Château Lilian Ladouys

CRU BOURGEOIS EXCEPTIONNEL
SAINT-ESTÈPHE

Contrasting weather patterns

A mild and relatively dry winter was followed by an unusually cool spring. The vines on gravel soils flowered in late May; those on clay-limestone followed in the first two weeks of June. Fortunately, any potential damage from the two heatwaves—the first on 26th and 27th June, the second between 22nd and 25th July—was mitigated by cool sea breezes and the proximity of the estuary.

A dry, hot summer

Conditions for ripening were excellent, and the diurnal temperature variation between hot days and cool nights proved crucial, allowing the polyphenols to synthesise fully and the grapes to achieve their full aromatic complexity.

Our terroir: a perfect result

We plant grass between rows of vines and plough the soil, practices which have the happy result of limiting evapotranspiration: the subsoils remain more than sufficiently watered to nourish the vines. Once veraison was complete, the low levels of potassium in these clay-limestone soils (thanks to the dry weather) ensured that the berries retained their freshness and acidity. September rain-showers prevented a surfeit of sugar in the grapes while simultaneously allowing them to gain 'flesh'.

An uneventful harvest

The harvest took place between 25 September and 9 October, in tranquil conditions. Yields were fairly low, with an ideal ratio of juice to solids for the creation of great wine. The resulting blend, created within a winery recently refurbished by Jean-Michel Wilmotte, has a high proportion of Merlot, but all four varieties clearly show the advantages of our clay-heavy gravel soils and the limestone bedrock beneath: each is expressive in its own way, and all four are fresh, rounded and full of flavour.

Château Lilian Ladouys 2019, a vintage that is fresh yet sumptuous

The tannins are velvety, the balance exceptional: here is a wine similar in some ways to 2016 or 2018, yet even fresher and more aromatic.

Blend	Château Lilian Ladouys	La Devise 2019
Merlot	59%	58%
Cabernet Sauvignon	37%	34%
Petit Verdot	3%	8%
Cabernet Franc	1%	-
New Oak	35%	25%

Chemical analysis	Château Lilian Ladouys	La Devise 2019
Alcohol by Volume (%ABV)	13.73	13.65
Acidity levels ($g/l\ H_2SO_4$)	3.1	3.0
pH	3.84	3.84

To find out more, scan this QR code for the full breakdown of technical information. →

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2019