

# NEWS



JANUARY 2023



VIGNOBLES GONFRIER  
BORDEAUX



# LES MILLÉSIMES RÉCENTS



**A 2021 vintage full of surprises**, battered by bad weather and frosts but saved by a **beautiful flowering** and the late arrival of a well-established Indian summer for the Cabernet Sauvignon!

The months of December 2020 to April 2021 were wet and with temperatures above the last ten-year averages. These temperatures allowed the vines to break bud early as in 2020, but unfortunately the nights of April 7 and 8, 2021 severely affected our less well exposed and low-lying plots to amputate a significant portion of the potential production. Low temperatures in May then delayed the vegetative cycle of the vine.

The mifloraison was recorded about ten days later than in 2020 but was done under a dry weather allowing to have a **beautiful homogeneity of the berries**. The summer was then cold and humid which did not allow to install the hydric constraint within the plots (except on the well-draining soils of Graves / Peyrosols as in Château de Laville, Château Tanesse), but this lack of hydric constraint was able to preserve the aromatic potential of Sauvignon and Semillon in particular.

We started the harvest with our Crémants on September 13, 15 days later than in 2020, then it continued with the Sauvignon Blancs and Semillon for our dry white wines, and the Merlot from the third week of September, whose berries were large, less intense but very fruity and with high acidity levels.

Finally, the big surprise was the permanent installation of an anticyclone from the end of September until the end of the harvest.

October was the sunniest month on record since 1991 and allowed us to fully ripen the Cabernet Sauvignon. The Cabernet berries remain larger than the previous five vintages, but the skins allowed for the **extractability of beautiful color** (note the higher anthocyanin levels than in 2018 and 2019 on our Cabernet Sauvignon).

This 2021 vintage thus reveals excellent wines in keeping with this capricious weather, but full of opportunities. The harvest ended on October 25<sup>th</sup> for the reds and three successive sortings allowed us to hand-pick some very beautiful botrytised berries for our Château Tanesse Cadillac Liqueux.

## And for the 2022 vintage:

This 2022 campaign was marked by a historic drought. The vines showed an unsuspected resilience in historically hot and dry conditions with average temperatures during the summer 2.4 degrees above normal and the lowest rainfall ever recorded.

The great terroirs showed their strengths as shown by the exceptional qualities harvested at Château Langoiran, even though it faces southwest.

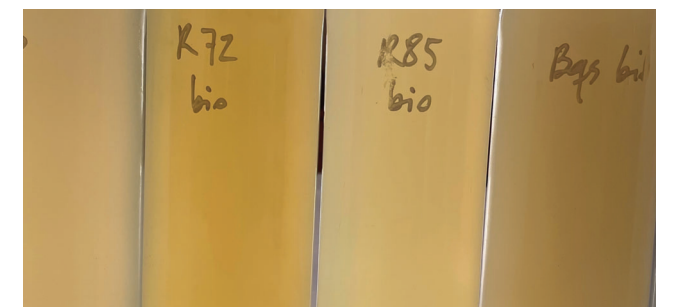
Our viticulture team played predominant role in the notion of terroir by adapting their methods of cultivation to the climate. The technical means implemented to fight against the lack of water were numerous and regular: watering the plants, adding organic matter, hoeing the rows.

At the time of devatting, we already note **exceptional qualities** in all colors, with many notes of **fresh fruit** and a fleshy texture, but above all a great drinkability underlining the balance of this vintage.

Our **dry whites** are more marked by terpenic aromas this year, which gives them notes of **exotic fruits**, good length on the palate while offering a nice acidity.

**The Reds are concentrated and colored and already endowed with a promising balance.**

*We will make a complete point on this exceptional vintage in our next newsletter of 2023.*





The light colored 2021 wines are marked by a great aromatic freshness, acidulous, tense and well-balanced aromas.

#### ROSÉS & CLAIRET:



**Château de Marsan Bordeaux Rosé 2021** has been marked by its intense red fruit and redcurrant aromas and the gradual passage in oak barrels gives a beautiful tannic structure to this elegant wine.

GOLD MEDAL, PARIS 2022.

**Château Tanesse Bordeaux Rosé 2021** with its confidential production for this wine aged half in oak barrels and comes in remarkable bottle. 1 STAR GUIDE HACHETTE DES VINS.

**Marquis de Bern Bordeaux Rosé 2021** is crisp and has a light, mineral mouthfeel. GOLD MEDAL, LYON 2022.

Finally, our **Château de Marsan Bordeaux Clairet 2021** is very popular and was even awarded a COUP DE CŒUR IN THE GUIDE HACHETTE DES VINS 2023! Raspberry and blackberry aromas dominate this elegant and fresh wine aged in stainless steel tanks.

#### CRÉMANTS: Magnificent 2021 harvest of our Sémillons.



We vinify them in barrels to ensure that the bubbles are perfectly maintained on the palate thanks to the battonage and the good slow development of mousse in the underground limestone cellar. The maturation on laths is in progress with disgorgement planned in 12 months.

The Crémant from the 2020 vintage will be disgorged this month and is very promising with, as usual, a Brut Nature and a Brut-Extra Brut.

**DRY & SWEET WHITES:** Aware of the aromatic potential of each of our parcels, we work on a precise distinction of our white profiles.

**Château de Marsan dry white Bordeaux** confirms its top-of-the-range positioning with more and more opulence and aromatic depth. The ester notes take precedence over the varietal aromas and the ageing adds complexity to this balance. In October, we finished the commercialisation of the 2020, which received 1 STAR IN THE GUIDE HACHETTE DES VINS 2023, and we have started the 2021, which has a beautiful composition and its characteristic mineral structure. MILLÉSIME 2021 : MÉDAILLE D'OR À PARIS 2022.



The **Château Le Gardera "Le Ruisseau" Organic White 2021**, is lively, with notes of citrus and quince. Half of the wine is aged in French barrels, which gives the wine a nice complexity and a very pleasant empyreumatic touch.

**Marquis de Bern Bordeaux Blanc 2021** elegantly combines firmness and richness in the palate. We vinify it to be the wine of all occasions and to be able to pair it with many dishes. It goes very well with a sole meunière or a codfish.

This 2021 vintage has also allowed us to expand the **Odyssea range** with a **white Bordeaux with a dominant Semillon**. This new wine takes advantage of the particularity of our most beautiful parcels of Semillon planted with the famous "504" rootstock. Like all the other wines of the Odyssea range, this cuvée is entirely vinified and aged in the same oak barrels



**Château Langoiran Bordeaux Blanc 2021**, this cool clay hillside of Langoiran gives the wine interesting notes of citrus and tangy white fruits. A festive and delightful wine.

Our sweet Bordeaux wines are in line with the same logic of freshness and acidity, which is very well confirmed by the **Lion de Tanesse "L'Amour" Sweet Bordeaux 2021**.

#### CADILLAC LIQUOREUX:

Our classic **Château Tanesse Cadillac Liquoreux** is being enjoyed in 2018, a warm and dry vintage that allowed for the harvest of high quality botrytized grapes. After 16 months of maturation in French barrels and bottled on March 17, 2020, this wine offers today an exceptional bouquet with its notes of honey, acacia and apricot. It goes very well with a Thai coconut-lemon soup.



Our powerful and rich Côtes always deserve long-term bottle ageing.

#### REDS:

The 2019 vintage is available in Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux for the following 5 wines: Château de Marsan, Château Langoiran, Château de Lestiac, Château Tanesse and Château Cayla.



2019 was an excellent vintage, where we notice that although the wines are very rich, they are still endowed with a beautiful aromatic freshness conferring elegance and good aging ability.

**Château de Lestiac 2019** is recognizable by its blackcurrant notes and its dense palate, **Château Tanesse** by its freshness and its usual liquorice and mentholated markers with intense black fruits, **Château de Marsan** with its power and its luscious red fruit notes and finally **Château Langoiran** which shows both density and lively notes of red fruits, raspberries, slightly jammy and all in elegance

**Château Cayla 2019** pleases as much on its harmoniously blending notes of morello cherries, crisp raspberries embellished with beautiful notes of well-integrated maturation.

Our Côtes wines from the eastern part of the Appellation taste very well a tad earlier.



**Château Baracan Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2020** with its revised blend of Cabernet Franc confirms its identity and its notes of violets, mixed with smooth red fruits.

Since our purchase in 2019 of Château de Laville, important planting work has been implemented and allows us to expand the range. The "Sans Soufre" is available in 2020 and is distinguished by its richness and intense color with a dominant Merlot. The **grande cuvée of Château de Laville** is also available in 2020 with its blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and its remarkable structure.

Our Bordeaux Supérieur and Graves Rouges are available in 2020.

A highly anticipated year with no shortage of accolades. The Merlots are particularly silky and the **Château de Marsan Bordeaux Supérieur** has benefited from this by seeing its blend evolve towards 80% Merlot to offer beautiful notes of crisp red fruits and a nice roundness. The maturation of these rich wines required more time in barrels (10 months on average for the Bordeaux Supérieur) to soften the tannins and clarify the aromatic structure. As a result, **Château du Grand Bern Bordeaux Supérieur** was awarded a 90 PTS BY WINE ENTHUSIAST, characterized by "a spicy texture and a solid structure", **Château Laurétan Bio** on notes of blackcurrant and licorice and **Château Le Gardera** on power and spices.

**Château de Benauges** is distinguished by its great drinkability while offering the strength and elegance of this excellent vintage as evidenced by its numerous awards (GOLD LYON, PARIS, 90, ETC.).



**Marquis de Bern Graves Rouge 2020** is very well-made, and takes advantage of this warmer vintage with a lot of charm and minerality.

Our Red Bordeaux are available in 2020 and 2021.

We distinguish the profiles according to the potential of each terroir and always consider the maturation time.

**Château Lagarère**, marked by acidity and notes of crunchy cherries, spent 6 months in barrels and is already available with its 2021 vintage, GOLD MEDAL AT BORDEAUX WINE AWARDS.

**Château Barreyre Bordeaux Rouge** is very elegant with its dominant fruit and beautiful secondary and tertiary aromas that make it more complex. It was aged for almost 10 months in barrels before reaching its well balanced character. The available vintage 2020, rated 91-92 PTS BY JAMES SUCKLING during the primeurs.

**Château Roquebrune Bordeaux Rouge** with its dominant Cabernet Sauvignon surprises with its round and crisp profile, available in vintage 2021.





# 2022: MAJOR INVESTMENTS



## New production lines

A **second packaging line** has been installed in parallel to the other one and is operational since February 2022. It consists of a Kosme 4-layer rotary labeler that allows us to work simultaneously with our 4OP unit and to **increase our labelling capacity by +50%**.

We have also invested in a **packaging line for Bag-in-box and Pouch-Up** in 2022. The consumption of Bibs allows us to drastically reduce CO2 emissions during its manufacture, transport and all its components are perfectly recyclable. The translucent colored taps are devoid of carbon black pigment since 2022 and further enhance its recyclability.

*On the strength of two brands, including a Rosé and a Bordeaux Supérieur which are positioned among the most dynamic brands on the Swedish market, we will also soon be commercializing 3L formats for the French market.*

## SAS Gonfrier Environnement, Ecocert certified

The completion of the wine cellar of SAS Gonfrier Environnement accompanies the **extension of our organic agriculture certified surfaces by Ecocert** according to the regulation for EU and NOP (National Organic Program) of the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture).

This new perfectly insulated cellar is equipped with a **thermo-regulated stainless steel** vat room from the Chalignac company. Thanks to this important investment, we are able to vinify our 200 hectares of organically cultivated land in optimal conditions and with great precision.

The magnificent barrel cellar of this same site is perfectly sized for the maturing of **our wines already certified AB or in conversion**.



Travaux d'installation de la cuverie



## Acquisition of the Château de Pic, commune of Le Tourne

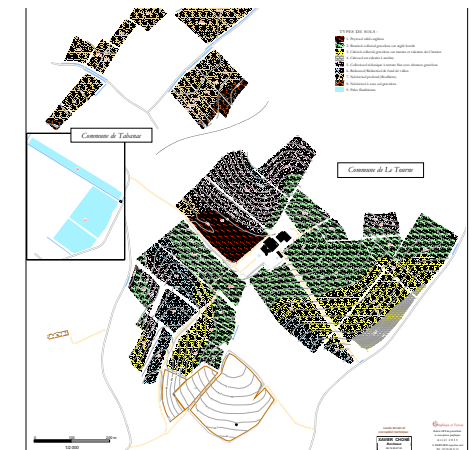
This investment is in line with our strategy to expand in the excellent terroirs of the Côtes de Bordeaux with the acquisition of the property of a Chinese company based in the famous province of Ningxia in China (a region renowned for the production of fine wines and with whom we have a good relationship).

Important investments had been undertaken by its former owners to restore this large vineyard to rehabilitate this large 50-hectare vineyard and its 14<sup>th</sup> century castle the : increase of the density, total reconditioning of the reception area, renovation of the cellar with an epoxy floor and a complete thermo-regulated vat room.

This magnificent property is composed of gravelly soils (Peyrosols) and clay-limestone soils (Calcosols) highlighted by Xavier Choné, renowned pedologist. With a south-western exposure and all the great soils of Bordeaux, Château de Pic is one of those magical properties of Bordeaux, where it is possible to produce great white and red wines, extremely marked by the terroir.

Château de Pic benefits from a high density of plantation per hectare (between 5 000 and 6 600 vines per hectare) and is entirely organically cultivated.

The 2022 vintage in conversion was vinified in barrels and shows a lot of brightness, freshness and a great texture in the palate. This "special 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary vintage" will be released in 3 years after having completed its maturation in barrels and later in bottles.



## Our CSR policy & ecovadis

Vignobles Gonfrier is committed to a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative and we have been assessed as a high performing CSR company by Ecovadis in 2022, across **4 pillars**:

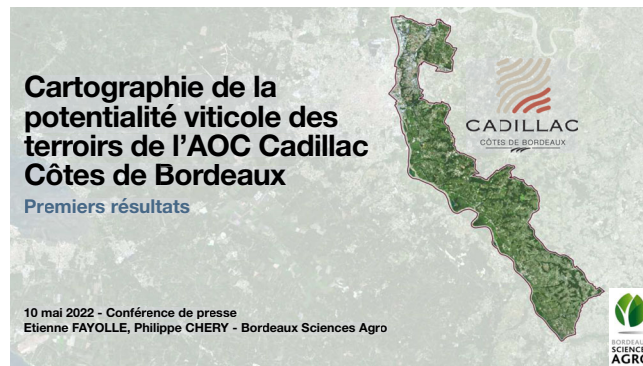
- Environmental
- Social and Human Rights
- Ethics
- Responsible purchasing.

Our development strategy is guided by this desire to build a favorable environment within the company.





# 2022: VALORIZATION OF OUR TERROIR



The objective is to make our Appellation known by federating the greatest number of winegrowers around a common technical map which will illustrate very precisely the viticultural potential and will favour the understanding of our terroirs by consumers and prescribers.

The publication date of this map is planned for the beginning of 2023.

## A Close collaboration to better know our Appellation

We are very pleased to be actively participating with our ODG in the production of a **1:25,000 soil map** of our Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux appellation.

Etienne Fayolle and Philippe Chéry (pedologists from Bordeaux Sciences Agro) are finalizing a year-long study of the viticultural potential of our appellation.

Convinced of the qualities of the Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux terroirs, it is with great conviction that we have contributed to bringing this project to completion.

This narrow strip of land, which falls vertically towards the Garonne, has an exceptional terroir and a great homogeneity in the composition of its soils.



Plantation au Château de Laville

Drainage au Château Baracan

## Our vineyard: Plantations in 2022

We have planted more than **25 hectares of vines** including several **resistant varieties dedicated to our production of IGP Atlantique wines**.

Among the varieties planted: Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, as well as two resistant varieties IGP Atlantique, Souvigner gris and Sauvignac.

In addition, major drainage work was carried out at Château Baracan this year.

Moreover, Château de Laville and its vineyard are in full renewal with 3 new varieties planted and notably Sauvignon Blanc on a magnificent clay-limestone plot.

We present you our IGP Atlantique range at the end of this newsletter.

## Medals and recognitions for our wines!

The year 2022 was historic in terms of the number of publications and medals obtained.

**Nearly 190 medals and journalist's notes** received for all our wines.

Very attached to 3 great competitions for many years, which are the Bordeaux, Paris and Brussels Wine Competitions, we had the joy of discovering our awards on our 2021, which shows the quality of this capricious vintage but with opportunities!



## Marquis de Bern: Global Expansion



The Marquis de Bern is growing in several continents: South America (El Salvador, Venezuela), Canada, Sweden, New Caledonia, Czech Republic, India, etc.

The Bordeaux Rouge 2020 is particularly appreciated for its complex notes of red fruits and spices, as well as its good structure.

The Bordeaux Supérieur 2020, which benefits from a 12-month aging in barrels, was rated **90 points** by the journalist **James Suckling** who described it as "silky and with exceptional length".

Major projects are underway for this brand, which is increasingly asserting itself thanks to its consistency, its aromatic profile and its singular discourse.

## Planting hedges

Already launched in 2021 with more than 3,000 bushy trees planted along our plots, we continued this work with 3,000 more trees in 2022.

A reminder of the objectives:

- ✓ **Balance** the natural environment by attracting various species to create natural enemies to protect the vine.
- ✓ **Preserve** bees. These hedges are melliferous to different degrees and also allow a balance of biodiversity.
- ✓ **Value** our floral heritage, since these hedges are from our region and also participate in the embellishment of the vineyard. Species of holm oak, hawthorn and rosehips have been planted, among others.
- ✓ **Protect** the neighborhood from drifting by planting "bushy" trees at least 2 meters high.
- ✓ **Participate** in the fight against global warming thanks to their carbon absorption capacity.

Thanks to Pascal Rigo of Big Ensemble for his support in this project as well as to the French Association of Agroforestry (AFAF) and volunteers for their help in the operational development of the project. Agroforestry work is also taking place on some plots, such as in Portets.



## Our desire to reduce agriculture additives

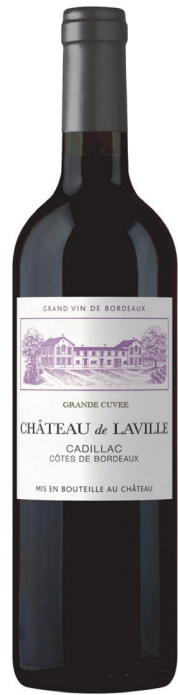
Mechanical ploughing is part of our policy to reduce the use of pesticides and weed killers and requires the constant development of new tools for **working the soil**: crushing discs, inter-vine blades, de-cultivators, etc.

Each of these investments is based on an analysis of our needs, linked to the evolution of our technical procedures, which are increasingly virtuous.





## OUR NEW VINTAGES:



### CHÂTEAU DE LAILLE, "GRANDE CUVÉE" Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux 2020

The Château de Laille is an amphitheatre that composes a unique écosystème, a property of more than 40 hectares with as many vineyards as forests.

The plots of vineyards and forest intermingle and create an extremely favorable biodiversity for the vineyard: at the top, we find the famous seams of gravel typical of the heights of the Garonne valley with the Cabernet Sauvignon, and below a stream, L'Artolie, which has a role as a thermal regulator for our Merlot located around the amphitheater on the sloping parts.

The "Grande Cuvée" is made from a selection of each of these most beautiful parcels with 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot.

*Tasting notes:* notes of black fruits and savory palate for this wine dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon coming mainly from the deep gravel deposits.

WINEENTHUSIAST

90  
POINTS  
Cellar Selection

Château de Laille 2020  
Cadillac Côtes de  
Bordeaux

Situated on the high ground just above Cadillac, the estate has produced this young wine highlighting black fruit and spice. The rich tannins and firm texture are still developing, promising a wine that will be concentrated, with black fruits and a solid texture. Drink from 2024.

— R.V. Published 3/1/2022



### ODYSSÉE, ORANGE WINE\* Vin de France 2022

ODYSSÉE stands out with its singular method of integral vinification in barrels according to an ancient wine-making savoir-faire, with simple and precise practices. Entirely vinified in French oak barrels.

Odyssea Vin Orange is distinguished by its brilliant color and its deep golden reflections. The palate is a fine balance between acidity and roundness characteristic of this method of vinification in barrels.

Let your imagination take over to design the perfect match as it will go well with many dishes thanks to its aromatic richness.

70% Sauvignon Gris, 30% Sémillon.

\*"Orange Wine" is the result of an 8,000-year-old winemaking technique in Mesopotamia, which consists of vinifying white grape varieties in whole bunches



### MARQUIS DE BERN Bordeaux Supérieur Bio 1.5L Certified Organic Agriculture

This Bib does not leave us indifferent with its tall and slim format that almost resembles a 750ml bottle. The nose is subtly toasted and the palate both generous and very appealing to the palate.

A pleasure wine that stands out from the moment it is opened.



60% Merlot  
30% Cabernet Sauvignon  
10% Cabernet Franc



### ODYSSÉE, Château Langoiran Bordeaux Blanc 2021 In conversion to Organic Agriculture



Grape varieties: 90% Sémillon and 10% Sauvignon Blanc.

ODYSSÉE Bordeaux white comes from old vines planted on the "3309" rootstock, adapted to produce elegant, rich and tasty white wines with an exceptional bouquet. Ideally located on the clay-limestone slopes of Langoiran, the "3309" rootstock plays a major role in helping the grapes reach their full aromatic potential.

- Vinification in barrels on fine lees with regular stirring of the lees.
- Aged for 8 months in the same barrels.

*Tasting notes :* a blend of 90% Semillon which enhances the aromatic contribution of this historic Bordeaux grape variety.

A beautiful complexity between notes of candied citrus fruits, pineapple and subtle touches of grilled almonds. This smooth wine goes very well with grilled fish and white meats.

JAMES SUCKLING.COM



CHÂTEAU LANGOIRAN  
BORDEAUX BLANC ODYSSEA  
2021

This is aromatic with ripe stone fruit, lemon pith, green olives and dried herbs. Textured and polished with a medium to full body. Crunchy and vivid fruit character with a flavorful finish. Drink or hold.



### MON ARC IGP Atlantique 2022 In conversion to Organic Agriculture



A grand arrival for this cuvée made from a resistant grape variety that is still little known, Monarch. MON ARC has everything to please: a deep purple color, a fresh and juicy nose with notes of cherry and black currant, a fresh and smooth palate.

Characterized by a strong coloring intensity, very low pH, and synthesizing little sugar. We vinify it in complete vinification in barrels which allows the wine to express its aromatic potential while being gourmand.



### LA PETITE PLACE IGP Atlantique 2022

We are pleased to present our first range of wines in IGP Atlantique.

Pleasant wines with a beautiful identity.

The Red is marked by notes of red fruits with a fresh and elegant finish.

The White is expressive with aromas of tart citrus fruits and is distinguished by its lightness and balance in the mouth.



The Rosé has a nose of small red fruits and a candid mouth.

Our LA PETITE PLACE wines express the terroir from which they come and are vinified in such a way that the primary aromas are expressive and perfectly integrated into the structure of the wines.

The vineyards are located on alluvial deposits with gravelly subsoil on the banks of the Garonne River in the heart of our vineyard and thus benefit from the same care and environmental certifications as all our properties in the Appellation.



## NEXT EVENTS

to discover all our vintages and new wines:



**Espace 6-E-164**  
Paris, Porte de Versailles  
13-15 February, 2023



**Pavillon France**  
Tokyo, 7-10 March, 2023



**10-D-42**  
Düsseldorf, 19-21 March 2023



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ALCOHOL CAN DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH, CONSUME WITH MODERATION.