



Château LA BRANDE

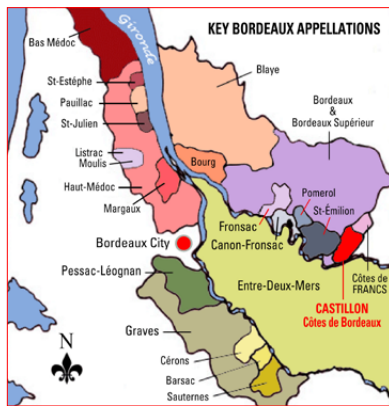
CASTILLON

CÔTES DE BORDEAUX



Jean-Guy and Anne-Marie Todeschini, owners of St-Émilion Grand Cru **Château Mangot**, produce **Château La Brande** from the 25-hectare vineyard that surrounds their home. With soils of clay and limestone, the vineyard is planted to Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Cabernet Franc. Castillon soils highest in clay are ideally suited to Merlot, and the results are soft, supple, palate-flattering wines that make only feeble demands on the cellar; more gravelly sites prefer Cabernet suitors that bring structure to blends along with the higher tannin levels that require commensurate cellage.

The Todeschinis are attentive vinegrowers who exactly match traditional Bordeaux varieties to the specificities of their soils, carefully and annually anticipating an eventual Château La Brande cuvée considerably more auspicious on the palate than the label appellation might suggest.



It is not uncommon for St-Émilion producers to also bottle Cotes de Bordeaux wines from Castillon at Bordeaux' eastern edge. Including Castillon, Cadillac, Blaye, and Francs, the Cotes de Bordeaux appellation was created in 2009 to bring together a number of cotes of Bordeaux under a single banner to improve marketability and simplify the overall Bordelais appellation structure. Individually, these appellations were struggling to combat the increasing popularity of Bordeaux-style wines from emerging wine regions, particularly those of the New World.

All Castillon-Cotes de Bordeaux wines are red and predominantly composed of Merlot with Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc; Malbec, Petit Verdot, and

even Carménère are permitted, but appear in relatively small measure. Merlot is the main thing here, creating fine calibre red wines with pronounced Bordeaux character with early approachability.

CHÂTEAU LA BRANDE *Castillon-Côtes de Bordeaux*

Vinified in cuves of stainless steel and concrete for 18-21 months, Château La Brande is predominantly Merlot (85%), with smaller amounts of Cabernets Franc (10%) and Sauvignon (5%) contributing to the structure, fruit complexity, and depth. The estate shrewdly invokes barrique aging only insofar as oak can subtly enhance the wine without compromising natural integrity, here considered the intersection of fruit and terroir under the mantle of a single unique vintage.

deeply-colored; soft and warm with a rich and generous nose; supple palate with touches of red fruit; fine structure and balance; wonderful, Castillon-Côtes de Bordeaux punching above its weight

2013: "This is a balanced wine that is quite ready to drink now. It has black fruits, soft tannins and a deliciously juicy character. It's full bodied, but has a lively, fresh acidity on the finish." – Wine Enthusiast

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