

SAINTEM

SAINT EMILION GRAND CRU



Saintem is one of several Right Bank properties under the supervision of Durantou. It is a 'single parcel' estate, planted almost exclusively to Merlot in the commune of Saint-Étienne-de-Lisse. Here, on the eastern flank of Saint-Émilion's limestone plateau, the soils are cooler, interwoven with clay and loosely covered by gravels. It's a tricky spot for the later-ripening Cabernet varieties, so Denis went against the trend and stuck with Merlot. Hardly a novice with the variety, Denis is better known for his acclaimed Pomerol estate, Château L'Eglise Clinet (a bottle of its 2015 will cost you about \$300), which he has managed since the early 1980s. And with another two Merlot-dominant estates in the Lalande-de-Pomerol appellation, Durantou has quietly become one of the winemaking kings of the Right Bank.



Denis' meticulous, almost soldierly team from L'Eglise Clinet is the same one that crafts Saintem. Crop-thinning and leaf-stripping are done in August and September. Grapes are de-stemmed and gently crushed, fermented in small, temperature controlled stainless steel vats where the wines go through malolactic fermentation. The oak treatment is less aggressive at Saintem, about 30% new oak for a 14-month élevage. This is a disciplined, classic Bordeaux, grounded in expertise, low yields, and old vines without the extra gloss of late picking, over extraction, and/or intrusive oak. Regardless of the grape, this is an exceptional single parcel estate, blessed with a warm vintage in 2015 and, in this moment, one of Bordeaux's screaming values!

2015 Vintage: A juicy and delicious red with red tile, plums and cherries. Full body, round tannins and a long and juicy finish. Absurdly good for the price. Love it. Drink now or hold. Better in 2020.

93 Points James Suckling



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

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