

2019 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*



2019 Harvest Report

A VERY GOOD YEAR - BY GAVIN QUINNEY

“You’re joking – not another one?” No really, Bordeaux 2019 is a very good to excellent vintage. It wasn’t straightforward, with heatwaves, drought and a rainy finish along the way, but Bordeaux enjoyed a long, dry summer and harvest with just enough rain, and no disasters like the late spring frost of 2017 or the significant losses to mildew that some growers experienced in 2018.

At the top end, it’s becoming an embarrassment of riches. 2019 makes it six very good years in a row for the northern Haut-Médoc appellations of St-Julien, Pauillac and St-Estèphe, which were largely untouched by the 2017 frost and produced many fine 2014s, and likewise for the top estates on the plateau of Pomerol.

The much larger right bank appellation of St-Émilion, which saw considerable frost damage in 2017, has seen four winners out of the last five with 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019, and you can include Margaux and Pessac-Léognan from the left bank in the same context. (Many estates did well in 2017 but it was inconsistent.)

2019 VINIV VINEYARDS - TASTING OBSERVATIONS

Early tastings of VINIV’s individual blend components reveal an exceptionally complementary range of tasting profiles. Rich, dense wines with a beautifully deep, intense colour, fresh, vibrant fruit on the nose and a remarkably velvety tannic structure. The higher than average pH values offer the wines superb ageing potential.

BORDEAUX 2019 GROWING SEASON AND HARVEST

10 OBSERVATIONS

- A dry year with 25% less rain overall than the average to the end of the harvest
- No major disasters like the frost of April 2017 or the mildew that impacted multiple growers in 2018
- A long, hot summer saw over three months of mostly fine weather from mid June to the fourth Sunday of September
- Heavy rain on the last Friday in July, just after a heatwave, refreshed many vineyards just in time
- Light rain in amongst the hot weather in August and mid-September helped the vines
- On paper, despite the summer heatwaves and hot mid-September, it was a moderately late (or normal) red harvest
- Most of the red harvest took place in the second half of September and first half of October
- The lack of rain through the summer impacted on the size of berries, juice and yield in many vineyards
- There was minimal pressure of rot so châteaux were not forced to pick early, though vigilance was needed
- Alcohol levels are in line with a dry, warm year, with Merlots around 14-14.5+% alc and Cabernets 13-14% alc

Your Vineyards

MERLOT

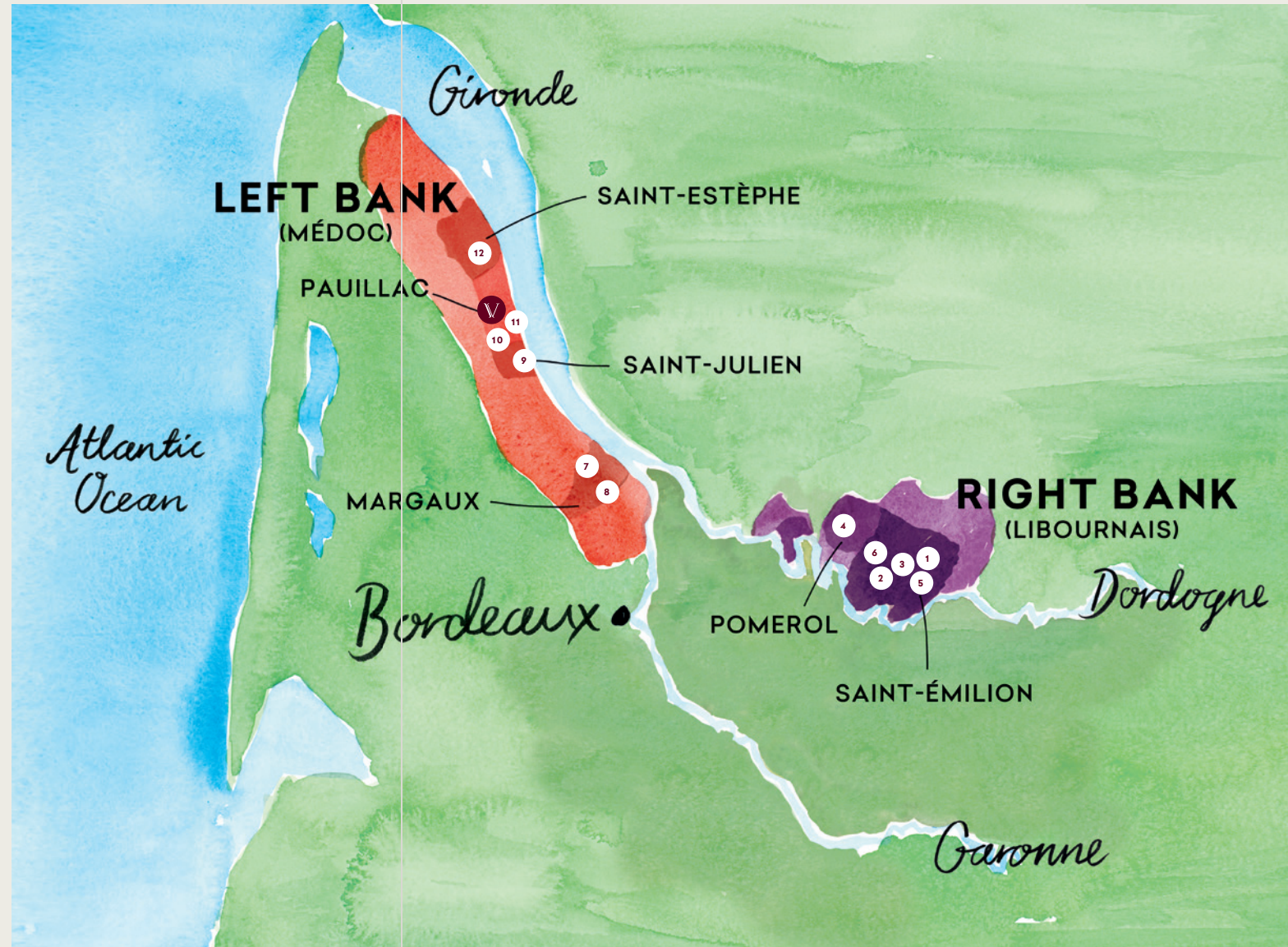
	VINEYARD	APPELLATION
1.	La Pierre	Saint-Émilion
2.	La Pyramide	Saint-Émilion
3.	Les Terrasses	Saint-Émilion
4.	Colette	Pomerol

CABERNET FRANC

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

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

	VINEYARD	APPELLATION
7.	La Louise	Margaux
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	APPELLATION	NEIGHBOURS	DESCRIPTION
1.	La Pierre	Saint-Émilion	Valandraud, Peby-Faugères, Faugères, Pressac	A vibrant, tannic and expressive wine with a lengthy finish.
2.	La Pyramide	Saint-Émilion	Tertre Roteboeuf, La Mondotte, Pavie	An intense and powerful Merlot. Tension combined with elegance.
3.	Les Terrasses	Saint-Émilion	Tertre Roteboeuf, La Mondotte, Barde-Haut, Godeau	Full-bodied wine which maintains incredible freshness.
4.	Colette	Pomerol	Beauregard, Taillefer Figéac (Saint-Émilion)	Expressive, creamy, velvety Pomerol Merlot.

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 tannins. 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.

TASTING NOTES

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. 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.

TASTING NOTES

Les Terrasses

SAINT-ÉMILION

SOIL: DEEP CLAY AND LIMESTONE

WINE PROFILE

This Merlot produces a finely-tuned and elegant wine with intense colour, rich dark fruit and persistent density. It exhibits a greater volume than our Saint-Émilion Merlot vineyards of La Pierre and La Pyramide, 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.

TASTING NOTES

Colette

POMEROL

SOIL: 'GUNZ' GRAVEL OVER CLAY

WINE PROFILE

Colette is textbook Pomerol. A soft, velvety and discretely complex Merlot, with deliciously silky tannins that are less pronounced than its "top-of-the-hill" Saint Emilion counterparts.

SITE DESCRIPTION

This vineyard sits in the southern sector Pomerol's famed plateau of 'Gunz-period gravel and clay soil. These 40 year-old Merlot vines are located in the sector that separates Château Beauregard from the Figeac sector of Saint-Émilion.

TASTING NOTES



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
5.	Le Barrail	Saint-Émilion	Faugères, Valandraud, Rol Valentin, Fleur Cardinale, Pressac	The purity, lift and aromatics of a Cabernet Franc without the spicy notes.
6.	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 purely on the fruit 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.

TASTING NOTES

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 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.

TASTING NOTES



THE VINEYARDS

Cabernet Sauvignon

SUBTLY LAYERED FRUIT, EXTRAORDINARY INTENSITY

Cabernet Sauvignon

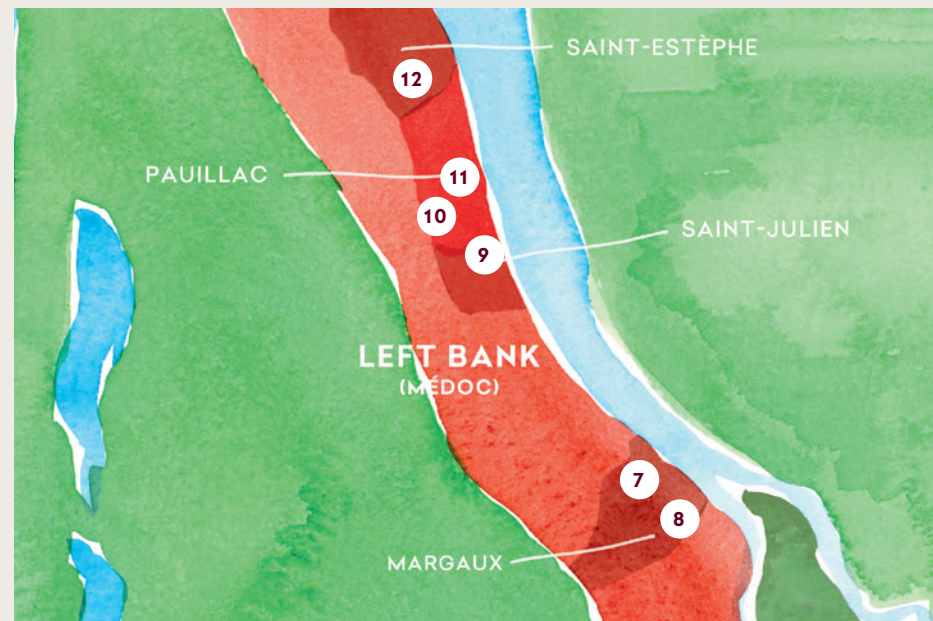
VARIETAL DESCRIPTION

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
7.	La Louise	Margaux	Lascombes, Malescot Saint-Exupéry	A pure, linear and intellectual Margaux Cabernet Sauvignon.
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.

La Louise

MARGAUX

SOIL: GRAVEL, SAND AND CLAY

WINE PROFILE

This vineyard produces a wine of classic finesse with elegant tannins, delicate floral aromatics and clearly-defined fresh red fruit. La Louise is an obvious choice if you wish to focus on the typical finesse and delicacy of Margaux without compromising the structure of the ultimate wine blend.

SITE DESCRIPTION

This old-vine plot vineyard sits at one of the highest points in the sector of Soussans and exemplifies classic Margaux terroir – large gravel mixed with sand over clay substrate. The plot is literally surrounded by 1885 Classified Growths, including Château Lascombes, Malescot Saint-Exupéry and Prieuré-Lichine.

TASTING NOTES

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 more density, structure and richness than La Louise (our other Margaux vineyard), but 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.

TASTING NOTES

Juillac

SAINT-JULIEN

SOIL: DEEP GRAVEL ON CLAY AND LIMESTONE

WINE PROFILE

The grapes of Juillac produce a wine that combines elegance to 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.

TASTING NOTES

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, licorice and cedar are typically found in the resulting wine. Grande Catélie is an ideal choice for winemakers seeking a Cabernet Sauvignon with a bit less structure than our other Pauillac vineyard, 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.

TASTING NOTES

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 consistent 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.

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.

TASTING NOTES

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 tight, fine tannins that require a few years of aging to allow them to open up beautifully. The resulting wine expresses itself through red fruit and spicy notes and precision in terms of length and 'mouth feel'.

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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