

# CHÂTEAU BONALGUE / Pomerol

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## *A meeting of times past and times present*

Bonalgue is the result of generations of work.  
Bearing testament to this  
is the captain of Napoleon's army  
who housed the arms of his regiment here,  
or the little girl who lived here before World War I  
and who wrote the moving words:  
"I leave to you all my memories of dear Bonalgue,  
witness to the happiest days of my life.  
There is here,  
under the shade of the Lebanon cedar trees,  
a magic that resonates through the people,  
and the wines."

## *Land of freedom, legendary terroir*

Ever since the French Revolution,  
the "Stones of Bonalgue" have given  
- on this beautiful Pomerol terroir -  
a striking maturity to the grapes that grow here.  
The techniques may have changed  
but the spirit stays the same ...  
and since 1926, the Bourotte family  
has enjoyed the freedom to work on this land  
unencumbered, paying tribute to the past,  
and to the rewards of a job well done.

## *Personality and charm*

It's the maturity of the grapes at harvest  
that is the key to Bonalgue's great charm.  
Its personality: an early terroir, fully ripe grapes,  
the silky, velvety Merlot, and a strikingly aromatic nose.  
Harvesters, cellar workers,  
vineyard managers and owners;  
we are all attempting, year after year,  
to fully respect these much loved attributes of our wine.

## CHÂTEAU



### FROM NAPOLEON'S ARMY TO POMEROL

During the French Revolution, the first reference to vines in the "Graves de Bonalgue" area appeared in local archives. A veteran from Napoleon's Grand Army, Captain Rabion, inherited the land and built a handsome residence. The building housed his regimental arms, and the garden was filled with magnificent Lebanese Cedar trees; Chateau Bonalgue was born.

### THE RENAISSANCE

The Bourotte family bought the property in 1926. At the time, the Pomerol appellation was in a period of expansion, and the vineyard area was being fully restructured; that would prove a source of stability for the decades that followed. Since then, each family member that has run Bonalgue has been lucky enough to do so with complete freedom and independence.

### OVER THE YEARS

Pierre Bourotte in 1961, then his son Jean-Baptiste in 2005: two mythic vintages have marked the turning of the generations.

The vineyard today is in excellent condition, and the property continues to improve its methods. Recently the creation of a new vatting room and a second barrel cellar allows us to refine our technique to pay tribute to the exceptional terroir of Bonalgue.

## VINEYARD



### THE MAGIC OF MERLOT

There is no doubt that Merlot reaches its finest expression in Pomerol, where its velvety tannins and rich aromas reach their peak. Bonalgue proves this once again: the vineyard is planted to 90% Merlot, with Cabernet Franc completing the other 10%.

### A FEW HECTARES OF PARADISE

9.41 hectares of gravel and sandy-clay soils, with a subsoil of gravels and alios – the rich band of iron-ore that so distinguishes the Pomerol terroir. These qualities make this a heat-retaining soil that means grapes ripen early and evenly, reaching perfect maturity.

### PRECISION IS KEY

The precise and meticulous attention to detail in the vineyard means they produce quality grapes year after year. Pruning, leaf thinning, debudding, green harvesting... each process is carefully thought-out, right up to the picking of grapes into small-sized trays to ensure against crushing or damage. The final stage before heading to the winery is a hand-sorting in the vines, that takes place bunch by bunch, then berry by berry, ensuring nothing gets missed.

## WINERY



### REMAINING FAITHFUL TO THE VINE

How to reveal the best the grape, its freshness and power, its aromatic potential and tannic structure? No rules at this stage, no received ideas; just listening to what the grapes are telling us according to variety, plot, vintage, conditions. Our work is to question at every stage how to ensure the full personality of the harvest is brought to the fore

### THE HEART OF THINGS...

The fermentation temperature, the length of maceration, the rhythm of pumping over to extract as gently as possible the colour and the fruit aromas... we are always looking for the exact balance of all these elements. The key to Bonalgue wines is here – ensuring the perfect combination of structure, silkiness and aromatic exuberance.

### A LONG SLEEP

At every step, the elements used in the creation of this wine come from natural, noble products: here the 100-year-old oak trees from forests in the centre of France provide the barrels that offer the perfect home for malolactic fermentations. For 18 months, they complete the richness of our wines, and help their ability to age.

## WINE



"This over-achieving estate is one of the most consistent performers in Pomerol. Always a well-made, fleshy, succulent, hedonistic wine" *Robert Parker*

"A trustworthy buy" *La Revue du Vin de France*

"Very, very fine tannins" *Jancis Robinson*

"Everything about this wine is impressive" *Vinum*

"An imposing Pomerol" *Gault et Millau*

"The perfect archetype of Pomerol" *Terre de Vins*

The generosity of Merlot on this early-ripening terroir brings an exuberant expression to the wine; ripe grapes bring a silky, velvety texture in the mouth, and a strikingly aromatic nose.

Bonalgue is open and engaging when young (2-6 years); it doesn't close down, but after a few years of ageing (7-15 years) reveals it's more sophisticated side without ever losing its voluptuous nature.



## DATA

**CHÂTEAU BONALGUE****Appellation:** Pomerol**Owner:** The Bourotte family**Director:** Jean-Baptiste Bourotte**Technical Director:** Cécile Dupuis**Consultant Winemaker:** Michel Rolland - Christian Veyry**Location:** Just northeast of Libourne**Surface area:** 9.55 hectares**Soils:** Gravels over sandy-clay soils**Grape varieties:** 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc**Vine density:** 6,000 - 8,000 vines per hectare, depending on individual plots**Average age of vines:** 25 years**Pruning:** Guyot double and guyot simple**Soil management:** Traditional by machine, plus removal of grass cover without chemicals**Green works:** Manual deleafing, leaf-trimming depending on timing of veraison**Harvesting:** By hand into small crates: sorting before and after destemming on vibrating tables**Vats:** Thermoregulated stainless steel and cement**Vinification:** Plot by plot; manual pumping over, maceration for around one month, pneumatic press, malolactic fermentation in barrel**Ageing:** 18 months in fine-grained French oak barrels (50% new, 50% one wine), 1-2 rackings depending on tasting**Annual production:** 30,000 bottles**Drink:** At 16-18 °C, best from around 3-4 years to 15 years old or more**Food matches:** For dishes from "la grande cuisine": goose or duck liver, truffles, lamb and beef, country chicken, giblets, game and cheese, blue cheese and camembert

FAMILY WINES: Pomerol: Clos du Clocher, Château Bonalgue, Château Monregard La Croix, Château Beausejour de Bonalgue, Château Burgrave  
 Lalande de Pomerol: Château Les Hauts-Conseillants, Château Les Hautes-Tuilleries  
 Lussac-Saint-Émilion: Château du Courlat 'Classic', Château du Courlat 'Cuvée Jean-Baptiste', Château Les Echevins  
 Bordeaux Rosé: Le Rosé du Courlat