



SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE DU CHÂTEAU LAFLEUR

Les 2020

CHÂTEAU
LAFLEUR

 À POMEROL DEPUIS 1872

GUINAUDEAU . VIGNERONS . PROPRIÉTAIRES



Vintage Report

Twenty-twenty was another outstanding vintage for the Guinaudeau family at Château Lafleur, and it is with great pride that we present the new releases. It was the fifth consecutive year without a real winter on the Pomerol plateau, and over this time the family has learned how to deal with warm, wet winters and hot, dry summers, working exhaustively in the vineyards to help the vines. The correct vineyard care, all by hand, such as canopy management and the ploughing of the soil, produced the ideal quantity of small but perfectly ripe berries, with excellent tannic structure whilst retaining the signature freshness of their celebrated Bouchet. As Omri Ram puts it, the 2020s are excellent wines but "they are the product of a tough childhood". He opines that the 2020 vintage combines the best attributes of 2016 and 2018. The Guinaudeau family consistently produce amongst the finest wines of Bordeaux, and as the labels of their wines proudly state, the Guinaudeaus are Vignerons first, and Propriétaires second.

This was not an easy vintage on the right bank of Bordeaux, for once again the weather tended to extremes. It seems a distant memory when frost would occur during the winter and for 5 years the vines have not been able to reach a state of total shutdown. Combined with copious amounts of rainwater in the soil, warm weather spurred vegetative growth and bud break started early. Temperatures spiked higher and drought conditions commenced from the middle of June. Having learned from recent growing seasons, the Lafleur team quickly began the process of decreasing the canopy, trimming secondary shoots, and gently ploughing the vineyards to reduce the rapid onset of water stress which could potentially block full maturation of the grapes.

Les 2020

Vintage Report

The heatwave continued through August and into September, with some rain arriving to refresh the grapes before harvest. The result was particularly good for Merlot which produced small berries with concentration and freshness, but volumes were a bit smaller than in 2019. The Bouchet vines similarly produced small berries with elegant, concentrated flavours and tannins a bit riper than 2019.

We encourage you to read the pages that follow at your leisure and take in some of the elements that make the wines of Château Lafleur so special. While technical detail is all well and good, Lafleur (transcends) has many intangibles that go into producing a portfolio of wonderful wines. The Guinaudeaus have produced another excellent range of wines this year: Château Grand Village white and red, Les Champs Libres, Les Perrières, Les Pensées and Château Lafleur. As ever, all the wines are available strictly by allocation and customers who buy across the range will be favoured.

Les 2020

Château Grand Village Blanc 2020

While traditionally featuring in part of the family's historical holdings in Fonsac, 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".

Château Grand Village Blanc 2020

85% Sauvignon Blanc, harvested between 25th-28th August, 15% Sémillon harvested between 25th and 26th August.

Technical sheet

Soil and sub-soil: 2.3 hectares 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% stainless steel tanks, 20% new barrels, 30% one year old barrels. 8 months barrel aging, including 5 months of gentle lees-stirring. bottled at the beginning of summer the year after harvest. Vintage dependent blending: 70% to 80% Sauvignon Blanc, 20% to 30% Sémillon.



Chateau Lafleur

New Release June 2021

Les Champs Libres 2020

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 in the Loire Valley. At the same time, the quest was on to locate the best parcels in the area 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.

Les Champs Libres 2020

100% Sauvignon Blanc harvested on the 25th, 26th and 27th August.

Technical Info

Soil and sub-soil: 0.7 hectares of clay-limestone soil. Vineyard under sustainable viticulture. Sub-parcel selection of our best Sauvignon Blanc, with small percentage of Sémillon in rare occasions. Manual harvest with double sorting at the vineyard. Low pressure pressing. Vinification in new barrels. 8 months aging on the fine lees, including 5 months of gentle lees-stirring. Bottled at the beginning of summer the year after harvest.



Chateau Lafleur

New Release June 2021

Château Grand Village 2020

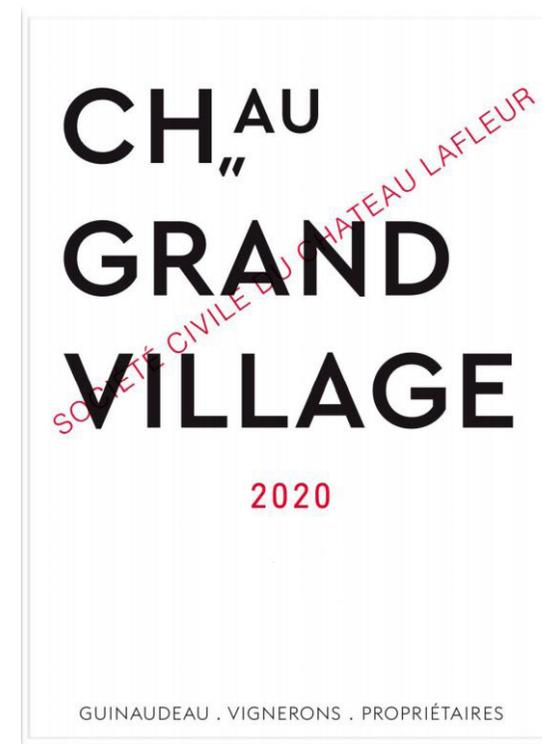
Château Grand Village, founded in the mid-17th century, is the Guinaudeau family seat. The estate is situated in Mouillac, a subsection of Fronsac, and covers 50 hectares of land, divided into 20 hectares of vineyard on the Fronsac plateau and slopes of Grand Village, and 30 hectares of woods and meadows 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.

Château Grand Village 2020

21% Bouchet harvested on 21st September, 79% Merlot harvested from 14th-19th September.

Technical Info

Soil and sub-soil: 14 hectares 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 (15 to 25 days) and moderate tannin extraction. Blend varies with vintage: between 75% to 85% Merlot and 15% to 25% Bouchet. 12 months barrel aging (30% new oak, 40% one year old barrels, 30% two years old barrels). Bottled the 2nd April after harvest.



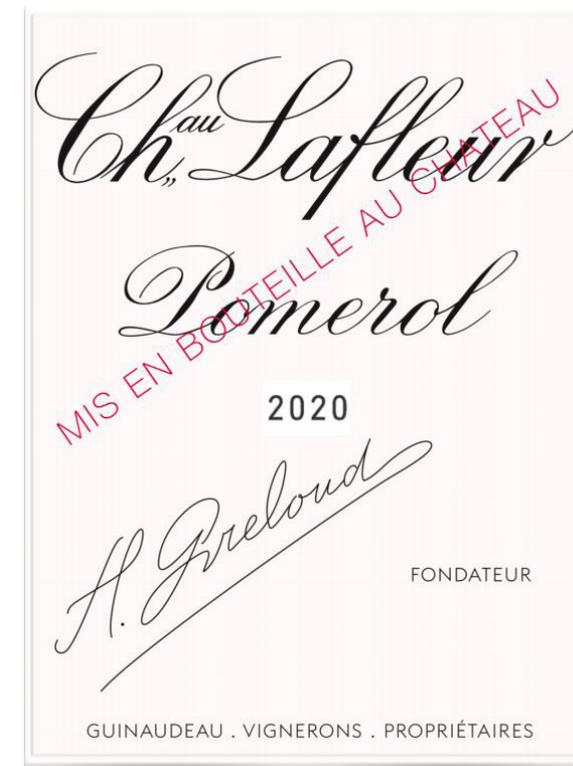
Chateau Lafleur

New Release June 2021

Château Lafleur 2020

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. In 2020, Château Lafleur, produced from 3.8 hectares of the overall vineyard, is comprised of 54% Merlot and 46% Bouchet. This represents an increase in the Merlot component from the last 2 vintages, highlighting the quality of their Merlot in 2020 as well as a reduction in the juice produced by the Bouchet. As Neal Martin points out, “Lafleur’s unique selling point is the contribution of Cabernet Franc, which grows at higher altitude here than in any other Pomerol cru and represents around half the vineyard plantings”. The Lafleur Bouchet has all been propagated using massale selection from plants that survived the killer frost of 1956, and it is producing unexcelled fruit as evinced by the last few vintages. James Lawther MW enthuses that Château Lafleur could be one of the wines of the vintage!

“When you experience a Lafleur at the peak of its mighty powers, it is seared into your memory, and its profound complexity can leave you speechless” – Neal Martin



Chateau Lafleur

New Release June 2021

Château Lafleur 2020

46% Bouchet, harvested on 18th September, 54% Merlot harvested on the 4th and 10th September. Only an outstanding producer can pick its crop with such extreme precision at the ideal level of maturity.

Technical Info

Soil and sub-soil: 3.75 ha from which 1.35 ha 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 8 months old barrels). Bottled 2nd April after harvest.



Les Pensées 2020

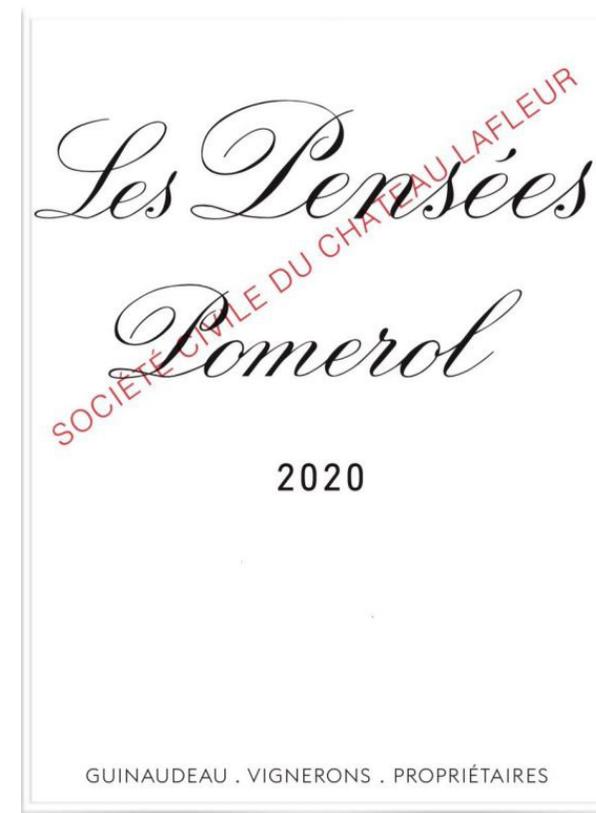
Les Pensées is produced from a clay rich soil structure that runs diagonally from East to West through the Lafleur vineyard. This parcel of just 0.7 hectares favours Merlot and imparts a different character to the fruit produced. The blend of the 2020 is 71% Merlot and 29% Bouchet. All techniques employed 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.

Les Pensées 2020

29% Bouchet harvested on 18th September, 71% Merlots harvested on 12th September.

Technical Info

Soil and sub-soil: 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 8 months old barrels). Bottled 2nd April after harvest.



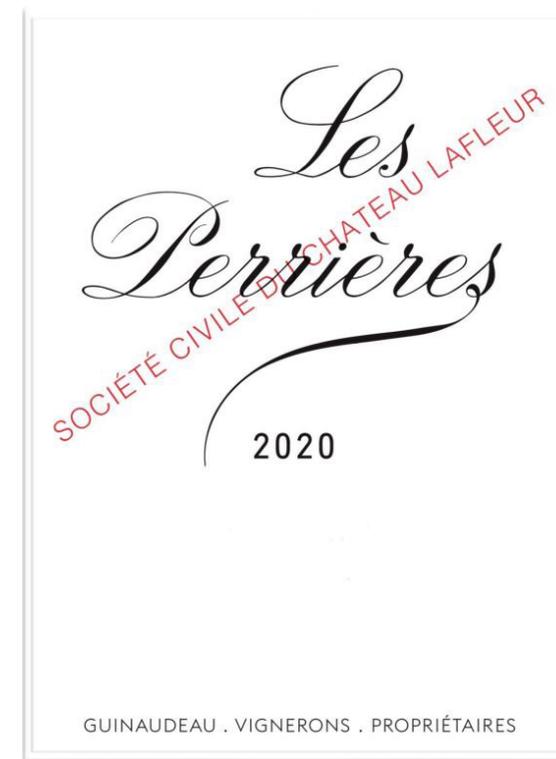
Les Perrières 2020

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. This third iteration highlights the Bouchet as never before, representing a full 71% of the blend. 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.

Les Perrières 2020

71% Bouchet harvested on 19th September, 29% Merlot harvested on 11th and 15th September.



Les Perrières 2020

Technical Info

Soil and sub-soil: 3 hectares 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 with one third new oak and two thirds of one year old barrels. Bottled on 2nd April following harvest.

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 with one third new oak and two thirds of one year old barrels. Bottled on 2nd April following harvest.

Château Grand Village Blanc	£166 per case of 12 bottles in bond
Les Champs Libres 2020	£145 per case of 3 bottles in bond
Château Grand Village 2020	£146 per case of 12 bottles in bond
Les Perrières 2020	£285 per case of 6 bottles in bond
Les Pensées 2020	£340 per case of 3 bottles in bond
Château Lafleur 2020	£1580 per case of 3 bottles in bond

Larger formats available upon request.

To enquire about your allocation of the 2020 releases from Château Lafleur, please get in contact with clients@armitwines.co.uk at your earliest convenience.

CHÂTEAU GRAND VILLAGE BLANC
LES CHAMPS LIBRES
CHÂTEAU GRAND VILLAGE
LES PERRIÈRES
LES PENSÉES
CHÂTEAU LAFLEUR

Les 2020

