



CHÂTEAU
PUYBARBE

HISTORY

Vineyards were planted in the Roman times on the hillsides, but the oldest proof of winegrowing activity in Puybarbe dates from 1895, through an act of sale of the property. The Orlandi family has owned the estate since 1952 and the process of change of ownership of the Chateau to Riku and Anna Väänänen was agreed in the fall 2017 and finalized in October 2018.



Château Puybarbe is located in the heart of the appellation of "Côtes de Bourg". Three parallel lines of hills, along the Gironde estuary (just opposite the Margaux appellation in Médoc) gave this wine region its nick name of "Small Switzerland of Bordeaux".

The estate Chateau Puybarbe is located on the highest point of the third ridge line and offers a unique panorama that extends to Bordeaux embracing the whole Bourg area.

THE ORIGIN



First vineyards in Bordeaux were planted in the Roman times nearly 2000 years ago, when during the occupation Romans brought plants to cultivate in their settlements. Winemaking remained a small domestic activity until the 12th century when the marriage of Henry Plantagenet of England and Aliénor d'Aquitaine made Aquitaine English territory.

This opened Bordeaux to the English market and later to world exports. During the 13th century Graves was the principal wine region in Bordeaux but there was wine growing in Entre-Deux-Mers, Saint-Émilion, Bourg and Blaye.

Only in the 17th century Dutch traders began to drain the marshlands in Medoc in order to plant vineyards.





First classification system for Bordeaux dates from 1855 when top chateaux in Medoc were ranked.

During 1875–1892 almost all Bordeaux vineyards were destroyed by Phylloxera. To rescue the wine industry native wines were grafted to pest-resistant American rootstock.



THE HISTORICAL TERROIR

First “vitis biturica” in Côtes de Bourg were planted by the Romans. The combination of rich soil (range of gravel, alluvium, clay and limestone), climate and exposition of the east bank were ideal for cultivating the grape. In the Middle Ages Bourg was a major port for wine and the vineyards grew around the town.

Côtes de Bourg appellation has around 400 winegrowers of which 200 are Chateaux.

The wines that responded best to grafting, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Semillion, Sauvignon Blanc and Muscadelle, became the leading grapes in Bordeaux.

Due to the success of the wine business, other areas in France started to grow wines and label them as Bordeaux products. This led to the government imposing a law to make sure that only wine coming from Bordeaux could be labelled with the name. In 1935 Institute National des Appellations d'Origine was created to oversee the law. Bordeaux had its initial set of AOC regulations in 1937.



The area mainly consists of family farms with less than 10 hectares of vines. Production is mainly red wines, based on Merlot grape, blended with smaller quantities of Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec and Cabernet Franc.

Côtes de Bourg is mainly composed of clay and limestone soils. Three types of soil are predominant. Sienna–red Quaternary alluvium is specific to the region and mainly situated at the heights where Merlot and Malbec are mainly cultivated. On clay and sandy gravel soils mainly Merlot and Cabernet are planted while mainly Merlot is grown on the clay and limestone areas.

The Atlantic Ocean has an important impact on the temperate climate. Côtes de Bourg benefits from 10% additional sunlight, 1 – 2 degrees less extreme temperatures and 10–25% lower rainfall compared to Bordeaux.



Château Puybarbe Astral 2019

Inky core and a purple hue. Pure and layered nose, fresh dark berries, discreet oak and mild spiciness. Medium weight yet with dense fruit and good flavour intensity, grainy tannin, a fresh backbone and well built finish.