

CHÂTEAU
RIPEAU
GRAND CRU CLASSE

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SAINT-ÉMILION

FAMILLE GREGOIRE

■ 2018 VINTAGE ■

Owners : the GRÉGOIRE family

Vineyard Manager and Winemaker : Julien SALLES

Consultant oenologist : Claude Gros

Appellation : Saint Emilion Grand Cru

Area : 16.1 hectares (39.8 acres)

Soil type : slightly gravelly sand with a seam of iron-bearing clay in the sub-soil

Average age of the vines : 35 years

THE 2018 VINTAGE
IN THE VINES

Blend : 67% Merlot

30% Cabernet Franc , 3% Cabernet Sauvignon

Harvest : manual using perforated crates

Merlot : picked from 4th to 10th October

Cabernet Franc : picked on 11th and 12th October

Cabernet Sauvignon : picked on 12th October

THE 2018 VINTAGE
IN THE CELLAR

Winemaking : alcoholic fermentation at a low

temperature to preserve the freshness of the fruit

Barrel selection : the characteristics of each batch of wine

determine the origin, volume and toast of the barrels

Malolactic fermentation and ageing : 100% in new wood

Other data : pH - 3.60 /Alcohol content: 14.2% vol

Estimated yield and production : 22 hectolitres per

hectare, producing a total of 25,000 bottles

« A VINTAGE TO REMEMBER »

The 2018 vintage was impacted by difficult weather during the growth cycle and record rainfall. Having struggled continuously against fungal diseases up to July, the vines finally benefitted from favourable conditions that were ideal to produce top quality wines. Burning in the hot August sun was avoided by removing only easterly facing leaves. A proportion of green fruit was picked to ensure proper ventilation of the bunches, thereby reducing the risk of botrytis outbreaks. Ripening was truly remarkable with weather conditions that couldn't have been better with large variations between daytime and night temperatures and a perfect supply of water.

The new facilities installed by the Grégoire Family were ideally suited to get the very best out of the fantastic ripeness of our three grape varieties.

- ALSO IN 2018 -

Since 2015, there has been extensive work at Château Ripeau and 2018 was no exception. The delivery of the new vathouse was a major step forward in Ripeau's renewal and for the quality of the wines produced. With tank sizes perfectly adapted to the vineyard, it combines leading edge efficiency and precision. Incoming fruit is handled completely by gravity and distributed with mobile transfer tanks. The grapes are crushed directly above the vats in an inert atmosphere.

At the same time, restoration of the vineyard continued with the replanting of 3.4 hectares (8.4 acres) at a density of 9,625 vines per hectare. 60% of the nearly 33,000 new vines were Merlot and 40% were Cabernet Franc ; a large proportion came from massal selections.

The renovation of the Chateau is also progressing well. We are only a few months away from completion of all work.