



CHÂTEAU HAUT LA PIERRIÈRE

CASTILLON - CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

A FANTASTIC JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY ...



In the same family since 1607

The story of the De Marcillac family and Château Haut Pierrière is nothing short of extraordinary. The first chapter commenced on a happy note in 1607, when François De Lageard, one of the De Marcillac's ancestors, married Marguerite de Puyperon and received the estate as her dowry. He fell under the spell of this 13th century former feudal residence, which was protected by a dry moat carved from the rocks. With its unrestricted views over the vineyards of Castillon, invaders stood little chance of launching an attack.

An enchanting fairytale castle

The Château began its transformation with the construction of an interior courtyard, complete with a magnificent trompe-l'oeil in one corner. For around a hundred years, a collection of banana trees has infused the original charm of the courtyard with a rather colonial feel. This first phase in the triumph of the De Lageards was to find further acclaim in 1865, when Léonard commissioned the construction of a round tower for his granddaughter, Suzanne de Gastebois. Its generous curves and imposing structure became an object of curiosity, and also a symbol of the Château's newfound supremacy. The death of Henry Aymen in 1929, the last of the De Lageard ancestors, drew a final close to this chapter. This ardent collector of sculptures left his stamp on several rooms in the Château, including the dining room, which was inspired by his wife and her Irish roots, with its green ceiling and friezes depicting the Irish war.

Saint-Emilion's exceptional limestone bedrock

The second chapter commenced in 1930, when the estate was transferred to the De Marcillac family. The most touching pages in this new era were written in the 60s and focus on the "vineyard's renaissance". The time was ripe not only to remodel the vineyards, but also to build a winery worthy of a truly great Castillon wine. The Château boasts firm foundations: an extremely favourable position in the hills of Gardégan-et-Tourtirac, with several hectares of vines exposed on the slopes and soils adjoining Saint-Emilion, sharing the same limestone bedrock.

400 years after the family's arrival, the latest generation has brought a breath of fresh air and regeneration to the property. Olivier De Marcillac, winemaker by profession, has put his skills to good use, adapting the grape varieties and rootstocks to the specific character of each vineyard plot. The similarities to Saint-Emilion, in terms of both geography and geology, are now revealed in the wine itself, creating more fruit-driven, supple wines.

The amazing story of Château Haut La Pierrière is not about to end here; for more than 400 years, each new generation has made its mark, with the onerous task of writing the next chapter in the hands of the next generation ...





CHÂTEAU HAUT LA PIERRIÈRE

CASTILLON - CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

OWNER:

The De Lageard/ De Marcillac family since 1607.

KEY DATES:

1607: François De Lageard, an ancestor of the De Marcillac family, came upon this 13th century feudal residence as a dowry. He extended the Château by creating an interior courtyard, complete with a magnificent trompe-l'oeil. He also commissioned a small chapel not far from the Château. **1865:** Léonard De Lageard completed the Château by adding a round tower for his granddaughter. When he died in 1883, the Château passed to his nephew Henry Aymen. **1929:** Henry Aymen died in August. This ardent fan of sculpture made a significant contribution to the renovation of the Château's interior. His Irish wife, Christine O'Kelly Farrell, proved a great inspiration in the decoration of several rooms, including the dining hall (green ceiling and friezes presenting the Irish war). **1930:** the estate passed to the De Marcillac branch of the family. **70s/80s:** extensive remodelling of the vineyards and the addition of a winery. **2000:** the arrival of winemaker Olivier De Marcillac.

LOCATION:

Upper reaches of Gardegan-et-Tourtirac, on the outskirts of the Saint-Emilion appellation (just 1 km).

SOIL PROFILE:

2/3 of the vineyard planted on the plateau and 1/3 on south and west facing clay-limestone slopes. The soils are comparable to Saint-Emilion, with the same bedrock.

AREA UNDER VINE:

40 ha.

PLANTING DENSITY:

5,000 vines/ha.

GRAPE VARIETIES:

- 80% Merlot,
- 15% Cabernet Franc,
- 5% Cabernet Sauvignon.

AVERAGE AGE OF THE VINEYARD:

35 years.

HARVESTING:

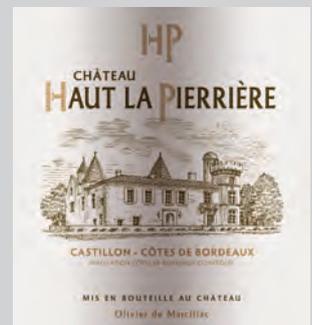
By machine. The grapes are sorted on receipt at the winery on a vibrating table, with 2 people responsible for bringing in the harvest.

VITICULTURAL REGIME:

Leaf-plucking only in the more vigorous plots. Certain parcels have been planted up with seedlings (fodder radish) ► This not only helps to manage water stress in the vines, but also acts as a natural fertiliser as the plant matter breaks down over time.

VINIFICATION:

Traditional in temperature-controlled cement tanks.



«ARCHETYPAL
SAINT-EMILION IN STYLE»

"Cherry-red in colour, tinged with ruby, with its generous bouquet, Château Haut La Pierrière is juicy and voluptuous. On the palate, extremely ripe fruit, followed by silky, integrated tannins define this wine, which is so similar to Saint-Emilion in style. A supple, well-balanced wine."

*Thomas Drouineau,
winemaker, Maison Delor*

