

wine journal

VINEYARD PRODUCTIONS

CREATIVE & COLLABORATIVE WINEMAKING.

Working in cellars around the world.

2023


44
DÉPARTEMENT

Vineyard Productions is a collaborative winemaking concept, that started as a single wine and grew into a collection of creative projects around the world. It now involves a close knit team of Masters of Wine and winemakers, working with an integrated design and marketing team, to develop wines of interest, quality and narrative that are distributed into over 40 markets around the world.In 2015, I produced my first ever barrel of wine. Hand-made, and with some careful guidance, I bottled it and labelled it 'Immortelle', named after the small yellow flower that grew between the ancient vines in that small corner of the Roussillon. The following year one barrel became four and now that cellar, in the small village of Estagel is full of barrels, ageing until release. Immortelle remains our core brand, not just because it remains such a clear reflection of all of our early ambition, but also because of what it created.We now make wine throughout Europe, and in New Zealand, where perhaps our strongest brands now reside. SPOKE, a Marlborough project created only in 2022 reflects where we have come as a team, and what we have learnt along the way. It is a truly inclusive and collaborative project, one that through brave winemaking and careful brand development, clearly and respectfully tells the story of a place, its people and its wine. Vineyard Productions connects consumers to production in a truly unique way, embracing along the way those that are interested. Thank you for being involved.



Liam Steevenson MW
CEO/Founder

Immortelle

A reflection of the past,
a creative union of ancient
winemaking techniques
and modern palates.



"I am fascinated by old vines. The quality of wines that they produce and the narrative they tell both visually and sensually".

Liam Steevenson, Master of Wine

Immortelle is a remarkable journey through time. In a world where winemaking has become so industrialised, Immortelle dares to honour the past. Handcrafted by Master of Wine Liam Steevenson and Oenologist Pierrick Harang, using only ancient techniques and methods, Immortelle is a testament to the passion and dedication of those who came before us. With every glass, you'll be transported to the rugged heart of the Roussillon region, where the Bousquet family have been cultivating their vineyards for seven generations. Their vines yield uniquely transcendent wines, a tribute to the grower's dedication to the land.



The Bousquet family winemakers





"Working with Liam and a winemaking family as interested, capable and open-minded as the Bousquet's, is an amazing opportunity to showcase the very best of the Roussillon".

Pierrick Harang, Oenologist

The old vines of the Roussillon have captured the attention of the world.

Immortelle is consistently ranked in the top 1% of wines from the Roussillon and in the top 3% of wines in the world (Vivino).



VINEYARD PRODUCTIONS
vineyard-productions.com

The Immortelle Family



750ml



750ml

Petite Immortelle

Côtes du Roussillon Villages

A well balanced, fresh wine made from Syrah, Carignan, Grenache and Mourvèdre that beautifully showcases the Roussillon. Scents of herbs and dark, brooding hedgerow fruits are inspired by the rustic countryside kitchens of southern France.

Immortelle

Côtes du Roussillon Villages

Incredibly fascinating with complex aromas of spice and clove. From century-old Syrah, Mourvèdre, Grenache and Carignan vines. The palate is fleshy and mouthfilling with attractive dark fruits, plum and cassis. The impressive minerality and fine structure makes it very



1500ml Magnum



500ml



500ml

For a truly memorable experience...

Immortelle 'Le Casot'

Côtes Catalanes

100% Syrah, bottled exclusively in Magnums, from a single vineyard that consistently delivers exceptional quality fruit. It's named after the ancient stone hut, that for generations has provided workers with respite from the Mediterranean sun.

Immortelle Rivesaltes Ambré

Appellation d'Origine Protégée

A rich golden wine with crystallized honey and fig jam notes.

Immortelle Rivesaltes Grenat

Appellation d'Origine Protégée

A fortified wine with deep red fruit aromas, accompanied by a hint of sweet cooking spices.


MAÏA
CÔTES DE PROVENCE

MAÏA

Côtes du Provence

A celebration of life in the South of France. These wines perfectly capture the spirit of the French Riviera, they are evocative of long summer days spent with family and friends. Made in the heart of Provence, on the hills overlooking Saint-Tropez, where generous sunshine and sea breezes from the Mediterranean provide the perfect conditions for making fresh and elegant wines.





MAÏA

CÔTES DE PROVENCE

MAÏA Rosé

Côtes du Provence

An incredibly elegant rosé wine with layers of fruit balanced by refreshing acidity. The palate has a soft roundness and a grippy, tight finish. On the nose, the wine is eager and intense with orange peel and redcurrant aromas. It is delicious served as an aperitif or with regional foods that are rich in flavours like olives, garlic and oily fish.





MAÏA Blanc

Côtes du Provence

Dry and crisp with a subtle textural richness that makes it very difficult to have just one glass. Floral, fennel and citrus with a herbal note that is reminiscent of the bay leaves and thyme that grows throughout the region. This is a versatile wine. Best served with grilled fish whilst admiring an excellent view.

Fincher & Co.

Artisan Winemaking in Marlborough

"The subregions of Marlborough are every bit as distinct and fascinating as those of Burgundy. With such varied typography, the stylistic differences from vineyard to vineyard are immense and it's a joy to highlight these with this range".

Liam Steevenson MW

After working extensively in New Zealand, Liam Steevenson wanted to create a range of wines that reflected the great vineyard sites of Marlborough and showcased the subregional character of the area. In a region all too often focussed upon size, Liam wanted to create wines that were small in volume and told a story of place and people, reflected in the glass.

Fincher & Co. was born with a nod to Liam's two sons, who share a middle name and a handshake with both a good friend and one of Marlborough's greatest winemakers, Ben Glover. Ben shared Liam's vision, and from the start they have fought to be brave with the winemaking, in order to create characterful wines that are independent, and restaurant focussed. There has been a deliberate attempt to think differently and use techniques pulled from the wine world as a whole, particularly Europe.

Both Liam and Ben share a very simple approach to winemaking, which Ben sums up as 'it's always best to keep your hands in your pockets, otherwise you'll stuff it up by fiddling around' (which is also probably his way of keeping Liam away from the tools!).

Winemaking might seem like rocket science, but Ben's secret to making great wines comes down to identifying key sites, being authentic and retaining the integrity of flavours. Like crafting anything special, this takes patience, and aligning with like-minded people who complement and challenge you.

What they certainly share is a belief that great winemaking isn't just about time spent in the winery, but in working the vineyard itself – understanding the unique characteristics of the land, the vines and nurturing it through the winemaking process.

The wines are produced at 'The Coterie' winery nestled within 'The Brink' vineyard, on the Wairau Terrace, looking towards the Richmond Ranges.

NEW ZEALAND SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING



The Coterie winery nestled within 'The Brink' vineyard, on the Wairau Terrace, looking towards the Richmond Ranges.



CREATIVE & COLLABORATIVE WINEMAKING

Wairau Valley

Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough

Awatere Valley

Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough





Dividing Line

Sauvignon Blanc, Marlborough

Show of Hands

Pinot Noir, Central Otago

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SPOKE
IT IS THE LAND THAT INSPIRES EVERYTHING WE DO.
THE WINES WE PRODUCE.
THE OPPORTUNITIES WE CREATE.
THE COMMUNITIES WE NURTURE.
OUR VOICE IS COLLECTIVE, OUR WORDS ARE SPOKE.
THE VOICE OF THE LAND



CREATIVE & COLLABORATIVE WINEMAKING

Our wines aren't a human interpretation of place, but the unbroken voice of it.

We are actively inactive in an attempt to let the intrinsic characteristics of the land speak. We encourage roots to flourish in soils rich with biota, we ferment using only indigenous yeast and at temperatures determined by nature.

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SPOKE is not an exercise in environmental box-ticking, rather it incorporates those practices that enable us to produce the best wines possible.

The byproduct of this, is land less negatively impacted by winemaking. SPOKE is a celebration of place, a true reflection of its importance and a statement of our commitment to protecting the land.
Too often, a wine's narrative begins and ends once it leaves the land where it was produced, but we want to continue its story. We've done this by committing to an apprenticeship scheme that provides opportunities to a new generation of aspirants. People who we can help to educate, but just as significantly from whom we can learn from too. We're aware that shipping wine halfway around the world, brings various challenges to a company trying to behave responsibly.

Some of the ways we're minimising our impact are by, choosing the right partners and controlling our packaging. SPOKE is not an exercise in environmental box-ticking, rather it incorporates those practices that enable us to produce the best wine possible. The byproduct of this, is land less negatively impacted by winemaking.

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"Simply amazing value for money"

Matthew Jukes



CREATIVE & COLLABORATIVE WINEMAKING



'Brink'
Sauvignon Semillon



'Resolute'
Sauvignon Blanc



'Rudimental'
Pinot Noir



'Awatere'
Sauvignon Blanc



'Amped'
Chardonnay

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Walking & Talking on Te Mata Peak

Liam Steevenson MW

It was ten years ago, that winemaker Rod McDonald first knocked on my hotel room door at 5:00am to remind me that we had agreed to walk up Te Mata Peak together that morning.

A sleepy-eyed start to the first steps of our friendship, and a lesson in the benefits of getting up, getting out and sharing ones thoughts with another person. Te Mata Peak, is one of the world's most extraordinary geographic creations.

The land feels like it has been dragged up from the ocean itself, to a dramatic mountainous crest of a wave, that delivers far reaching panorama over the land below.



The walk starts at the top of a valley, winds back and forth through evolving woodlands, breaks out into rolling uncut moorland and climbs dramatically to the top. Standing at the top, one feels the need of a narrative, where mythological gods would share the same space, watching over the world below; seeing soil be worked, lives be created, relationships found. It truly is a life enriching walk.

Rod McDonald is one of New Zealand's finest winemakers, of that there is no doubt, and he is also one of it kindest, considerate, and interested. Over the years we have walked the hill numerous times, discussing our lives, our families, our hopes. From time to time, Wine has been the dominant conversation, and when that has happened, and those mutually enjoyed creative juices flowed; wines have been made; not in a vineyard or a winery (that follows on of course), but there, on the hill. We have Three Crows Syrah and Free Fall Chardonnay to thank for Te Mata peak and the view that it gave us.



Three Crows

Syrah, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand

The palate is fleshy and has a beautiful earthiness, with generous fruit and a subtle thyme character. The tannins are chalky and give great length and power. Fruity with a long, complex and savoury finish.

Free Fall

Chardonnay, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand

Dry and generous but with sufficient acidity and drive to deliver a wine of considerable complexity and length. It's very impressive with cashew nuts, lemon oil and white peach aromas in the smoke of a freshly struck match.



flora & fauna

Artisan Vin de France

The Languedoc is one of the most extraordinary regions, not just because of the variety of wine that it produces but also its incredible geography. It's relationship between mountain and sea and its diversity of nature. Wildlife is rich, from butterfly to bee and it is this that we wanted to reflect in the wines. The Languedoc's diversity in flora and fauna is mirrored in the abundance of indigenous varieties that find their home here and this selection of wines is our chance to tell their stories.





Le Lièvre

Languedoc, France

A full-bodied blend that demonstrates remarkable elegance, with notable intake of the garrigue herbs, thyme and lavender.

L'Abeille

Picpoul de Pinet, France

From one of only four significant producers of Picpoul, it's gentle and refreshing with notes of peach, apricot and zesty lime.





Flora & Fauna Rosé

Languedoc, France

Crisp, refreshing and elegant with aromas of wild strawberry and raspberry, wild grapefruit and floral notes.

Flora & Fauna Blanc

Languedoc, France

A bone dry, fragrant blend that is packed with natural freshness and offers elegant aromas of stone fruits, pear skin and peach.





Flora & Fauna Rouge

Languedoc, France

Deep in colour and packed full of dark forest fruit, blackberry, plum, blackcurrant and sloe aromas.


ESSEX · ENGLAND
Libertine
Libertine
ESSEX, ENGLAND

Libertine

LIBERTINE BRUT ROSÉ

Essex, England NV

"Not so much the Wild West as the Wild East. Could I fall in love with Essex after an eighteen-year relationship with Champagne?... Yes! Yes! Yes!" **John Atkinson MW**



There's a jouissance that accompanies the opening a bottle of the fine sparkling wine. Great still wines are solemnly appraised, but sparkling wines demand the company of friends, partners, and lovers. Libertine is a celebration of these bonds of pleasure.

Low-lying Essex has witnessed the steepest rise in reputation of any of England's burgeoning wine regions. A county that is itself largely composed of clay, gravel and sand dragged and deposited from elsewhere has become a home-from-home to a winemaking culture that only recently crossed The Channel.

Long, dry summers give Essex a head start. Fruit flavours are always a tad more exuberant than elsewhere, and the body of the wine is inherently fuller. Beyond this, there's something irrepressible and spirited about this estuarine corner of England that spills over into Libertine.

The Wine

A noble blend of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay, this is a collaboration between two Masters of Wine. Bright summer red fruits, wild strawberries and raspberries with a complex spice note. It's wonderfully refined with a long, fresh finish.

CREATIVE & COLLABORATIVE WINEMAKING

TERRA ALTA, SPAIN

El Garbi Blanco



El Garbi Tinto

el garbi

The two El Garbi wines are particular points of pride for me being as they are, two of the very best expressions of the entire region; but what is it that makes Terra Alta special?

Sitting to the south of Priorat at an altitude that varies between 350 and 550m, Terra Alta is quintessentially Mediterranean but with a twist of continentality that ensures cool nights to help the retention of acidity and fruit aromas during the growing season and cold winters to allow the vines to enter true dormancy so that they can rest, recharge and build up carbohydrate reserves for the following year.

Terra Alta is also the (unofficial) home of Garnacha Blanca, a variety that in Terra Alta's low rainfall climate and poor soils, sees its vigour restricted, resulting in low yields of high-quality juice delivered to our winery's door. So enthused were we by the quality on offer, that we decided to invest significant sums in the highest quality French oak and to source fruit from vineyards that historically had proven to be the best.

These decisions have produced a white of both richness and tension, a wine that will surprise many not familiar with Spain's ability to produce fine wines beyond the red category.





Our Garnacha Tinta is equally surprising but for different reasons. With the red we wanted to produce a wine that had the heady perfume that high altitude Garnacha can display, without any jamminess or spiritiness caused by unwieldy levels of alcohol. We achieved this by picking slightly earlier and by employing a winemaking regime that sees a phased removal of the juice from the skins during fermentation, to fully realise the aromatic nature of the fruit.

As both these wines are limited in production and very popular, please be patient with us as we try and allocate these wines fairly.

Mark Pygott
Master of Wine



DÉPARTEMENT

The story of French wine in numbers

The decision to launch a range of French wines, using the number of the Département in which it was made, was a simple one. It was simple because it gave us the freedom to choose the appellation within these regions that we most admired. It enabled us to collaborate with some of the greatest winemakers and estates of France and to assemble a collection of wines that are true exemplars; wine that allow us to confidently declare "this is France!".

By producing a range dedicated to the unique, representative, and arresting, we believe that we have created a safe haven for all the Francophiles wanting a consistently great bottle of wine. At the same time, we've made it easy for those who are interested in exploring what makes French wine 'great', to see the foundations on which France's reputation as the world's foremost wine producer has been built.

The ninety-six Département's of France were established in 1790, as a way to encourage national unity and to emphasise the importance of being equal partners in a much larger whole. Our Département wines are part of that same story.

It is true that all of our Département wines can stand alone, as they are outstanding examples of the best of French wine, yet by linking them together, we aim to experience something more.

"Delivering one outstanding example of a regions best work"

Mark Pygott MW



Département 33

Bordeaux Blanc

An aromatic, wonderfully textured wine with notes of lime, hints of freshly cut grass and honeysuckle.

Département 44

Muscadet Sèvre & Maine Sur Lie

As fine as Muscadet gets! The perfect balance between the refreshing saline bite of an apple or lemon. With depth and texture provided by time spent in contact with lees.





Département 69

Fleurie, Beaujolais

A unique, delicate and elegant floral wine with plenty of ripe berry fruits for company.

Département 11

Blanquette de Limoux

A benchmark example of the world's original traditional method sparkling wine. It's refreshing with green apple and pear with a sprinkling of sea salt.



The Back Label

We wanted to create a back label that was altogether different but when we launched this wine, it caused a very heated debate across social media.

LA PÈLERINE "The Pilgrim"

Appellation Bordeaux Blanc Sec = Dry

2021 vintage high quality, especially for whites.

Double Guyot refers to the vine training system with two canes or (cordons) originating from the trunk.

Machine harvesting not a bad thing – quicker than by hand, fruit comes in fresh and cold.

Flotation is a clarification process where grape solids are separated in juice using gas bubbled from below to disperse solids from the liquid.

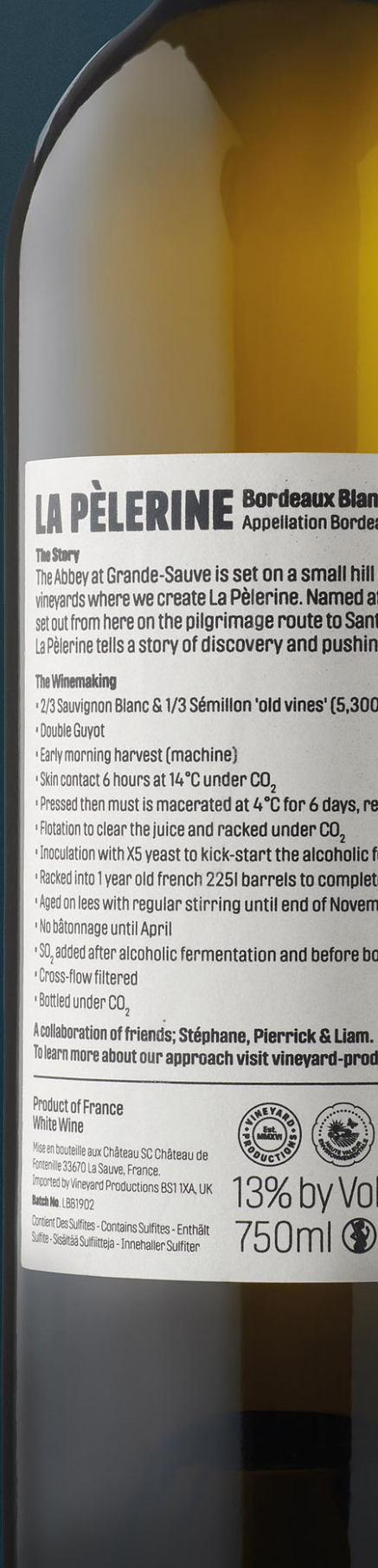
X5 Yeast Lots of Thiol Characteristics! grapefruit, citrus fruits, passionfruit **.**

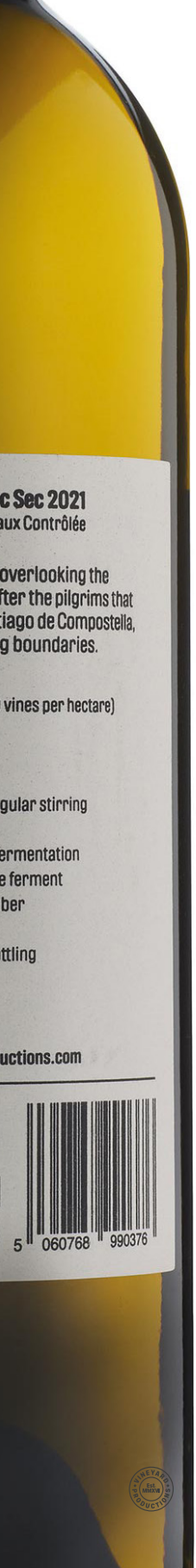
As the wine ages, the lees decompose and release sugars and proteins into the wine. The proteins released combine with the tannins which softens the overall mouthfeel.

SO_2 protects the wine against bacteria and helps prevent oxidation.

Crossflow filtration, wine passes tangentially across a membrane with a known permeability.

HEV covers four key areas: biodiversity conservation, plant protection strategy, management of fertiliser use and management of water.





LA PÈLERINE

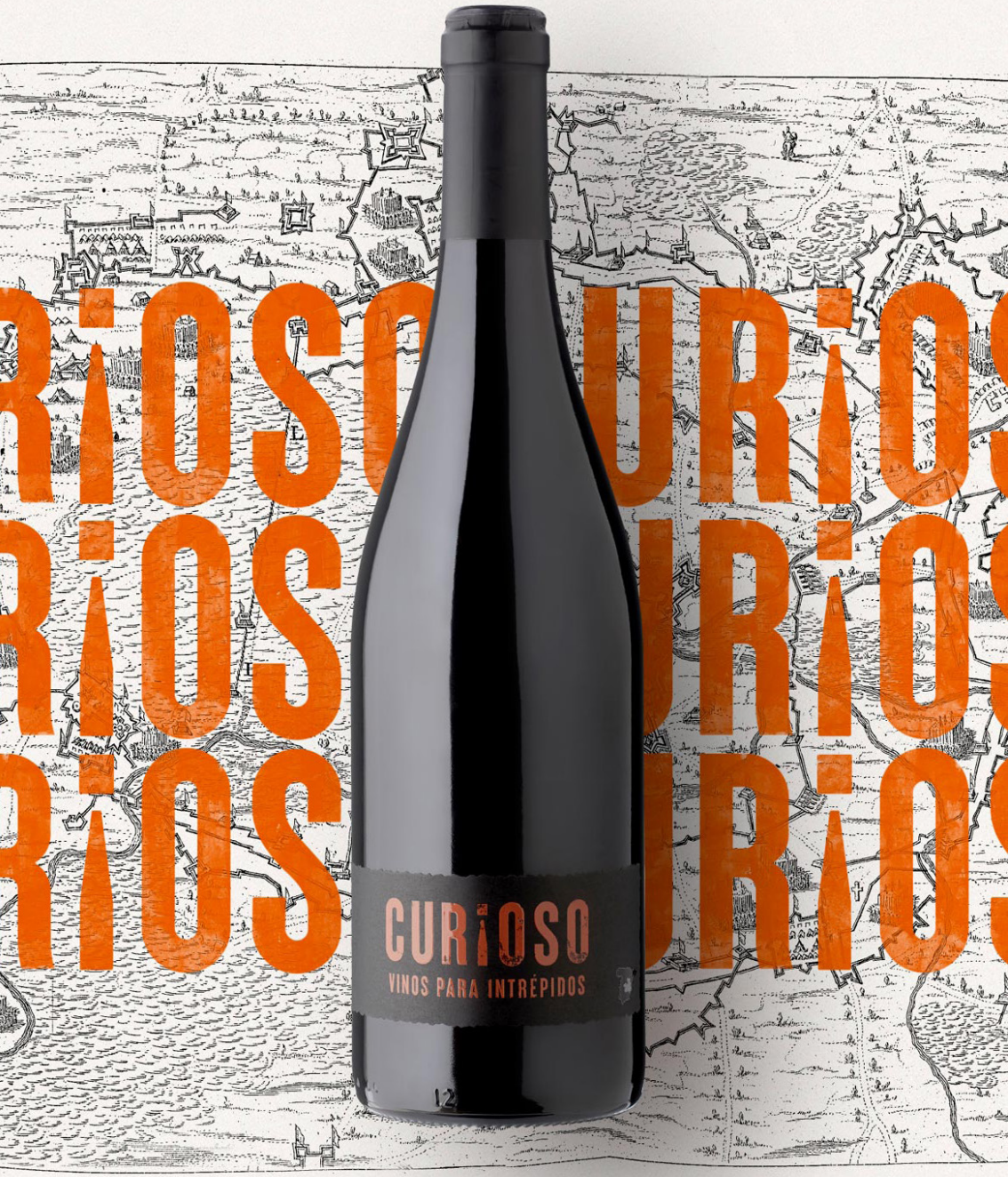
Bordeaux Blanc Sec 2021
Appellation Bordeaux Contrôlée

Bordeaux is a place of energy, change and discovery. A land that has felt the footsteps of thousands ofpilgrims that have adventured through this uniqueand special part of France. Like all great regions, the majority of winemakersoperate beyond the reach of the spotlight that shinesso revealingly on the most storied of Chateaux.In this hinterland, winemakers like Stéphane Defraine demonstrate that Bordeaux may be old, but it ispossible to craft styles of wine that are anything but.La Pèlerine, the Pilgrim, is a modern interpretationof a classic Bordeaux Blanc. We've taken all thewildness of our winemaking and put it on theback label, it's both technical and complicated butdemonstrates how much we've done throughout the winemaking process and just how different it is.

"An outstanding quality white Bordeaux that encapsulates the aromatic profile and texture that this region is capable of"

Emanuel Pesqueira MIH
Head of Wine at Gordon Ramsey Restaurants




CURIOSO
VINOS PARA INTRÉPIDOS

CURiOSO

VINOS PARA INTREPIDOS

Tempranillo, Spain

IF YOU LOVE WINE, THEN ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ATTRACTIONS ARE THE GRAPE VARIETIES THAT PROVIDE US WITH SUCH AROMATIC AND TEXTURAL DIVERSITY.

For the majority of wine consumers, their first foray into the delights of different grape regions and varieties, started with Sauvignon Blanc from Sancerre, dark-fruited Syrah from the Rhône or Sangiovese from Chianti. However, for me it was with a bottle of Rioja Reserva, that I had quietly liberated from under the stairs as a thirsty teen (eighteen of course). It demonstrated that wine could be so much more enjoyable than I had previously realised.

Years later, I found out that Rioja was made from Tempranillo and that led to me explore many other fascinating Spanish varieties – that is whatv is about. If you are curious about what differentiates Spain and which varieties are Spain's vinous gift to the world, then CURiOSO is for you.

Our first wine showcases the always enjoyable Tempranillo, Spain's most iconic variety that is often associated with the very best and most famous regions. As we broaden the range, keep an eye out for the likes of Garnacha and Monastrell, Macabeo, Godella and Verdejo. As always, we only ever bottle what we want to drink. This way, we not only satisfy your desire for great tasting wines but also your curiosity as well.

Soft, juicy and packed full of red cherries, figs and blackberry notes. As Tempranillo has traditionally been matured in oak, we decided to do the same but only for six months. This way, it doesn't overshadow the bright berry flavours, simply adds a little sweet spice. This versatile wine pairs well with everyday tomato-based dishes, meat paella, lamb and spicy foods.