

CHÂTEAU TOUR BAYARD

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Château Tour Bayard 2018 Montagne St.-Émilion, France

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. Merlot is the predominant variety, accounting for 80% of the vignoble, complemented by Cabernet Franc and Malbec.

VINEYARD

Soils: Clay and limestone marl

Farming: The vineyard is planted in a beautifully situated natural amphitheater with an ideal southerly exposure; the vines are about 40 years old on average. The Richard family works the soils organically, eschewing pesticides and other chemical treatments.

WINEMAKING

Variety:

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: In a combination of cement vats and first and second use barriques for 12 months

Alcohol:

VINTAGE

2018 presented serious challenges for the vintner, with strong disease-pressure (mildew) in the Spring followed by drought conditions the rest of the year. Happily, the water-retentive clay and limestone marls of Montagne-Saint-Émilion helped the vines tolerate the drought, and harvest took place under ideal conditions in September. Yields were exceptionally low and the grapes were concentrated with thick skins, so extraction needed to be carefully judged. The 2018 Tour Bayard is dense, and full-bodied, with refined tannins, perfectly judged oak, and plenty of forward fruit – a real success, and possibly the best wine produced at the estate to date. As always, this wine represents exceptional value.

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

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"Deep garnet-purple in color, it charges out of the glass with ready-to-go notes of plum preserves, boysenberries and chocolate-covered cherries, plus touches of dried Provence herbs, pencil shavings and dusty soil. The full-bodied palate is rich, plush and seductive, delivering lovely freshness and a spicy kick on the finish." - L.B., 4/2021

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James Suckling

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