



CHÂTEAU TOUR BAYARD

MONTAGNE SAINT-ÉMILION

Château Tour Bayard 2014

Montagne-Saint-Émilion

ESTATE

Château Tour Bayard is a recent addition to the Milhade portfolio, coming into the family through marriage. This 25 acre property in the St.-Émilion satellite Montagne-St.-Émilion has been run by the Richard family since 1956, and is now regarded as one of the top estates in the appellation.

WINE

Tour Bayard is relatively modern in style, with refined tannins, punchy fruit, and seductive aromas enhanced by malolactic fermentation in barrique.

VINEYARD

Soils: The soils here are a mix of clay and limestone marl, and the vineyard is planted in a beautifully situated natural amphitheater with an ideal southerly exposure. Merlot is the predominant variety, accounting for 85% of the wine, complemented by Cabernet Franc; the vines are about 40 years old on average. The Richard family works the soils organically, eschewing pesticides and other chemical treatments. The Malbec is generally bottled as a separate cuvée.

Grape Varieties: 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc

WINEMAKING

Fermentation: At harvest, the grapes are 100% destemmed and crushed before being placed in temperature controlled vats. Each parcel on the estate is vinified separately, and the wine is raised for 12 months in a combination of cement tanks (60%) and new and second fill barrels (20% each). The finished wine is supple and full-bodied, with excellent ripeness, and refined aromatics from the Cabernet Franc.

Aging: combination of cement vats and first and second use barriques for 12 months.

VINTAGE

2014 is a classically styled Bordeaux vintage, with ripe tannins and focused, pure fruit flavors. The early season was beset by unstable weather and the summer was unusually cool. However, a warm and dry September and October saved the vintage and allowed the crop to mature more or less evenly. The wines are firm but ripe, with round tannins, pure fruit, and healthy acidity. Tour Bayard was very successful in 2014, producing a wine of good concentration and persistence, with lovely aromatics and a robust, round palate.



TASTING NOTE

The wine offers flavors of cacao, black fruits, and spice, framed by significant structure and capped by a seductively long finish.