

CHATEAU LA GAFFELIERE

SAINT EMILION



Before the modern era for Chateau La Gaffeliere took hold, from all the ruins left behind by the ancient Romans, it is clear they were planted vines here thousands of years ago. Chateau La Gaffeliere has the unique distinction of being one of the oldest, family owned vineyards in the St. Emilion appellation of Bordeaux. The family can trace their roots in the Right Bank all the way back to the 1400's!

The fifteenth century Bordeaux chateau of La Gaffeliere might not have always been a winery. In fact, the chateau could of been used for a completely different purpose. It is possible that the chateau might have been a gaffeliere. A gaffeliere is translated from ancient French to a leper colony.

While parts of the estate date back to the 11th century, the beginnings of La Gaffeliere start with arrival of the Comte de Malet-Roquefort in the 17th century. They are responsible for the unique, Gothic styled chateau, that is easily visible from the main road leading to the Saint Emilion village. By the 18th century, Chateau La Gaffeliere had earned a reputation for producing high quality, St. Emilion wine. At some point in time, the vineyard was split with some of the land shifting to what became Canon La Gaffeliere, located just down the road.

The 18 hectare Saint Emilion vineyard of Chateau La Gaffeliere is planted to 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. The vineyard has a terroir of clay, limestone, chalk and sandy soils. Underneath that, you find more clay and limestone on the hillsides. In the flats, you have more sand in the vineyard. You can easily divide the vineyard of La Gaffeliere into 3 main sections. The best terroir is the 7 hectares of vines close to Chateau Ausone and not far from Chateau Belair-Monange.

There is a smaller parcel on flatter land next to Moulin Saint Georges. They have one more parcel, which is their largest holding. It is located across the road from Chateau Pavie at the bottom of the slopes, where you find more gravel, rocks and sand.

"The 2015 La Gaffelière is a brilliant wine. Soaring, intense aromatics make a strong first impression. Precise and beautifully sculpted throughout, the 2015 bristles with energy. The flavors show good brightness, while the tannins are exceptionally polished. Freshly cut flowers, mint, espresso, sweet red plums and anise grace the palate in an utterly exquisite wine built on finesse, precision and nuance. The 2015 La Gaffelière is an exceptional wine by any measure. The 70% Merlot/30% Cabernet Franc works very well. Stéphane Derenoncourt and Simon Blanchard are the consulting winmakers. Tasted two times"

94-97pts Antonio Galloni, Vinous, April 2016



"The more you know about wine, the more you'll want to know about us."

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