

CHÂTEAU HAUT-BAGES LIBÉRAL

PAUILLAC

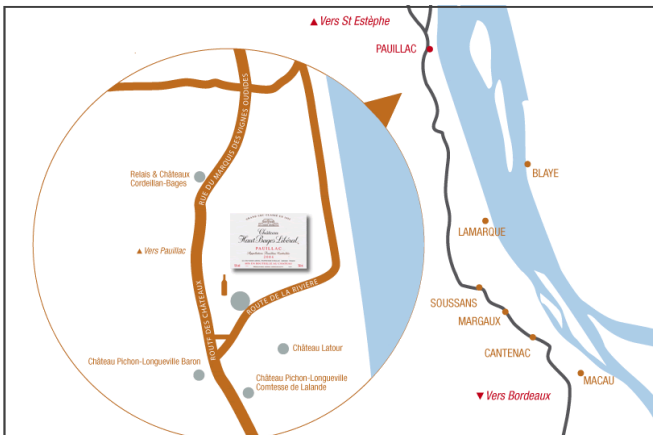


The name of Château Haut-Bages Libéral has two roots. The LIBERAL family ran the property in the early eighteenth century. Brokers from father to son, they sold the harvest in the Netherlands and Belgium. Their name adjoining to the topographical designation, earned them to be invited worldwide to the table of political parties of the same name. Over time, these connoisseurs gathered the best soils of Pauillac. Thus, this 5th Classified Growth in 1855 now has half of its vineyards adjacent to Château Latour and the other half behind Château Pichon Baron, on the heights of the locality "Bages", a large plateau in the south of Pauillac.

The property would regain his youth when, in 1960, the Cruse family, owner of Château Pontet Canet, another 5th Classified Growth in Pauillac, acquired the property. The Cruse would launch an extensive program of replanting the vineyard. However, it was in 1983 at the arrival of the Villars family that Château Haut-Bages Libéral really recovered its former glory.

Today, the property is run by Claire VILLARS LURTON. She undertook an overhaul of the tool of winemaking and she directs the vineyard management to a sustainable viticulture. In 1992, Claire Villars was a doctorate student in physics and chemistry in Paris. The death of her parents in an accident interrupted her student's life. She returned to Bordeaux where she became immersed in the wine world by taking over the management of some family estates.

While juggling with the management of the estates, she studied viticulture and oenology at the Faculty of Oenology in Bordeaux. So at the age of 25, she took over the management of Châteaux FERRIERE, Haut-Bages Libéral and La Gurgue.



In 1993, she met Gonzague Lurton, the owner of Château DURFORT VIVENS (2nd grand cru classé of Margaux) and married him in 1994. Between 2000 and 2001, she undertook a major rebuilding of Château Haut-Bages Libéral. At the end of 2006, with her husband she bought a small estate in Saint-Estèphe, endowed with a very beautiful soil: Château DOMEYNE. In this new quality approach, Claire has been determined to pursue the challenge of reviving the prestige of her estates and making out their identities through the restoration of their terroirs.



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