



GRAND VIN DE BORDEAUX

# Château du Maine

GRAVES

Named for its gravelly soils of clay and alluvial deposits, Graves has a reputation of producing red wines with pronounced character, structure, and fruit, and white wines of precision and breadth, both of which often develop positively for decades in cellar. One fact everyone can agree upon, including Thomas Jefferson who attested to the greatness of "Ha Bryan" and made this point over two centuries ago: Graves wines differ in dramatic ways from those produced just north in the Médoc.

Château du Maine owner Jean-Pierre Duprat carefully selects the wine lots with which to assemble his premier wine. Estate vineyard soils are composed mainly of gravel and coarse sand with a gravel-clay subsoil that offers excellent drainage. These deep roots consistently yield high quality fruit, and this estate is consequently less affected by late-season or harvest rains.

Duprat is a skilled winemaker with an optimally located vineyard in the Graves de Langon that turns out great wines even in the most difficult vintages. The 30-acre Château du Maine vineyard is planted to vines averaging 25 years of age consisting of Merlot (55%), Cabernet Sauvignon (27%), Cabernet Franc (10%), and equal amounts of Petit-Verdot and Malbec. The real secret of Château du Maine's mellow nature is a very 18-month élevage in barrels of distributed age running from new (up to 30%) to two, three, and four year-old barrels. This careful mix of aged oak is the key here, gradually taming the initially rambunctious fruit into a substantial dry red Bordeaux 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.*

## CHÂTEAU DU MAINE Graves

*2009: Deep in colour, scented with rich berry fruit, full and persistent in the mouth with very fine tannins, this has remarkable length too. Brilliant value Graves for easy drinking.*

*Thank you for your time and for your interest in Connoisseur wines.*