



CHÂTEAU BOUTISSE

Dynamic young winemaker Marc Milhade has transformed this estate into an outstanding Saint-Émilion, with ripe, structured and engaging character



St. Émilion Grand Cru 2020

Bordeaux, France

ESTATE

Château Boutisse is Xavier Milhade's flagship and most prestigious estate. It is relatively large for Saint-Émilion at 57 acres, planted largely with Merlot (88%) and the remainder Cabernet Sauvignon (11%) and Cabernet Franc (1%). Huge investments have been poured into the vineyards since 1996, with several parcels of vines being completely replanted.

WINE

Today the wines are made by one of the young stars of the right bank, Marc Milhade - the fourth generation of his family to make wine at Recougne. Marc's philosophy and energy are directed primarily towards more work in the vineyard, and less intervention in the cellar.

VINEYARD

When the soil was ripped and prepared for planting, large chunks of the recherché limestone were visible under the chalky clay topsoil. The vineyards enjoy an excellent southern exposure.

Soil: Clay-Limestone

Viticulture: No herbicides, respect for biodiversity, manual leaf removal and green harvest.

Harvest: by hand

WINEMAKING

Grape Varieties: 88% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Cabernet Franc, 1% Carménère

Fermentation: A modern, temperature-controlled winery with small vats to optimise the marc/juice ratio and refine extraction. Traditional fermentation in stainless steel vats. Fractionated pumping over. Vatting for 28 days.

Aging: Underground concrete tanks: gravity drainage. Malolactic fermentation in barrels.

Alcohol: 14.5%

VINTAGE

A rainy winter followed cool spring weather and inconsistent flowering, but the summer weather was dry and warm with even temperatures through harvest. A little August rain helped the vines mature and kept acidities fresh. Bordeaux's Right Bank did exceptionally well, and Merlot and Cabernet Franc were particularly successful. The wines are rich, full, and savory, with ripe acidity and round, sweet tannins – an excellent vintage for the cellar, which nonetheless can be enjoyed young for its exuberant fruit.

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"The 2020 Boutisse is a gorgeous, wonderfully pure, elegant Saint-Émilion. Dark cherry/plum fruit, mocha, crushed rocks and blood orange are all beautifully delineated. The 2020 is silky and vibrant, with lively acids and tons of energy. Readers looking for a polished, mid-weight Saint-Émilion will adore this." -A.G.

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