

Les 2021



ARMIT WINES

CHÂTEAU
LAFLEUR

 À POMEROL DEPUIS 1872





Oct 2021

"We hold a unique and rare position in the Bordeaux landscape. Above all we are vigneron, 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 2021 vintage may not have been an easy one in Bordeaux, but those estates that could anticipate what mother nature would throw at them were best able to produce great wine. The team at Château Lafleur, now twenty people strong, was well-placed to achieve exactly this. In his introduction to the vintage, Jacques Guinaudeau, the estate's patriarch, writes: "I would like to pay an immense tribute to the entire team at Lafleur. Their labour and efforts are the base of this beautiful 2021 vintage."

As Vignerons in the truest sense of the word, the Guinaudeau family used the challenges of 2021 to display the depth of their understanding of the vineyards. They timed all their work to maximise the advantages of the unique genetic stock, their respective locations, and minimising the presence of difficulties and their impact. The flexibility this gives is perhaps best displayed by the ability to harvest all the Bouchet at Lafleur in a single day, October 2nd, when the grapes achieved optimal maturity. This resulted in wines with a fantastic floral character and beautifully ripe tannins.

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





The 2021 Vintage

After a clement winter, budbreak is early and homogenous at the end of March. April is cold but quite sunny, leading to frosty conditions. Thanks to the hard work of the team, they succeeded in protecting tyhe vineyards, sailing through the first challenge of the year unharmed. May is cool and rainfall is on the rise.

Flowering, however, is early. The family detect the first flowers on May 24th and mid-flowering at the end of the month. June brings a further increase in the frequency of rainfall, leading to a worrying development of Downy Mildew. Protecting the vineyards from Mildew will be the second challenge of 2021. Extreme vigilance and around the clock efforts allow the team to maintain healthy vines, even under the most severe disease pressure.

More favourable conditions take hold from July 14th and allow the vines and the growers to catch their breath. Véraison is early, and the grapes colour change is quite advanced in early August. Vegetal growth comes to a beneficial stop, and the vines can now concentrate on ripening their berries.

The alternation of hot - and at times very hot - days, and milder periods during the month of September allows the grapes to ripen slowly but surely, assisted by moderate rainfall. The team pick the first whites on September 7th under lovely conditions that remain until the end of harvest on October 7th.

The vintage is an evident confirmation of the remarkable climatic changes have been witnessed in the five preceding vintages. With a growing season that could be best described as a "complicated pregnancy", the baby 2021 wines confirm and highlight, as never before, the inherent qualities of the different terroirs and the different winegrowers who labour them.

Bouchet's floral character dominates the aromatic spectrum of these young wines. The tannins are ripe, silky and chiselled at the same time, leading to a long-lasting finish. The 2021 vintage carries the genetic of a great year, yielding noble wines of great definition, energy and length.





Château Grand Village

"The progress of this estate, benefiting from upgraded vine genetics as well as the uprooting of less optimally sited parcels, transcends vintage variation"

William Kelley, Wine Advocate

"Château Grand Village is today, beyond any doubt, the Village of Lafleur."

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.

75% Merlot, harvested on 29th September and 7th October
25% Bouchet, harvested on 4th and 7th October

Technical Insight

Soil and sub-soil: 10 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 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.

CHAU

GRAND

VILLAGE

SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE DU CHATEAU LAFLEUR

2021





Les Perrières

"...deep and multidimensional, it's concentrated and chiseled, with a bright spine of acidity, ultra-refined tannins and a long, intensely saline finish."

William Kelley, Wine Advocate

"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

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.

62% Bouchet, harvest on 1st October

38% Merlot, harvested on 30th September

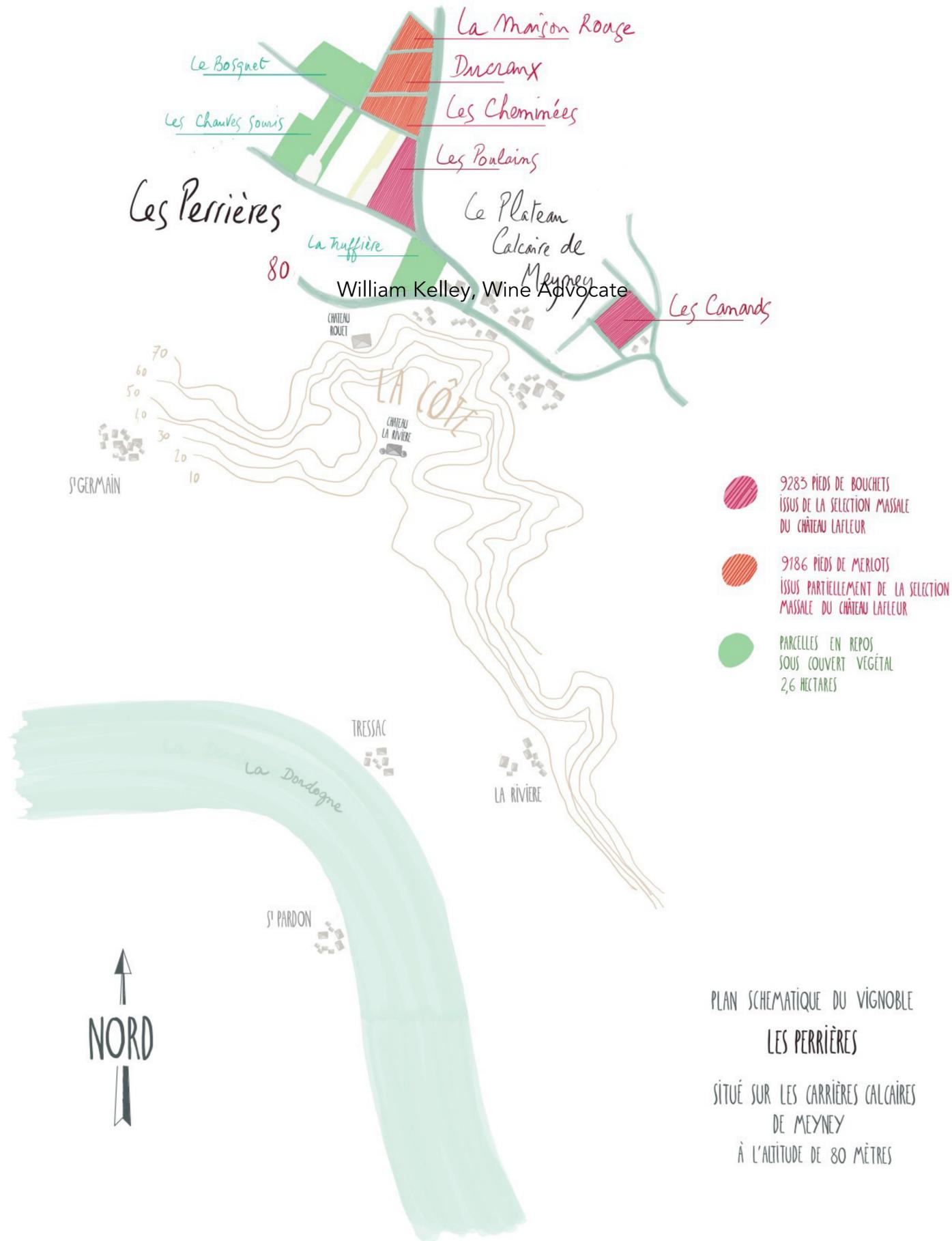
Technical Insight

Soil and sub-soil: 3.6 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: one third new oak and two thirds of one year old barrels / Bottled the second April after harvest.



Les Perrières
SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE DU CHATEAU LAFLEUR
2021





Class and Purity

"On it's 4th release now since the initial vintage in 2018, this is the growing power of Lafleur stables. 2021 bring class and purity to this wine, where the limestone soil is bringing so much identity and breed.

A class act."

Nicolas Clerc MS, Armit Wines



Les Pensées

"[A] seamless and enveloping wine that's deep and sensual, it's ripe tannins entirely concealed in an ample core of succulent, pungently perfumed fruit."

William Kelley, Wine Advocate

"An initiation into the world of Lafleur, Les Pensées brings together finesse and complexity"

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. 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.

59% Merlot, harvested on 28th September

41% Bouchet, harvested on 2nd October

Technical Insight

Soil and sub-soil: 0.7 hectare 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



Les Pensées

Pomerol

SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE DU CHATEAU LAFLEUR

2021





Château Lafleur

"Baptiste and Julie Guinaudeau have conjured not just one of the finest Pomerols of 2021, but one of the finest Bordeaux wines."

Neal Martin, Vinous

"...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. 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. The 2021 Lafleur is a triumph; William Kelley describes it as "profound", whilst Antonio Galloni calls "without question one of the wines of the vintage", before perfectly encapsulating the essence of this brilliant, cerebral wine: "It's a wine that really lives in its own universe."

48% Merlot, harvested on 17th and 24th of September

52% Bouchet, harvested on 2nd October

Technical Insight

Soil and sub-soil: 3.75 hectares from which 1.35ha of sandy-clay gravel, 1.45ha of clay gravel and 0.95ha 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.



Château Lafleur

Pomerol

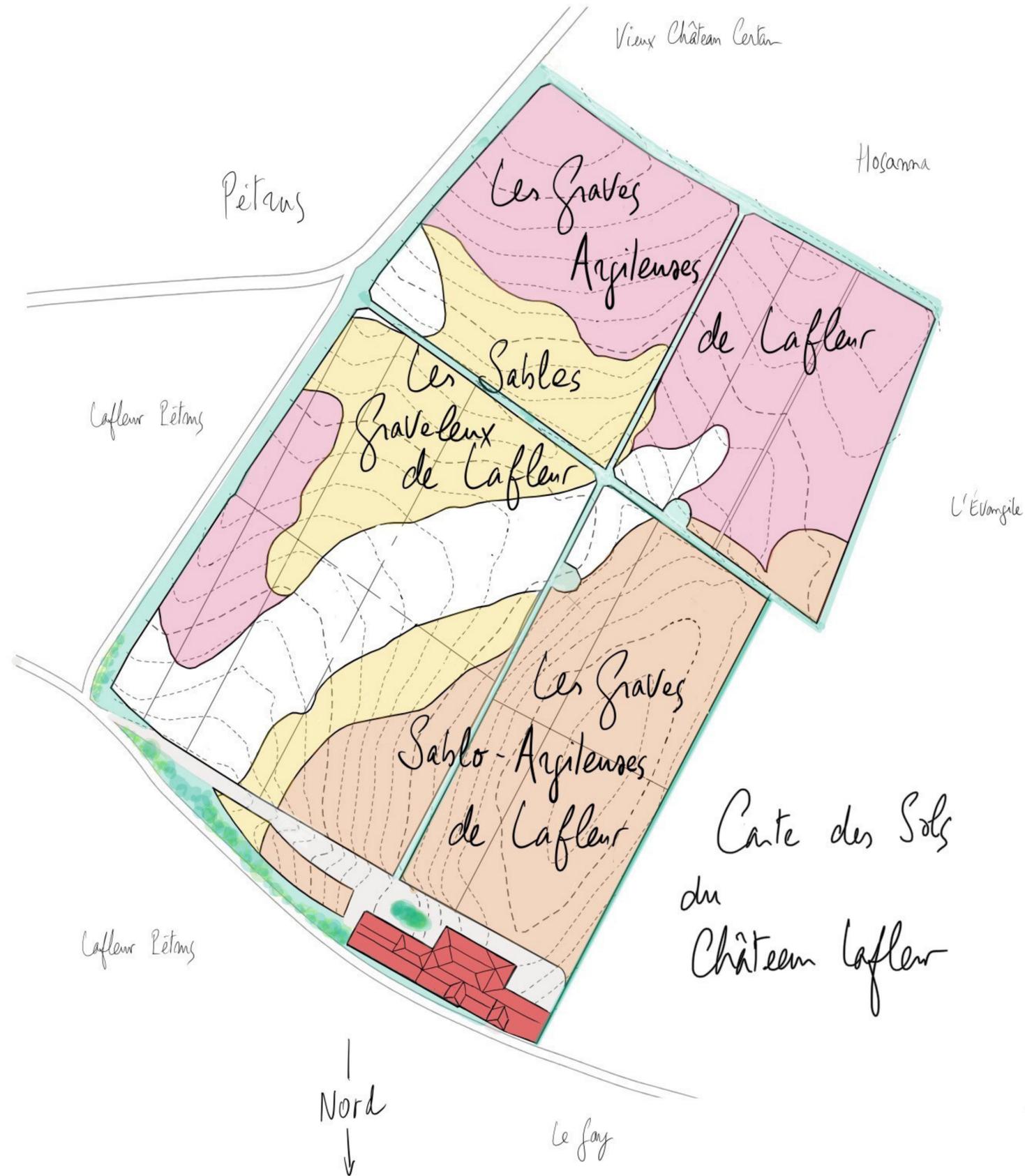
2021

MIS EN BOUTEILLE AU CHATEAU

A. Guélou

FONDATEUR





A vintage to keep and remember

"Lafleur and Pensée this year are the result of the work on the vineyard. The work of people coming together to protect the vineyard for 10 days of winter frost. At Lafleur, the people are not working against the vintage, but with the vintage. The result is that there is nowhere in Bordeaux where 2021 is as attractive and personal."

Nicolas Clerc MS, Armit Wines



Château Grand Village Blanc

"I find it hard to resist."

Antonio Galloni, Vinous

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". Notably, the 2021 vintage is the first Grand Village Blanc to be vinified in oak.

73% Sauvignon Blanc, harvested on 9th, 11th and 13th September
27% Sémillon, harvest on 7th September

Technical Insight

Soil and sub-soil: 1.8 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% 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.

CHATEAU GRAND VILLAGE

2021





Les Champs Libres

"This is a fabulous white from the Guinaudeau family."

Antonio Galloni, Vinous

"Much like Château Lafleur, Les Champs Libres succeeds in combining power with elegance, richness with minerality. We dedicate Les Champs Libres to all lovers of great white wines."

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. The 2021 vintage is the first to be produced in the new cellar.

100% Sauvignon Blanc, harvested on 9th and 11th September

Technical Insight

Soil and sub-soil: 1.2 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 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.

Les Champs

Libres

2021

SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE DU CHÂTEAU LAFLEUR





A testament of quality

"Having followed the white production of the château from several vintages now, 2021 brought the full expertise and skills of the Guinaudeau team. The new Chais and separate vinification of the white wines allow the family to deliver one of the purest vintages ever."

Nicolas Clerc MS, Armit Wines

Gen 2021

Château Grand Village Rouge 2021	6x75cl	£79
Les Perrières 2021	6x75cl	£292
Les Pensées 2021	3x75cl	£361
Château Lafleur 2021	3x75cl	£1,627
Château Grand Village Blanc 2021	6x75cl	£90
Les Champs Libres 2021	3x75cl	£153



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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 2023, Rouges from Spring 2024