



L'IF

SOCIÉTÉ D'EXPLOITATION THIENPONT MONDOTTE,

Lieu-dit La Bouygue

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L'IF
SAINT-EMILION

L'IF 2016, JACQUES THIENPONT, OWNER, SAINT-EMILION

BACKGROUND :

In 2010 Jacques Thienpont bought a wine estate ideally situated on the plateau of Saint Emilion, facing the village and next to Château Troplong Mondot. With the help of Cyrille, the son of his cousin Nicolas Thienpont, the first job entailed a complete study of the different soils on the estate which led to important decisions being taken regarding the rootstocks, varieties, cover crops, trellising and canopy management of each individual parcel. Today, the estate is still a work in progress: four hectares of vines have been pulled out and will be replanted over the next few years. The precision shown in working each parcel differently both in the vineyard and in the winery is enabling us to make the most out of the varied and complex soils and subsequently bring out the best of the vineyard in the bottle.

VITICULTURE :

Appellation : Saint Emilion
Surface Area : 8ha, of which 4 ha are in production in 2016
Varieties Planted s: 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc
Density : 6000 feet/ha existing, replanting at 7500 feet/haa

Terroir : 16% on clay-limestone plateau: subsoil of rocky limestone with starfish fossils
28% on clay hillsides: subsoil rocky limestone with starfish fossils
18% on clay hillsides: subsoil soft Agen sandstone
36% on clay-limestone hillsides: subsoil Fronsac sand and clay

Average age of vines : 40 years

2016 VINTAGE

Following a wet and mild winter, the vines starting growing quickly from the beginning of April onwards with an early and even bud break. The temperature remained cool until the end of May while the vines developed slowly under rainy skies....

At the beginning of June, surprise, a lovely dry and sunny week perfectly timed to coincide with the flowering period since afterwards it rained without stopping between the 12th and the 18th of June.

The beginning of July marked the start of a beautiful dry, hot and sunny summer and we had to wait until the 5th of August to receive 5 mm of rain, which served to damp down the dust.

Summer drew to an end without any rain: incredible, unexpected and the opposite to the rainy spring weather.

We had a welcome surprise between the 14th and the 16th of September when we received 45 mm of rain; the vines immediately began to breathe again and the nights became cooler. The summer drought had delayed ripening but on the other hand, benefited from a long, slow growing season under perfect conditions. No rain fell again until the 14th October. As a result of the late maturing soils of L'IF, we finally harvested the Merlots and the Cabernet Francs under sunny skies on the 19th and 20th October. We were astonished by the energy, freshness and balance found in the grapes.

Blend : 100% Merlot
Harvest dates : Merlots picked on the 19th, 20th October 2016
Cabernet Francs picked on the 19th October 2016
Production : 6 000 bottles approx.
Yields : 40hL/ha
Statistics : 3.38 pH, 4.2 Total Acidity, 14.5% vol. alcohol

AGING

Length of aging : 12 to 16 months
Barrels : 50% new, 50 % used for one vintage

In the spring of 2017, the first tastings fulfilled the surprise and the promise in this astonishing vintage. The wines are rich, delicious with undeniable class and verve.