

Les 2022




ARMIT WINES

CHÂTEAU
LAFLEUR

 À POMEROL DEPUIS 1872



Les 2022

"We hold a unique and rare position in the Bordeaux landscape. Above all we are vigneronns, present throughout the year in our vineyards and cellars"

Jacques Guinaudeau

"Where to begin when singing the praises of Château Lafleur and its stewards, the Guinaudeau family? At this address, rare seriousness and attention to detail, informed by a deep engagement with Bordeaux's past and present, meets a superb terroir... The result, somewhat predictably, is one of Bordeaux's very greatest wines."

William Kelley, Wine Advocate

The 2022 vintage was a year of intense, extreme climactic conditions. Rising temperatures and unpredictable weather patterns have brought a new frontier to the world of fine wine and challenged vigneronns to prove themselves and their vineyards. Exceptional wines came from those with a deep understanding of their vines and soils, with Château Lafleur at the apex of this approach.

The team at Château Lafleur, now twenty-strong, rose to the challenge of this vintage by utilising this expertise. In his introduction to the vintage, Jacques Guinaudeau, the estate's patriarch, writes "in spite of the exceptionally hot and dry conditions, our vines and our soils demonstrated once again how resilient they are. The result is a great vintage, which beautifully combines harmony, power, complexity, and elegance."

Armit are proud to have a long-standing relationship with the Guinaudeau family, who are vigneronns in the truest sense of the world. They took on the 2022 vintage with unique genetic material in their vineyards and an incredible depth of understanding, working alongside the vines' natural adaptations and aligning their winemaking with the changing world around them. The 2022 growing season was the driest in 12 years, and this careful nurturing of the vines and the terroir has crafted wines of incredible purity, depth, and remarkable length across the board.

We welcome the new vintage from the Guinaudeau family and invite you to share in these exemplary offerings.





The 2022 Vintage

Winter was dry and saw much lower temperatures than recent years allowing the vines to become dormant, with low levels of rainfall that set the tone for the rest of the growing season. Budbreak took place in early April.

Much like in recent years, Spring 2022 did not escape the threat of frost, with a succession of frigid nights at the end of April. The team worked hard to protect the vineyards, sailing through the first challenge of the year unharmed.

In May, temperatures started rising quickly, and the vines accelerated the growth of their canopies, but this quickly slowed down due to the lack of water in the soil. Luckily, localised storms provided the necessary water just at the right time before flowering, and the vineyards were in full bloom by May 15th.

June saw ideal conditions that allowed the perfect development of grape bunches and berries, but the second challenge of the growing season arrived with a violent hail-storm on 20th June, that damaged a few of the parcels at Grand Village. This was the driest spring of the past 12 years at the estate, which continued throughout the Summer. The team had to adapt their vineyard work during this extreme period.

Mid-veraison was observed at the end of July, and was fully completed just a few days later. The first harvest for the whites was on 23rd August, and finished with the last Bouchet grapes (the local name for Cabernet Franc) at Grand Village on 23rd September.

The vintage is an evident confirmation of the remarkable climatic changes which have been witnessed in the five preceding vintages, this time with an exceptional drought and heat. Nevertheless, the dedication of the team at Lafleur paid off and they proved how resilient their soil and vines can be.

The 2022 is the culmination point in a series of recent great vintages, yielding noble wines of great definition, energy, and length.





2022 Château Grand Village

"This is one of the very best Grand Villages produced to date, and it benefits from the sort of careful winemaking normally reserved for cru classé wines"

William Kelley, Wine Advocate

"...a down to earth Bordeaux crafted with the means and in the spirit of a grand cru"

Jacques Guinaudeau

Château Grand Village, founded in the mid-17th century, is the Guinaudeau family seat. The estate is situated in Mouillac, a subsection of Fronsac, and covers 50 hectares of land, divided into 20 hectares of vineyard on the Fronsac plateau and slopes of Grand Village, and 30 hectares of woods and meadows helping to retain the biodiversity of the area. For the last 20 years the family has been working to the same elevated standards as at Château Lafleur, both in the vineyard and in the cellar. Both of Château Grand Village's bottlings transcend their humble origins and offer an insight into the quality and style that can be achieved with the dedication of the Guinaudeau family and their entire team.

Tasting Notes

"Baptiste Guinaudeau and his team have produced a beautifully pure, perfumed 2022 Grand Village that bursts with aromas of licorice, graphite, blackberries, pencil shaving, iris and fresh mint. Medium to full-bodied, seamless and fleshy, this outstanding wine is perfectly balanced on the palate with velvety tannins and a bright, saline finish. This is one of the very best Grand Villages produced to date, and it benefits from the sort of careful winemaking normally reserved for cru classé wines. It's a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, although for the latter grape the Guinaudeau family prefers the local name of Bouchet."

92-94 points, William Kelley, Wine Advocate

"The 2022 Grand Village, aged in 30% new oak, has a briny, estuarine nose with dark berry fruit and light floral scents (iris flower). The palate is medium-bodied with a peppery opening. Nicely structured, hints of black olive and black pepper emerge with time. The finish is mineral and slightly grippy yet also balanced, off-dry and slightly granular. Give it a couple of years in bottle because this is seriously good, cut from a much finer cloth than vintages a decade ago."

90-92 points, Neal Martin, Vinous

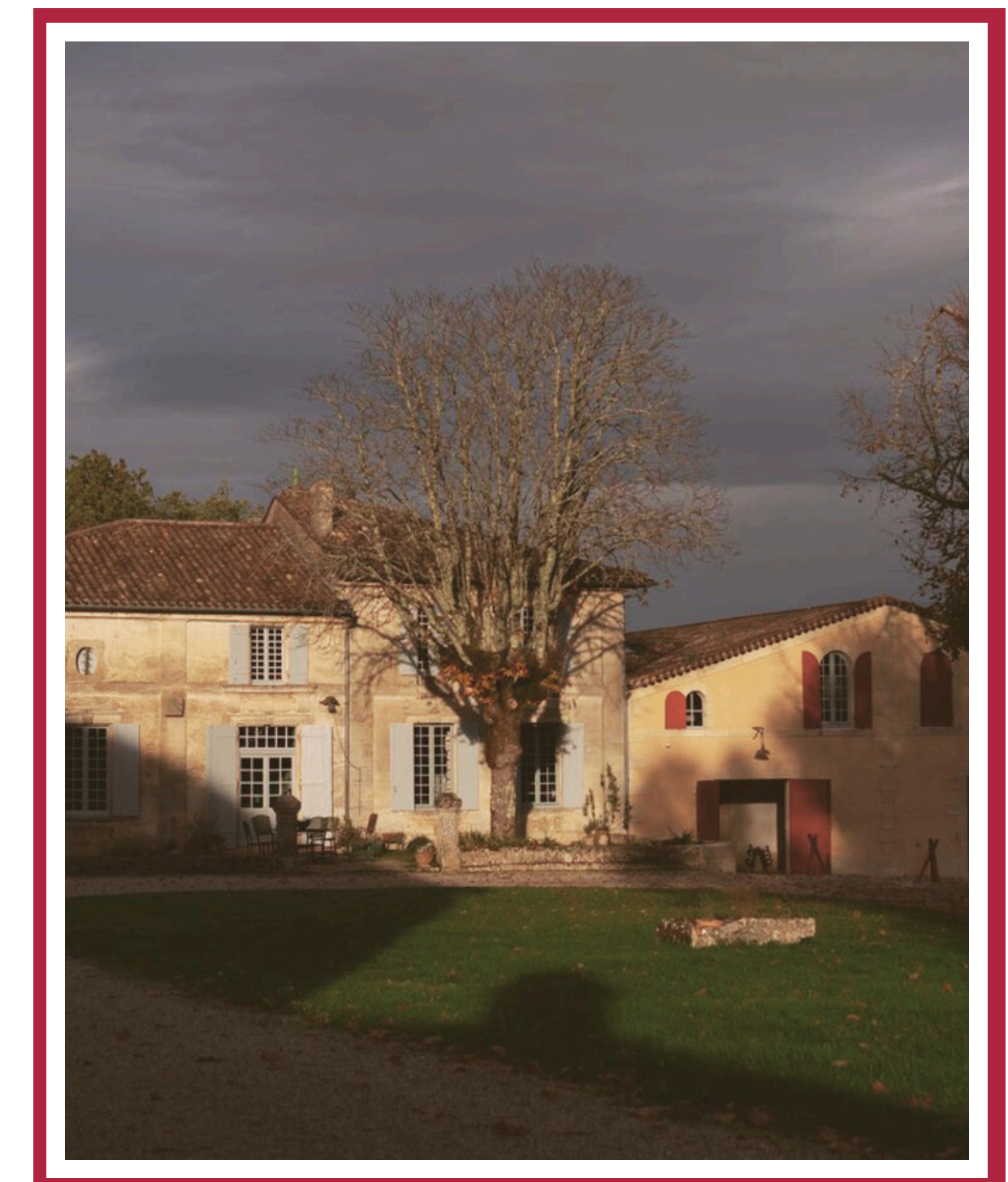
Blend

80% Merlot, harvested on 9th, 10th, 15th and 16th September

20% Bouchet, harvested on 22nd and 23rd September

Technical Insight

10 ha of clay-limestone soil / Vineyard under sustainable viticulture / Manual harvest with double sorting at the vineyard and a third sorting in the cellar / Alcoholic fermentation in stainless steel and concrete tanks with soft maceration and moderate tannin extraction / 12 months barrel aging: 30% new oak, 40% one year old barrels, 30% two years old barrels / Bottled the second April after harvest / Average production of 45 000 bottles per year / AOC Bordeaux Supérieur





2022 Les Perrières

"Quality and precision of tannins, complexity combined with restrained power, and a very long and mineral finish, all of those make Les Perrières a true grand vin, a new interpretation of Lafleur translated through limestone."

Jacques Guinaudeau

"Another brilliant effort from this visionary project."

William Kelley, Wine Advocate

Les Perrières, derived from the old French for "stone quarry", is the culmination of a project started in Fronsac in 2009. The family's vision was to use the limestone soils in the area to bring a unique expression to the Bouchet propagated from 117 vines in the Lafleur vineyard. The first Bouchet was used in 2013 in what was then called G Acte 5. Starting in 2018, with the arrival of a much higher proportion of Bouchet in the blend, the Guinaudeaus renamed the wine Les Perrières. With each vintage, Les Perrières establishes itself more firmly as a Grand Vin in its own right. The foundation of Les Perrières is in the village of Meyney, about 6 kilometres east of Château Grand Village, the family home, on the plateau of Fronsac. The soils of Les Perrières are comprised of very light clay on top of limestone rock.

Tasting Note

"The 2022 Les Perrières de Lafleur shows just how adapted this higher-altitude site on the plateau of Fronsac is to warmer vintages. Wafting from the glass with aromas of mulberries and raspberries, sweet spices and rose petals, it's medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, with racy acids and a taut, mineral profile. It's another brilliant effort from this visionary project."

94-96 points, William Kelley, Wine Advocate

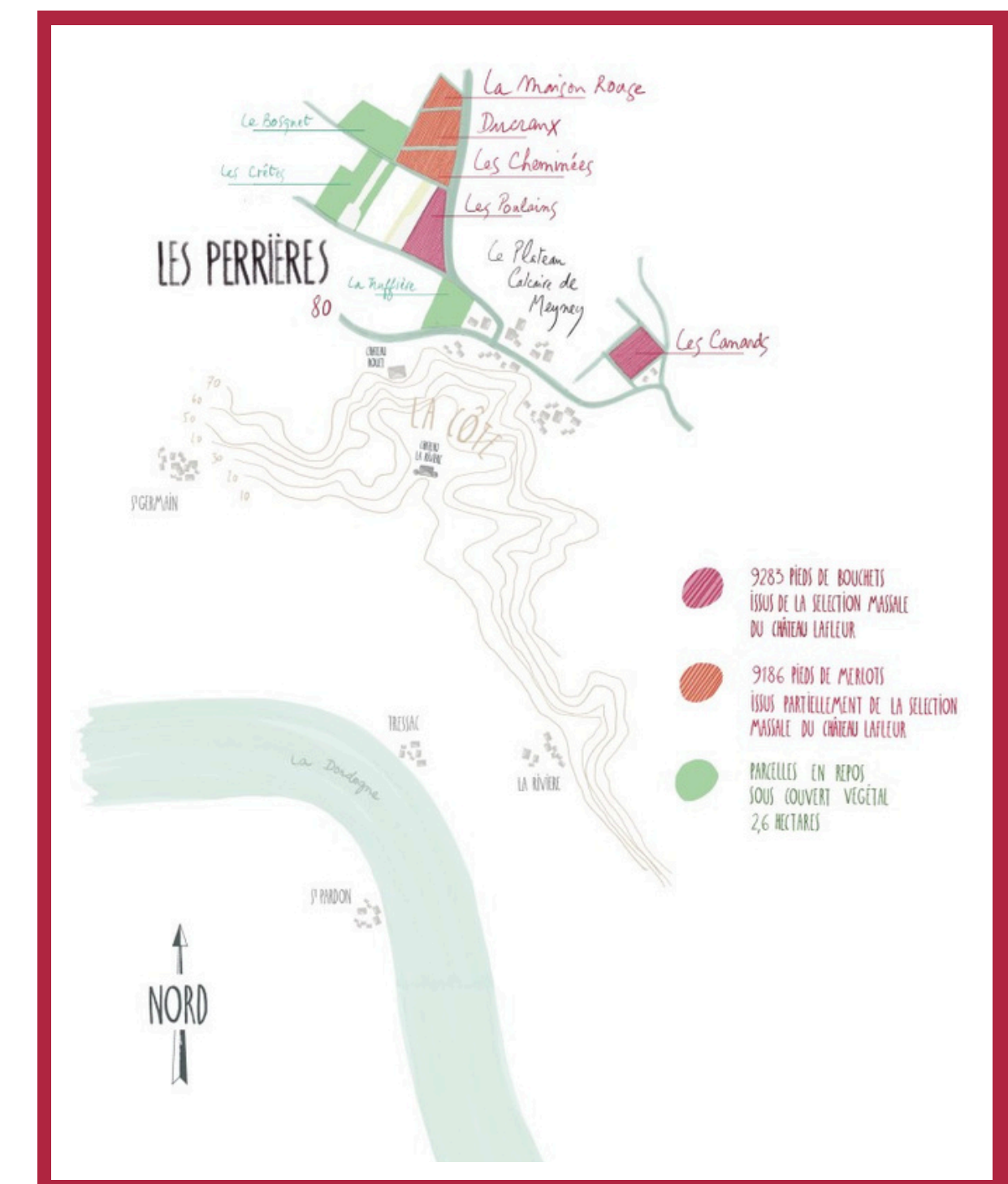
Blend

50% Merlot, harvested on 9th September

50% Bouchet, harvested on 22nd September

Technical Insight

3.6 ha on a clay-limestone plateau / Vineyard under sustainable viticulture / Manual harvest with double sorting at the vineyard and a third sorting at the cellar / Vinification in stainless steel and concrete tanks with soft maceration and moderate tannin extraction / 15 months barrel aging: one third new oak and two thirds of one year old barrels / Bottled the second April after harvest / Average production 13 000 bottles per year / AOC Bordeaux Supérieur.





2022 Les Pensées

"The mineralité really comes through on this Les Pensées this year. Bon vin."

Neal Martin, Vinous

"An initiation into the world of Lafleur, Les Pensées brings together finesse and complexity... The tiny size of this Cru makes it a very rare wine, and quite difficult to acquire."

Jacques Guinaudeau

Les Pensées is produced from a clay-rich soil structure that runs diagonally from East to West through the Lafleur vineyard. This parcel of just 0.7 hectares favours Merlot and imparts a different character to the fruit produced. All techniques employed both in the vineyard and cellar are identical to the Grand Vin, and Les Pensées, which has been produced since 1987, is an outstanding wine in its own right. Jacques Guinaudeau sums up thus: "It used to be the second wine of Lafleur, but today Pensées de Lafleur is more a different expression of the vineyard." In top vintages it can exceed the quality of all but the top wines of Pomerol.

Tasting Notes

"The 2022 Pensées de Lafleur unwinds in the glass with aromas of raspberries, plums, Indian spices, licorice and black truffle, followed by a medium to full-bodied, deep and harmonious palate that's seamless and layered, exhibiting beautiful balance and concluding with a long, perfumed palate. As readers will remember, this cuvée derives from vines growing in the part of Lafleur's vineyard through which a water course once flowed and where the soils are richer in clay and better hydrated."

94-96 points, William Kelley, Wine Advocate

"The 2022 Les Pensées is aged in 25% new oak for 15 months, as usual, coming from the 0.7-hectare spur of sandy-gravel soils in the Lafleur vineyard. This is shy at first and demands coaxing. It opens with brambly red fruit, crushed rock, wilted rose petals, scents of tobacco percolating through with time. The palate is medium-bodied with layers of liquorice-tinged black fruit mixed with cracked black pepper, lightly spiced with impressive structure yet weightlessness on the tensile finish. The mineralité really comes through on this Les Pensées this year. Bon vin."

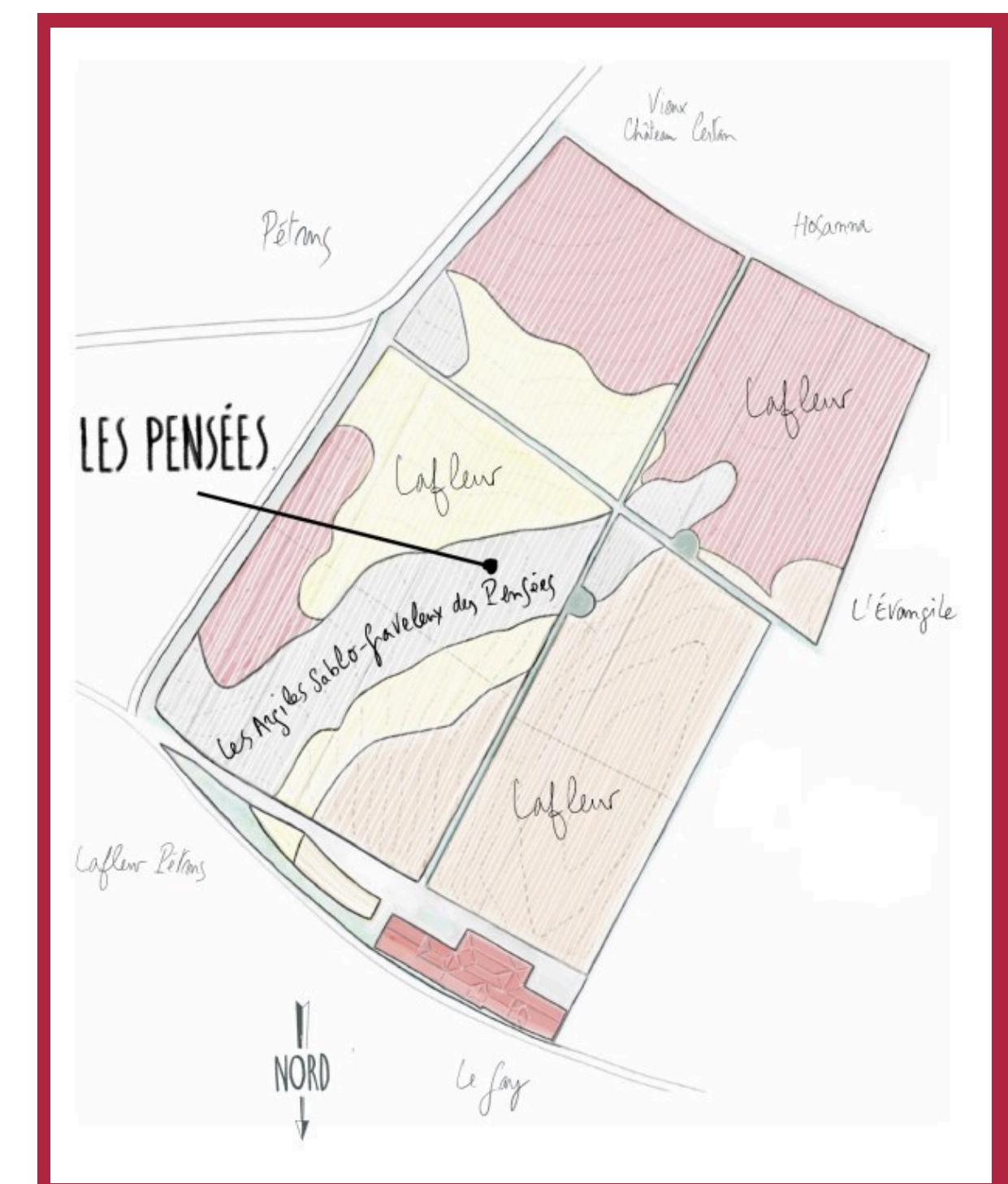
92-94 points, Neal Martin, Vinous

Blend

57% Merlot, harvested on 7th September
43% Bouchet, harvested on 17th September

Technical Insight

0.7 ha of sandy-gravelly clay / Vineyard under sustainable viticulture / Manual harvest with double sorting at the vineyard, then double sorting at the cellar / Alcoholic fermentation in stainless steel tanks with soft maceration and moderate tannin extraction / 15 months barrel aging: one quarter new oak, three quarters 9 months old barrels / Bottled the second April after harvest / Average production 4 000 bottles per year / AOC Pomerol





2022 Château Lafleur

"Among the best that Baptiste and Julie Guinaudeau have conjured in recent years and that's a very impressive canon of work."

Neal Martin, Vinous

"Above all we are vigneron, present throughout the year in our vineyards and cellars, our goal is to understand and work with nature and climate as best as we can. The result is a rare wine, bringing together in harmony both power and finesse."

Jacques Guinaudeau

In family hands since 1872, the 4.5-hectare vineyard of Château Lafleur produces two wines, the majestic Château Lafleur, and Les Pensées, both in extremely limited quantities. The complexity of the wines crafted at Château Lafleur originates from the unique character of this vineyard. The vines at Château Lafleur are planted on top of three distinct soils: to the northwest there are sandy-clay gravels, to the south and east clay gravels, and at the heart of the vineyard, the gravelly sands of Lafleur. This very rare association of soils allows us to explain in part the singularity of Château Lafleur. The Lafleur Bouchet has all been propagated using massale selection from plants that survived the killer frost of 1956, and it is producing unparalleled fruit as evinced by the last few vintages.

Tasting Notes

"A deep, gourmand vintage for this singular estate, the 2022 Lafleur unfurls in the glass with aromas of mulberries and cherries mingled with hints of rose petal, iris, orange zest and vine smoke. Full-bodied, layered and enveloping, it's pure and seamless, with supple tannins, huge depth at the core and a long, resonant finish. One of the most characterful as well as most consistent wines produced in contemporary Bordeaux, it will surely emerge as one of the vintage's high points."

97-99 points, William Kelley, Wine Advocate

"The 2022 Lafleur was picked from 3 September with the early Merlot and then over the next two weeks. It underwent double sorting in the vineyard and then at reception, aged in 25% new oak. This is bestowed a compelling bouquet, a mixture of red and black fruit, iodine and incense, beautifully defined, maybe more sensual than recent vintages. The palate is blessed with unerring symmetry, a fine thread of acidity, a graphite seam from start to finish and a constant sapidity. Extremely precise and ineffably persistent, this is an intellectual and delicious Lafleur - a lethal combination. Among the best that Baptiste and Julie Guinaudeau have conjured in recent years and that's a very impressive canon of work."

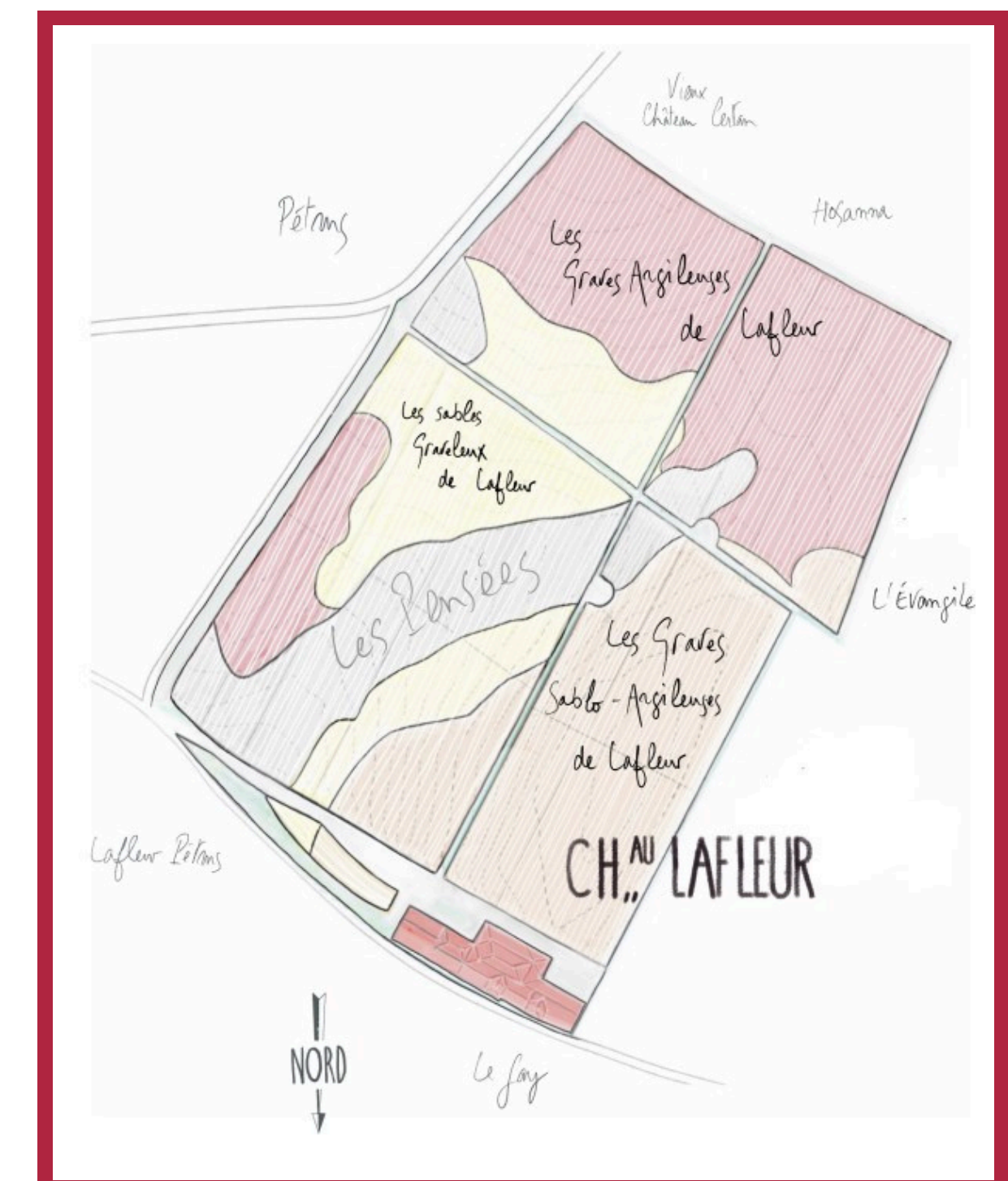
97-99 points, Neal Martin, Vinous

Blend

49% Merlot, harvested on 3rd and 5th September
51% Bouchet, harvested on 12th and 17th September

Technical Insight

3.75 ha from which 1.35ha of sandy-clay gravel, 1.45 ha of clay gravel and 0.95 ha of gravelly sand / Vineyard under sustainable viticulture / Manual harvest with double sorting at the vineyard, then double sorting at the cellar / Alcoholic fermentation in stainless steel tanks with soft maceration and moderate tannin extraction / 15 months barrel aging: one quarter new oak, three quarters 9 months old barrels / Bottled the second April after harvest / Red tin capsule sealed with the PROOFTAG authentication system (for all bottles beginning the 2005 vintage and bottles of older vintages leaving our cellars after January 1st 2007) / Average production 13 000 bottles per year / AOC Pomerol





2022 Château Grand Village Blanc

"This is one of the most delectable but also pure and mineral-driven wines ever produced at this estate."

William Kelley, Wine Advocate

"The white of Château Grand Village evolved in the passage of just a few years into a unique reference in the white landscape of Bordeaux."

Jacques Guinaudeau

While traditionally featuring in part of the family's historical holdings in Fronsac, white varieties were replaced with more popular red varieties in the 1960s. Thankfully, Jacques and Sylvie Guinaudeau spotted the potential for producing excellent white wines from their vineyards at Grand Village and decided to replant Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon in the 1990s. There has been a Grand Village Blanc ever since. As with so much of their production these efforts were turbo charged when Baptiste and Julie became more involved in the family project. As Jacques Guinaudeau summarises: "The white of Grand Village evolved in the passage of just a few years into a different wine, showing a complex floral nose and great harmony between tension and texture on the palate. The finish is very long and elegant".

Tasting Notes

"A blend of 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Sémillon, the 2022 Grand Village Blanc is a terrific achievement for the vintage. Expressing notes of pear, lime tree, lemon, spring flowers, jasmine and menthol, it's medium to full-bodied with a broad and enveloping yet crystalline texture. The long, saline-infused finish hums with energy and tension. This is one of the most delectable but also pure and mineral-driven wines ever produced at this estate."

90-93 points, William Kelley, Wine Advocate

"The 2022 Grand Village Blanc was picked from 23-25 August, aged in 50% new oak for nine months on the fine lees. It has a well-defined bouquet with honeysuckle, white peach and orange blossom, all very expressive. The palate is well balanced, with a slightly waxy texture and decent acidity. Stem ginger hints appear toward the finish. Excellent."

90-92 points, Neal Martin, Vinous

Blend

70% Sauvignon Blanc, harvested on 23rd, 24th, and 25th August
30% Sémillon, harvested on 23rd August

Technical Insight

1.8 ha of clay-limestone soil / Vineyard under sustainable viticulture / Manual harvest with double sorting at the vineyard / Low pressure pressing under inert atmosphere / Vinification in 50% new barrels and 50% one year old barrels / 9 months aging on the fine lees, including 5 months of gentle lees-stirring / bottled at the beginning of summer the year after harvest / Average production 9 000 bottles per year / AOC Bordeaux Blanc





2022 Les Champs Libres

"This gorgeous Les Champs Libres represents the essence of what can be produced with grapes coming from a great limestone terroir that also benefit from the impressive expertise of the Guinaudeau family."

William Kelley, Wine Advocate

"Les Champs Libres is a singular white wine that never abides by the "rules" of white Bordeaux. It is a rare bottle, crafted with the same convictions we have always employed at Lafleur."

Jacques Guinaudeau

Julie and Baptiste Guinaudeau have inherited an obsession about their vineyards from Baptiste's parents. This quest for perfection led them to greatly expand their program of massale selection of Bouchet and Merlot from the Lafleur vineyard, but also to look beyond the confines of Bordeaux for the best white varieties available. On their travels they found a superior Sauvignon Blanc from the vineyards of Sancerre in the Loire Valley. Simultaneously, the quest was on to locate the best parcels in which to plant their newly found vines. Since 2014 the family has blended the best barrels coming from four different parcels: À Louima, Les Pêchers, Les Acacias and Mathilde. The results are now evident to anyone tasting Les Champs Libres. With the 100% Sauvignon Blanc exhibiting real depth and persistence, this is an outstanding white Bordeaux that ages beautifully.

Tasting Note

"Made of 100% Sauvignon Blanc, the Les Champs Libres 2022 Blanc reveals aromas of verbena, lemon oil, kumquat, jasmine, spring flowers and menthol. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy and incisive, it's built around bright, racy acids and has an ultra-refined texture along with a resonant, perfumed finish. This gorgeous Les Champs Libres represents the essence of what can be produced with grapes coming from a great limestone terroir that also benefit from the impressive expertise of the Guinaudeau family."

93-95 points, William Kelley, Wine Advocate

"The 2022 Les Champs Libres was picked on 24 August. Very delicate and refined on the nose, this opens beautifully, with white peach and orange blossom, and, again, hints of wild peach coming through with time. The palate is well-defined with a touch of stem ginger, almost Burgundian toward the finish. The peach theme continues, with hints of ginger and a touch of almond. This is going to be completely irresistible - don't say I didn't warn you."

92-94 points, Neal Martin, Vinous

Blend

100% Sauvignon Blanc, harvested on 24th August

Technical Insight

1.2 ha of clay-limestone soil / Vineyard under sustainable viticulture / Manual harvest with double sorting at the vineyard / Low pressure pressing under inert atmosphere / Vinification in 75% new barrels and 25% one year old barrels / 9 months aging on the fine lees, including 5 months of gentle lees-stirring / bottled at the beginning of summer the year after harvest / Average production 4 000 bottles per year / AOC Bordeaux Blanc





Les 2022

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| Château Grand Village Rouge 2022 | 6x75cl | £90 |
| Les Perrières 2022 | 6x75cl | £330 |
| Les Pensées 2022 | 3x75cl | £410 |
| Château Lafleur 2022 | 3x75cl | £1,860 |
| Château Grand Village Blanc 2022 | 6x75cl | £103 |
| Les Champs Libres 2022 | 3x75cl | £175 |

Prices are in bond.
 Please enquire at clients@armitwines.co.uk.
 All wines are subject to allocation and available in very limited quantities.
 Larger formats are available, please contact your account manager.
 Blancs available from Spring 2024, Rouges from Spring 2025.



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