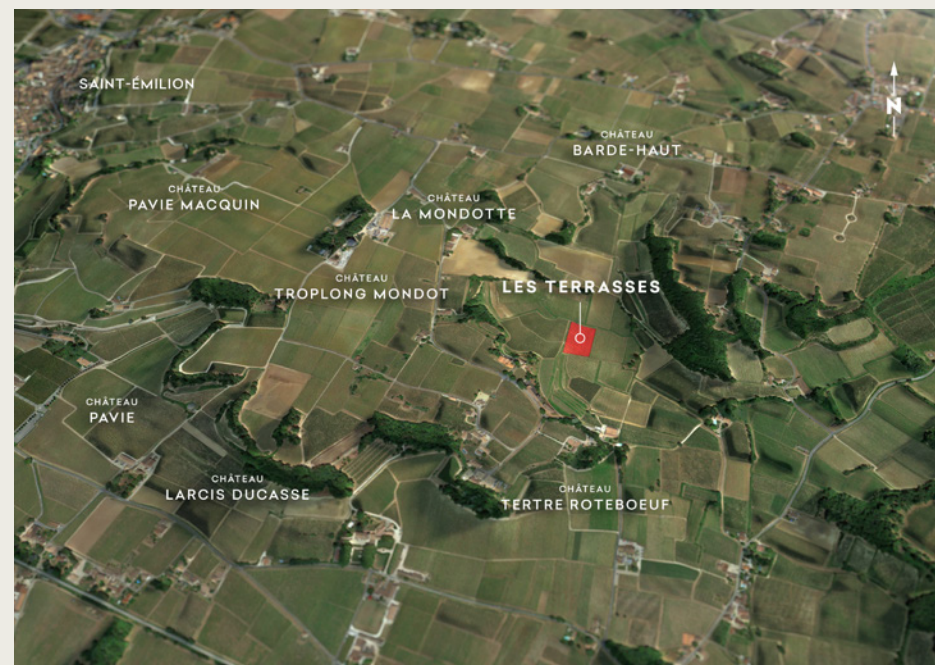
SOIL: DEEP CLAY AND LIMESTONE

### WINE PROFILE

This Merlot produces a finely-tuned and elegant wine with intense colour, enticing spiciness on the nose and rich dark fruit on the palate. Les Terrasses combines elegance, finesse, volume and tension, largely due to the deeper clay substrate on which the vines are planted.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

Just east of Saint-Émilion, beyond the water tower and adjoining property of Troplong Mondot, sits a beautiful, almost entirely enclosed terraced recess. The vineyards planted in this sector benefit from greater exposure to clay before hitting any bedrock. A natural microclimate is formed as well, creating an area less susceptible to winds and more likely to retain heat during the growing season.







THE VINEYARDS

# Cabernet Franc

SUBTLY FRAGRANT, GENTLY FLIRTATIOUS

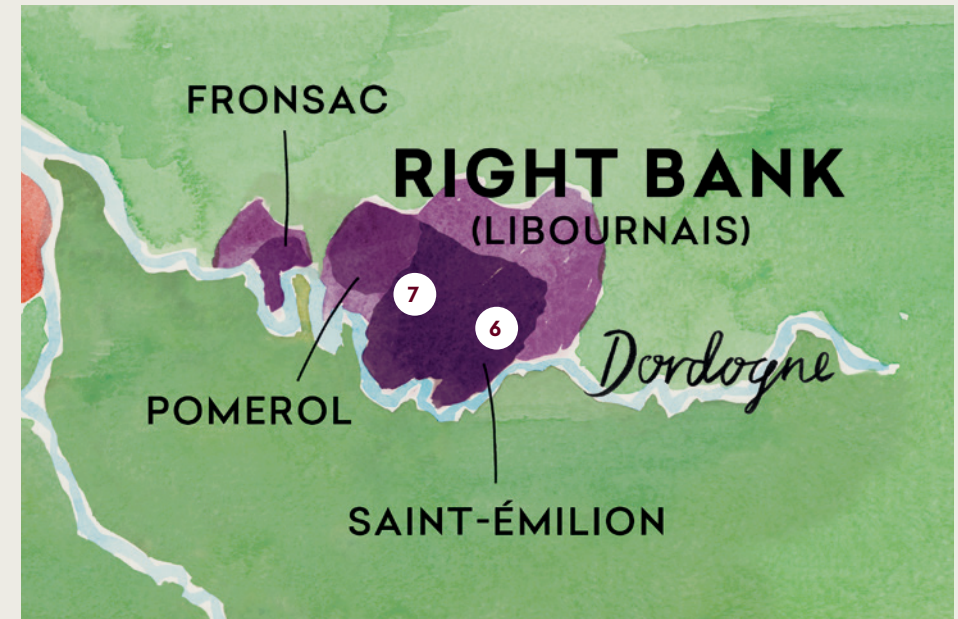
# Cabernet Franc

## VARIETAL DESCRIPTION

Cabernet Franc is the third most planted red grape varietal in Bordeaux, after Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. It is particularly adaptable to cooler climates and soil – such as those found in Saint-Émilion and surrounding areas – because it matures more rapidly than Cabernet Sauvignon and tends to better resist bad weather in the late season just before harvest.

Cabernet Franc produces a medium-bodied wine with more pronounced fruit than Cabernet Sauvignon in the younger years. This varietal also offers impressive aromas to any wine blend. Cabernet Franc planted at higher elevation (as in Saint-Émilion) can also denote hints of spice and dark pepper, providing an additional layer of complexity. This varietal is most famously combined with Merlot in 'Right Bank' blends to provide freshness and structure. In many Médoc-style blends, it can be found in proportions of anywhere from 5% to 40%.

At VINIV, some of our most impressive wines have been those produced by members who have chosen Cabernet Franc as their dominant blend component.



## YOUR VINEYARDS

VINEYARD	APPELLATION	NEIGHBOURS	DESCRIPTION
6. Le Barrail	Saint-Émilion	Faugères, Valandraud, Rol Valentin, Fleur Cardinale, Pressac	The purity, lift and aromatics of a Cabernet Franc without the spicy notes.
7. La Carrière	Saint-Émilion	Pavie, Troplong Mondot, La Mondotte, Larcis Ducasse	A hilltop Cabernet Franc with freshness, vibrancy and a hint of spice.

# Le Barrail

## SAINT-ÉMILION

SOIL: CLAY OVER LIMESTONE

### WINE PROFILE

This low-yielding vineyard produces a fresh, vibrant wine with deep aromatics, purity of fruit and a hint of dark pepper. Le Barrail is an ideal tannic backbone to Merlot-dominant blends and has enough character to stand out as the dominant component in any wine. Whereas our other Saint-Émilion Cabernet Franc (La Carrière) adds an additional hint of spice, Le Barrail focuses on elegance, purity and a vibrant 'lift' that makes Cabernet Franc the ideal companion to Merlot on the right bank.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

Le Barrail is located in one of Saint-Émilion's premium sectors in Saint-Étienne-de-Lisse, on the upper southern face of a limestone slope leading down to classified growth properties including Faugères and Peby-Faugères.



# La Carrière

## SAINT-ÉMILION

SOIL: HARD LIMESTONE & A THIN LAYER OF CLAY

### WINE PROFILE

This vineyard produces a wine that is characterised by complex notes of spice and rich ripe fruit. The vineyard's geographic situation ensures both tannic intensity and a balance between volume, tension and freshness. More rounded and complex than Le Barrail, La Carrière has a delicate hint of toast that underlines the fruit aromas.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

This south-facing vineyard sits near the top of the ridge just southeast of Saint-Émilion, right within the triangle that separates Château Pavie from Larcis Ducasse and Troplong Mondot. The 40 year-old vines are planted directly on the bedrock. Very little clay separates the vine from the limestone, ensuring both concentration and intensity in the resulting wine.







THE VINEYARDS

# Cabernet Sauvignon

SUBTLY LAYERED FRUIT, EXTRAORDINARY INTENSITY



# Cabernet Sauvignon

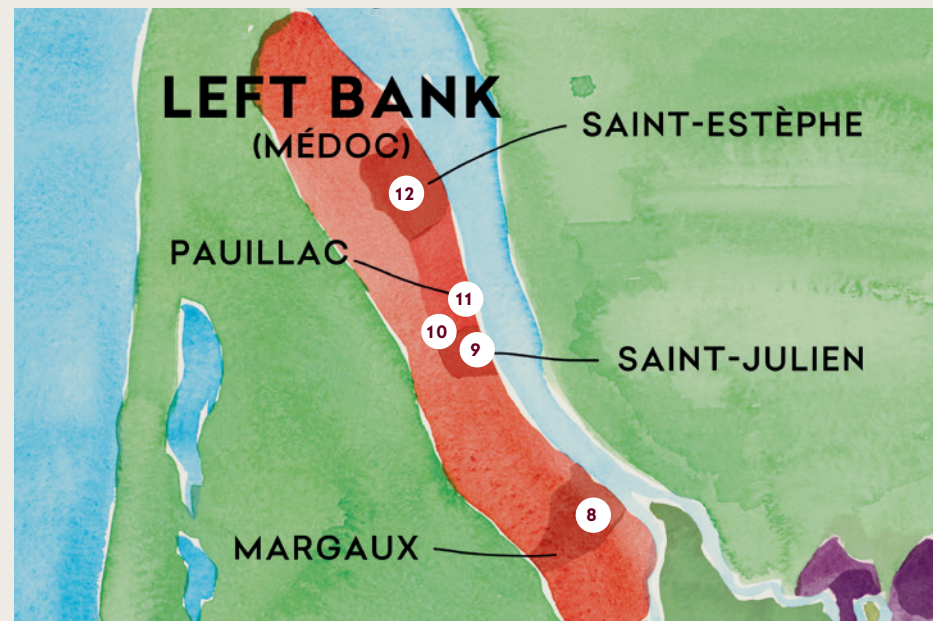
## VARIETAL DESCRIPTION

This varietal enjoys warm soils with little clay and finds its greatest expression in the gravel and sand sectors of the Médoc and Graves.

Cabernet Sauvignon's clusters are smaller and tighter than those of Merlot. As a result, the concentration and surface area of the seeds are more important. It is a later-maturing varietal, typically harvested 10 to 15 days later than Merlot. It is also known for producing lower yields than Merlot and is relatively lower in sugar, thus has lower alcohol potential.

Cabernet Sauvignon is most recognised for its exceptional structure, ageing potential and ability to reveal the expression of its 'terroir'. This varietal dominates the blend of virtually all of the Médoc 1855 Classified Growths, though it is rarely used on Bordeaux's Right Bank because of its fragile nature and later ripening. When young, these wines are very tannic with a rich color and red/black fruit characteristics that evoke cassis, spice, pepper, chocolate and mint. As these wines age, they reveal all of the elegance and finesse of this exceptional grape varietal.

VINIV sources Cabernet Sauvignon grapes exclusively from Bordeaux's Left Bank.



## YOUR VINEYARDS

VINEYARD	APPELLATION	NEIGHBOURS	DESCRIPTION
8. Le Marquis	Margaux	Lascombes, Rauzan Ségla, Palmer	An elegant yet powerful wine, with fine-grained tannins and rich, dark fruit.
9. Juillac	Saint-Julien	Léoville Las Cases, Léoville Poyferré	A harmonious wine, combining elegance and finesse, expressive fruit and velvety tannins, power and opulence. A perfect representation of this appellation.
10. Grande Catélie	Pauillac	Pichon Baron, Lynch-Bages, Grand-Puy-Lacoste, Latour	All the power and structure of a Pauillac Cabernet Sauvignon with a slightly more delicate edge.
11. L'Enclos	Pauillac	Lynch-Bages	A denser more powerful Pauillac Cabernet Sauvignon, thanks to its warmer soil and unique microclimate.
12. Demi-Lune	Saint-Estèphe	Ormes de Pez, Phélan-Ségur, Lilian Ladouys, Montrose	Very expressive fruit and fine grained tannins define this wine, which sits on ideal Saint-Estèphe terroir.

# Le Marquis

## MARGAUX

SOIL: DEEP MARGAUX GRAVEL

### WINE PROFILE

Le Marquis combines power and elegance, with smooth, finely-grained tannins and powerful dark fruit characteristics. As a blend component, this wine offers density, structure and richness without ever compromising the typicity and complexity of the appellation.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

Located in the heart of the appellation, on one of the most sought-after plots between Château Lascombes and Château Rauzan-Ségla. Deep Margaux gravels give Le Marquis its distinct character.



# Juillac

## SAINT-JULIEN

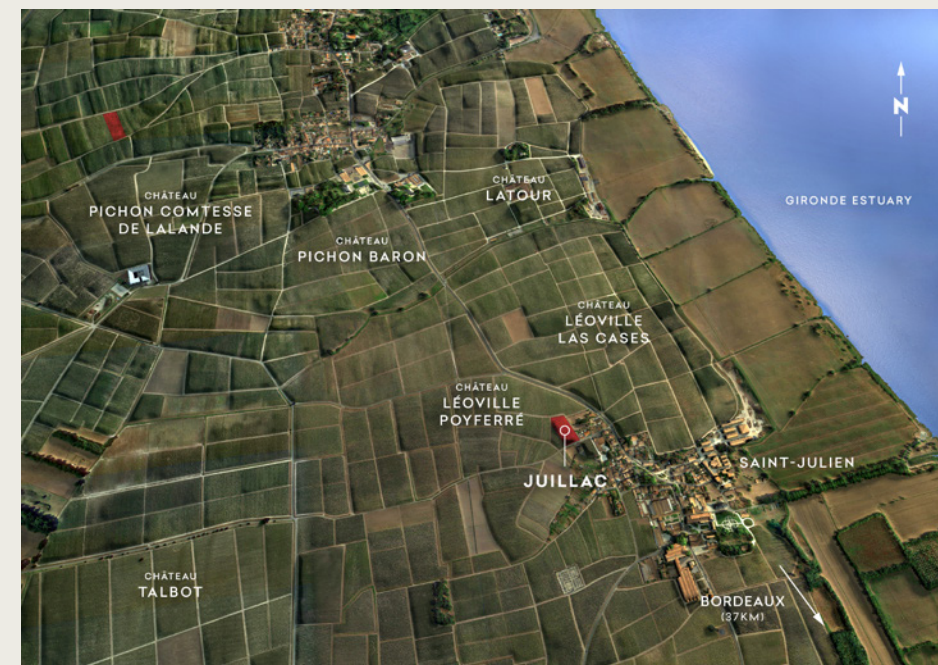
SOIL: DEEP GRAVEL ON CLAY AND LIMESTONE

### WINE PROFILE

The grapes of Juillac produce a wine that combines elegance and power. It is best characterised as the unique combination of finesse and velvety tannins with the power and opulence for which the Saint-Julien appellation is known.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

Located in the village of Saint-Julien and within sight of the estuary, this 35 year-old vineyard is planted on a 4 metre deep layer of gravel, combined with clay and sand. This ensures exceptional drainage and maturation potential. The vineyards directly contiguous to Juillac belong to Château Léoville Las Cases and Château Léoville Poyferré. From this vineyard, you have an uninterrupted view of immediate neighbors Latour, Pichon Baron and Pichon Lalande.



# Grande Catélie

## PAUILLAC

SOIL: DRY GRAVEL, SAND AND A LITTLE CLAY

### WINE PROFILE

This vineyard provides additional elegance and finesse to go with the power and structure that is typical of a top-quality Pauillac Cabernet Sauvignon. Aromas of dark fruit, pepper, licorice and cedar are typically found in the resulting wine. Grande Catélie is an ideal choice for winemakers seeking a Cabernet Sauvignon from Pauillac with vivacity and freshness, rather than the more structured L'Enclos.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

Located in the southern sector of the Pauillac appellation, the soil in this sector consists of a high concentration of gravel and sand with low levels of clay (5-10%). This confers a hint of subtlety to an otherwise powerful Cabernet Sauvignon.



# L'Enclos

## PAUILLAC

SOIL: GRAVEL AND DEEP CLAY

### WINE PROFILE

L'Enclos typically produces powerful wines of great concentration, volume and density, with tight, fine-grain tannins and opulent fruit that are consistently synonymous with this property. This wine is an ideal blend component for winemakers seeking all of the character of a long-aging and powerful Pauillac Cabernet Sauvignon with a very long finish.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

Located within the 'enclosure' of the Cazes family's Relais & Châteaux hotel, Cordeillan-Bages, the soil consists of gravel, sand and a higher concentration of clay (15%) than our other Pauillac vineyard, Grande Catélie. Surrounded by tall bushes, this vineyard has a warm microclimate that pushes grape maturity a few days ahead of other vineyards in the sector.



# Demi-Lune

## SAINT-ESTÈPHE

SOIL: GRAVEL OVER CLAY AND LIMESTONE BEDROCK

## WINE PROFILE

These vines produce a Cabernet Sauvignon with significant power and structure, reaffirmed by ripe and smooth tannins that require a few years of aging to allow them to open up beautifully. Demi-Lune is characterised by notes of ripe red fruit, spice and a deliciously long finish.

## SITE DESCRIPTION

This vineyard is located just off the road known as the 'Route des Châteaux', on one of the highest points of Saint-Estèphe. Its soil consists of 3-4 metres of gravel before reaching a clay substrate and the limestone bedrock.

## TASTING NOTES



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VINIV

BORDEAUX