

PRESSE KIT



Château
BADETTE

SAINT-EMILION GRAND CRU

Famille Vandenbogaerde

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A PROMISING RETURN

“In 2008, I undertook my research in the region, and it was Badette that showed the best terroir. I love Saint-Emilion and its authenticity.”

So says **Marc-André Vandenberghe**, the Belgian owner of Château Badette, Saint-Emilion Grand Cru, which thanks to him is making a remarkable return to the forefront. Undoubtedly Badette suffered for a long time with its reputation in the shadows, but the vineyard is not a newcomer, and its coat of arms honours an enviable past.

In 1898, Edouard Féret wrote of Badette in these terms: “It has always been classed at the top of the second growths of Saint-Emilion. Exceptionally well maintained, it produces an average of 50 tonneaux of a delicate, soft, perfumed wine, perfectly preserved.” (In *Bordeaux and its wines classed by order of merit*, 7th French edition, published by Féret). Certainly, much wine has flowed through the barrels for more than a century since then, but with the care of the new owner, the comments made in the 19th century could perfectly well apply to the wine of today.



Famille Vandenberghe

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A MULTIPLE VINEYARD

The vineyard of Badette covers 9 hectares in a single block, at the edge of the communes of Saint Christophe and Saint-Emilion.

To this is added another parcel of one-and-a-half hectares, at the other side of the town, next door to Château Figeac. In total, the property shows differences of terroir and hydrology, confirmed by the digging of 25 sample holes to better understand the soils and sub-soils that make up the birthplace of the vine.

For all that, the expression of terroir here is not simple. The studies performed by the vineyard soil expert Xavier Choné have shown a variety of geological personalities. On the Figeac side, a thin soil, pebbly and sandy of alluvial origin; it is a hot and well-drained terroir allowing the roots to dig deep; it shows good winemaking potential, especially for the Cabernets.

Around Badette, three types of terroir are found, all at the foot of the hillside but different according to the level of slope. In the highest part, we find compact clay soils. Below, brown soils of the same type, more sandy, permeable, where the roots of the vine go down to a depth of more than two metres. Further down, close to the road, there are distinctly sandy-clay soils and appropriate rootstocks and vineyard management.

This diversity, which is also found in the grapes, has naturally led to the production of three different wines: Château Badette, Château Badette cuvée Bellerose and La Fleur de Badette.



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BADETTE

A WISE AND EXEMPLARY RESTORATION

“Start from zero and build, that’s what I like. If I wasn’t a wine lover, I would never have got into all that. Start with nothing and end up doing the best possible, that is my objective.”

Marc Vandenberghe has given himself the means to fulfil his ambitions; it is not too much to say that in four years the château has completely changed its face. Since 2012, considerable work has been undertaken: a new cellar and vat room built in place of demolished older buildings.

The stone house has been entirely renovated with noble materials, with respect for the original architecture dating from the end of the 19th century. Where once there was a neglected, almost abandoned property, the vines have been restructured, and several parcels drained. It is not finished: the planting of Cabernet Franc to replace some of the Merlot is being studied.

“Badette is surrounded by classed growths on all sides. I want the wine to express the terroir. With power, but also with elegance, finesse.” To reach this balance and the elegance he is looking for, Mr Vandenberghe used the right methods from the outset: grass-cover in the vineyard and leaf removal, the land worked in the traditional way without herbicides, hand picking into small crates, a sorting table, small tanks of 40 to 70 hectolitres, careful ageing with temperature control... Nothing is left to chance, and the hand of man is involved at each stage in the cycle. Part of the harvest is fully vinified in new barrels.



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THE WINES RETURN TO FORM

A sleeping princess, Badette has woken up more beautiful than ever. It now constitutes a real discovery for wine lovers.

Very quickly, as from the 2012 vintage, the new owner's efforts bore their fruit, and the quality of the wines has been recognised by tasters. The 2013 and 2014 vintages confirmed this trend, today accentuated by the excellent 2015 and 2016, which took advantage of the new installations.

On tasting, Château Badette has a black and brilliant colour, floral on the nose, flesh, fruit and lots of clarity, an appreciable length and a soft finish.

The wines of Château Badette are mostly distributed by Bordeaux merchants, as well as by some Belgian importers. Part of the crop is reserved en primeur; the 2015 vintage, particularly successful, was rated 92-94 by The Wine Advocate, and sold very well on the Bordeaux market place. The oenologist Jean-Philippe Fort, of the Rolland laboratory, has brought to Badette his expertise and his experience in the wines of the Libourne region.

Appellation: Saint-Emilion Grand Cru

Vineyard area: 10.5 ha

Soil type: Clay-limestone and compact limestone, sandy-clay, sandy-gravel

Grape varieties: 75% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot

Average age of the vines: 30 years

Planting density: 6500 - 7100 vines/ha

Harvest: By hand into small crates, sorting by densitometer and by hand

Vinification: Total vinification in 500L barrels and stainless-steel tanks filled by gravity

Ageing: 75% barrel and 25% in tank

Production: 50 000 bottles

Second wine: La Fleur de Badette





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A LONG AND UNUSUAL HISTORY

Château Badette is situated in the hamlet of Badette, in the commune of Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes and on the border of the commune of Saint-Emilion. The foundations of the church of Saint-Christophe, from the early Middle Ages, prove how ancient this village is. The vineyard here saw a strong expansion during the 18th century. This rise was partly the result of major investments made by noblemen, with the purchase of land as well as the planting of vineyards, and that from the end of the 17th century. Later, this new and lucrative economy was consolidated by improvements in viticultural techniques and in the wine trade.

In such a context, it is not therefore very surprising that Pierre de Belleyme (1747-1819), geographical engineer to King Louis XV, positioned the hamlet of Badette on the map of Guyenne; a map that he made between 1761 and 1774.

At this time, these lands were in the hands of the comtes de Carles: Amédée (1767-1849 ?) then Emilien (1814-1884). On the death of Emilien, his daughter Berthe (1836-1906) inherited Badette; she was the wife of Adolphe d'Allard (1828-1900), the former mayor of Saint-Emilion. On 21 January 1890, Marie d'Allard (the daughter of Adolphe and Berthe) brought part of the Badette estate as a dowry to her husband, Baron Henri du Foussat de Bogeron (1849-1921). In fact, Badette was divided into two distinct properties: Badette d'Allard (the current Château Badette) and Badette de Foussat (now Château Haut-Badette).

Since the end of the 18th century, constant investments made at Badette by the Carles, d'Allard and Foussat de Bogeron families had made this property one of the largest winemaking châteaux in the Saint-Emilion region. And the second half of the 19th century can be considered as the golden age of Badette. A golden age that corresponded, paradoxically, with the great phylloxera epidemic, which affected the entire French vineyard and obviously did not spare Saint-Emilion.

The golden age of Badette found its apogee when Edouard Féret on two occasions devoted several lines to the property in his publication *The Wines of Bordeaux*, a book classifying the wines of Bordeaux by region, by growth and by order of merit, which is the work of reference in the world of the vine. In 1893, Féret classed château Badette d'Allard (now Château Badette) as a second growth of Saint-Emilion and noted that it produced 30 tonneaux a year. ►

In 1898, Féret spent a bit longer on Badette d'Allard (now Château Badette), specifying that the property makes a wine that is always classed at the top of the second growths of Saint-Emilion. He describes the estate as *"exceptionally well maintained, and producing an average of 50 tonneaux of a delicate, soft, perfumed wine, perfectly preserved."*

Only five years separate the two descriptions, but in this short lapse of time production had almost doubled and the wine had become one of the best and one of the most well-liked in Bordeaux. It is therefore understandable that Badette developed rapidly, taking advantage for sure of the immense viticultural property of the Foussat de Bogeron family, made up of the current Châteaux Badette, Haut-Badette and Soutard. And the house, built on the land of Badette d'Allard, though it has been thoroughly reorganised since then, also attests to how much the second half of the 19th century was the great epoch for prosperity and expansion at Badette. In 1921, on the death of Baron Henri du Foussat de Bogeron, his son Gabriel (1894-1973) maintained the quality of the vines at Badette which, in the past, were part of Château Soutard. It was at this moment that the château took its current name: Château Badette.

With the Second World War, the numerous Foussat de Bogeron properties were dismantled. Château Badette was sold to the Galtiers, Jacques Galtier and Marie Julienne Baggio, who were already owners of Château du Mayne; an estate situated in Saint Quentin de Caplong, around ten kilometres from Château Badette. Changes of ownership were numerous and frequent then, which led to the accelerated decline of Badette. Thus, on 5 August 1949, Athénaïs Henriette Germaine Pelon – widow of Raymond Jean Hippolyte Galtier, the heir to the Galtiers – sold Château Badette to a couple called Arreaud-Dudrey.

Daniel Arreaud was a vineyard worker. With his wife, Marcelle Dudrey, Arreaud did everything to regain the former reputation of Badette. To do this, he came up with the current label of the property which is composed of an escutcheon representing two lions surrounding a crown, the whole surmounting the Latin phrase "In vino veritas" ("In wine there is truth"). In 1984, on the death of his father, William Arreaud – an apprentice mechanic – inherited Château Badette. On 20 July 1994, he changed the legal status of Château Badette to an SCEA (Société Civile d'Exploitation Agricole). The goal of this new status was to modernise the property, but through lack of time and before his death in 2002, William Arreaud donated the SCEA Château Badette to the commune of Saint-Emilion in 1998. This transaction between a private owner and a municipality is very rare in the world of wine; it gave shelter to William Arreaud, by then severely handicapped.

In 2002, the commune of Saint-Emilion entrusted the operation of the SCEA to Dominique Leymarie who, the same year, produced and vinified the first vintage of Badette under the ownership of the commune of Saint-Emilion. An experience that revealed the aspirations of the municipality which, ready to invest, naturally wished to give rebirth to the reputation of one of the oldest wine estates in the Saint-Emilion region.

A project resumed and set in motion, in 2012, by the new owner of Château Badette: Marc André Vandenberghe. In fact, this estate only required to get a new lease of life to once again express a centuries-old terroir with its established reputation.

