



Chateau Sorbey

Haut-Medoc

(Bordeaux's Left Bank)

The HAUT-MÉDOC AOC (ie: growing area). Located in the heart of the Médoc peninsula, Haut-Medoc wines are generous, not too powerful red wines with a delicate bouquet of vanilla and black fruits.

Haut-Medoc is the grand classic AOC of Bordeaux, with full-bodied, masculine and brilliant wines.



The winery of Chateau Sorbey

The difference with the Médoc AOC is that producers here have even stricter production norms to follow: a higher planting density (a minimum of 6,500 plants/ha) with a lower maximum yield (48 hL/ha). The limits of the parcels of land are also stricter, and apply only to the areas where there is a majority of gravelly terraces.

THE DOMAIN Created in 1982 by Alain Meyre, better known as the owner of Chateau Cap Leon Veyrin and Chateau Bibian, Château Julien is located on some of the best gravel plots of Haut-Medoc. The wines made on this estate are all blends of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot are all beautifully balanced and very aromatic.

WINE-MAKING

Average Age of Vines: 22 years

Fermentation: 30 days in controlled-temperature stainless steel vats.

Ageing: French oak (20% new) for 12 months.

Property: 38 acres / Production: 6,000 cases

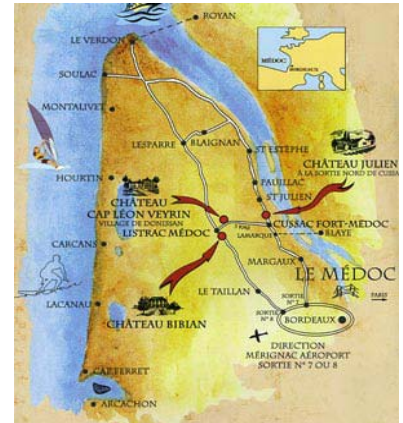
Oenologue: Jacques Boissenot

GRAPES 52% merlot, 45% cabernet sauvignon, 3% petit verdot

MERLOT is the most planted variety in Bordeaux, and it has also become an extremely fashionable red in many regions including California. Although it has a reputation to be smooth, and easy to drink when young, Merlot is also capable of producing extremely intense wines as well. Its softness and "fleshiness", combined with its earlier ripening, makes Merlot an ideal grape to blend with the sterner, later-ripening Cabernet Sauvignon.

CABERNET Cabernet Sauvignon is one of the world's most widely recognized red wine grape varieties. Despite its prominence in the world of wine, the grape is a relatively new variety being the product of a chance crossing between Cabernet franc and Sauvignon blanc sometime during the 17th century in southwestern France. One of the most noted traits of Cabernet Sauvignon is its affinity for oak, either during fermentation or in barrel aging. In addition to having a softening effect on the grape's naturally high tannins, the unique wood flavors of vanilla and spice complement the natural grape flavors of black currant and tobacco.

PETIT VERDOT Petit verdot ripens much later than the other varieties in Bordeaux, often too late, so it fell out of favour in its home region. When it does ripen, it is added in small amounts to add tannin, color and flavor to the blend. It is also useful in 'stiffening' the mid palate of Cabernet Sauvignon blends. When young its aromas have been likened to pencil shavings. Strong tones of violet and leather develop as it matures.



TASTING NOTES In advance, the charming ruby red color of this wine reveals the elegant nature of its aromas. Then, smoky notes mingle with honey, flowers and juicy red fruit. On the palate, the ripe fruit elements extend to cherry and black plum notes, ending with a hint of eucalyptus which lifts the wines and makes it appealingly fresh. The 2005 is this wine's best vintage to date and was an exceptional vintage throughout the Medoc.



Chateau Cap Leon Veyrin in Listrac



Chateau Bibian in Listrac