

XIX

AN "ATLANTIC" VINTAGE, AS MUCH IN THE SOUTH-WEST AS IN THE SOUTH-EAST OF FRANCE: MODERATE ALCOHOL, REFRESHING ACIDITY, VERY HARMONIOUS TANNINS. AN UNPRECEDENTED BALANCE, PARTICULARLY HIGHLIGHTING THE CHARACTERISTICS SHARED BY THESE TWO GREAT NATIONAL TERROIRS.

Appellation
Vin de France

Blend
49% Merlot
39% Cabernet Sauvignon
12% Syrah (from the Northern Rhone Valley)

Aging
22 months in French oak barrels,
half new

Bottling
July 24th, 2023

In the XIXth century, it was a common practice of the time to "hermitage" the wines. Bordeaux vintners would add to their wines a certain quantity of wine from the Rhône – notably from the region of Hermitage – whose syrah would strengthen the structure and power of the claret. A few bottles can still be found dating back to this period, whose labels note the name of the cru and the word hermitagé, all from vintages preceding the AOC regulations which finally ended this practice.

In the XXIst century, Château Palmer came up with the idea of bringing this forgotten tradition back to life. Years ago, during a visit to a renowned collector in California, Thomas Duroux, director of the estate, had the rare opportunity to taste a 1869 hermitagé. The emotions experienced that day, in the presence of a wine more than a century old, have been fully expressed in the renaissance of Palmer's own hermitagé, the Historical XIXth Century Wine. A definitively historic wine, whose name honours the past of the great wines of Bordeaux.

Yet today, the aim is no longer to simply boost a meagre claret so as to give it muscle. But rather to create a unique wine, based on a blend of emblematic parcels of Château Palmer to which is added, in a moderate proportion, a great Syrah wine from the northern slopes of the Rhone Valley - the origin of which is kept secret by Thomas Duroux.