

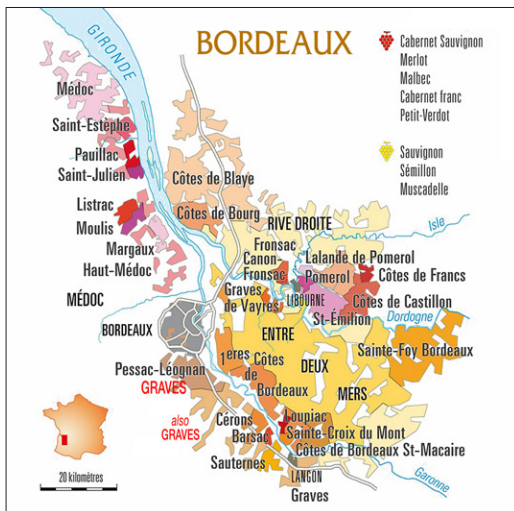


GRAND VIN DE BORDEAUX

Château du Maine

GRAVES

Named for its gravelly soils of clay and alluvial deposits, Graves has a reputation for producing red wines with a unique and pronounced character driven by equal measures of structure and fruit. White Graves have been long revered for their precision and breadth, often developing positively for decades in cellar. One fact we've all long agreed upon, pointed out by Thomas Jefferson who attested to the greatness of "*Ha Bryan*" over two centuries ago: Graves wines differ in dramatic ways from those produced anywhere else in Médoc.



Château du Maine owner Jean-Pierre Duprat is a skilled winemaker with an optimally located vineyard in Graves de Langon that turns out great wines even in the most difficult vintages. Duprat carefully selects his barrel lots to assemble his premier red wine, and estate vineyard soils are mainly gravel and coarse sand with a gravel-clay subsoil bringing excellent drainage. The deep roots here yield consistently high quality fruit and ensure Château du Maine is less affected by late-season or harvest rains than its neighbors.

Château du Maine's 30 acres of vines average 25 years of age: Merlot (55%), Cabernet Sauvignon (27%), Cabernet Franc (10%), and equal amounts of Petit-Verdot and Malbec.

The secret of Château du Maine's mellow nature and unusually long drinking window is an 18-month élevage in oak barrels of distributed age running from new (up to 30% of all wine in a vintage) to 2, 3, and 4 year-old barrels. This is a patient, costly and therefore rare stage for red Graves of comparable cost, but Duprat's thoughtful mix of aged oak is key to the estate's Grand Vin, a deliberate and painstaking process that gradually tames young rambunctious fruit into substantial yet generous dry red Graves with depth and no small fineness.

Bordeaux has something like five thousand different Châteaux all making wine – and inevitably you get the full gamut made, in terms of quality. There is a lot to avoid, but also some real gems too thankfully. One brilliant example is 2009 Château du Maine made by the charming Jean-Pierre Duprat. He is a skilled winemaker with a well situated vineyard in Les Graves de Langon which turns out great wines even in the most difficult vintages.

CHATEAU DU MAINE Graves in fifths and magnums

On the 2012: Deep in color, scented with rich berry fruit, full and persistent in the mouth with very fine tannins, Château du Maine consistently offers impressive length beyond its class. Brilliant-value Graves for early drinking, yet will improve in cellar over the next 5-7 years!

Thank you for your time and for your interest in Connoisseur Wines.