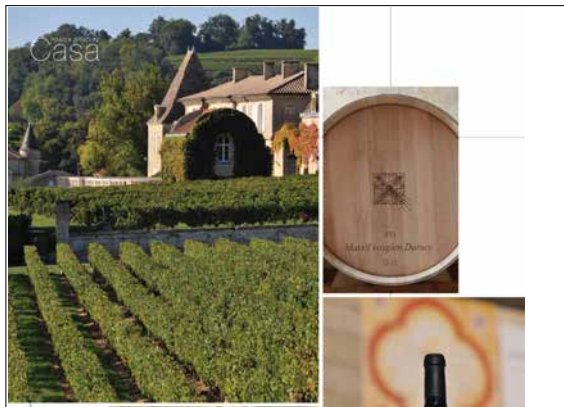


An emblematic wine: a pride of Bordeaux



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SAINT ÉMILION

AN EMBLEMATIC WINE:
A PRIDE OF BORDEAUX



BY JOHN MARTIN

The southeast region is the oldest wine area of Bordeaux. Its wines are considered the most robust. They are generous, very colored; reaching their maturity quicker than other red Bordeaux, but these vineyards did not grow in a day... The region has a rich, sometimes tumultuous history marked by Roman conquests in the second century, barbarian invasions, English ruling and many, many wars, finally leading to the great prosperity and reputation that Saint Émilion enjoys today. Their basic varietals, Merlot and Cabernet Franc grapes are the "protagonists" of this story.

During the 8th century, a Benedictine monk named Émilion arrived on the "Pavie Plateau", and became known not only for his extreme kindness to others, but for the miracles he performed among the people of the region. He became a hermit, living in the limestone caves under the monolithic church, which he inspired. Once

sainted, both the church and the town took on his name: Saint Émilion. Centuries later, King Louis XVI, declared that the high quality wines of Bordeaux's Saint Émilion were the "Nectar des Dieux" or "Nectar of the Gods".

In December of 1999, the Saint Émilion wine region was officially recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a landscape of cultural significance. This glorifying citation acknowledges the exceptional universal acceptance, describing it as "a remarkable example of a historic winemaking landscape which has survived intact".

The winery of Château Lassègue is a living example of the Saint Émilion Excellency, nestled in a beautiful 17th century Château. Natural virtues –perennial sun-drenched land, rich and diverse soils, exposure to coastal breezes– make up an estate as complex as the wines so skillfully produced from it by its proprietors, the Seillan and Jackson families. Château Lassègue combines ►

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the best of Old World principles and New World techniques. Bathed in sunlight from dawn to dusk, the vineyards benefit from this saturation and by protection from chilly northern winds, a combination that encourages the best possible physiological maturity in the fruit. A nod to the land's sunny aspect, the Estate's frontage is adorned with two vertical sundials, *Les Cadrans*, each vibrantly painted and equipped with a three-dimensional metal axial gnomons. More than 250 years old, the sundials were originally installed so vineyard laborers could track time while working. Still fully functional, the restored sundials serve as Château Lassegue's iconic emblem. Let's elaborate on the jewels of this amazing wine collection... Saint-Émilion Grand Cru's latest releases:

The 2005 (60% Merlot – 35% Cabernet Franc – 5% Cabernet Sauvignon): This is considered an extraordinary vintage, one that you usually see only once in a lifetime. Vigneron Winemaster, Pierre Seillan has said: "This

has been the top of my career, working in Bordeaux, after the 1982 vintage, which was also an excellent year". This wine has a deep, dark red color, with a very expressive bouquet of cashews, oregano, plums and cherry preserves. In the palate, you will find charming strong aromatics with a superb acidity. It's immensely rich, intense and complex, with very round tannins and a long finish.

The 2006 (55% Merlot – 37% Cabernet Franc – 8% Cabernet Sauvignon): This vintage has a different style than 2005, but within eight or ten years, there will be some nice surprises. With a beautiful ruby color, the wine has an amazing fruit nose, clean and fresh. There are aromas of berry jam, a hint of roasted coffee and dark fruits, affirming a wine that tastes young. In the palate, this wine is very harmonious with an elegant finish, light and fresh, despite the wine's power.

The 2007 (68% Merlot – 25% Cabernet Franc – 7% Cabernet Sauvignon): This wine is produced from 40 to



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the best of Old World principles and New World techniques. Bathed in sunlight from dawn to dusk, the vineyards benefit from this situation and by protection from chilly northern winds, a combination that encourages the best possible the land's soil with fine soil parcels and all gronoms originally and while working serve as Château Lassègue on the 4th of Emilion's Great. The 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon is a very vintage, fine, vintage.

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50 year-old vines. It presents a deep garnet color, with subtle aromas of leather and an expression of toasted bread and vanilla, developing into fresh black fruit and spices. It stays smooth and fresh until the end, with round and refined tannins. This incredible wine has an extremely long and persistent finish.

Les Cadrans de Lassegue 2008 (60% Merlot - 25% Cabernet Franc - 15% Cabernet Sauvignon): This excellent wine of Château Lassègue was born starting with this vintage, and with its name, honors the sundials (*cadrans*) which adorn the front of the Château, as a symbol of the perfect sun exposure of the Estate. With an intense dark red color, you can appreciate aromas of licorice, jammy dark fruits, plum, chocolate and vanilla. In the mouth, it evolves smoothly and expresses fine-grained tannins, with a soft finish.

We hope you truly enjoy these exemplary wines... literally kissed by the sun! **CL**