



CHÂTEAU LES LANDES DE CACH AOC PAUILLAC



New
2011 Vintage : Gold Medal at the Concours Général Agricole de Paris 2013



A rare gem among Pauillac's Grands Crus



Small, family-run estates are few and far between in the Pauillac appellation. In recent years this illustrious appellation has been almost entirely taken over by Grands Crus Classés, with big names such as Mouton Rothschild, Lafite Rothschild (1^{er} Cru Classé) and Baron de Pichon-Longueville (2^{ème} Cru Classé). Many smaller Châteaux have given up the ghost, preferring to sell their land to the big estates at eye-watering prices. The result is that the precious wines of this emblematic Médoc appellation are now only accessible to an elite clientele.

In such a context, the story of Château Les Landes de Cach is all the more remarkable: Pauillac's answer to David and Goliath. **Owner Henri Musso is a true force of nature, and not somebody easily impressed by the imposing reputations of his neighbours.** And so what if his Château is within view of Larose-Trintaudon (Haut-Médoc/ Cru Bourgeois); if some of his vines run alongside plots belonging to Baron de Pichon-Longueville (2^{ème} Cru Classé) and Batailley (5^{ème} Cru Classé). This proximity is actually a major advantage, since there is little difference in the quality of the gravel soils on either side of the fence.

Starting from scratch in 1979, year by year, Henri Musso has renovated and developed this old winemaker's house. **He has passed on his love for the land and his passion for the terroir to his four daughters, all of whom have made their careers in agriculture (winemaking, and rearing Pauillac lamb).** He is rightly proud of his family's close connection to the land, making them a profoundly authentic presence amid the ostentatious luxury of Pauillac appellation.

The estate now covers some 2 hectares, producing **an excellent wine which reflects the elegance and character of its superb gravel terroir.** Following the example set by the Château's prestigious neighbours, the wines are **matured for 12 months in new barrels** (of which 50% French oak).

A rare find indeed: a Pauillac at a reasonable price ...

"An intense red robe and a nose packed with ripe dark fruit, with delicate empyreumatic notes provided by the carefully-selected oak barrels. Supple and well-balanced on the palate, with tannins which are firm but not overbearing. Enjoyably long finish. **A worthy rival for its prestigious Pauillac neighbours.**"

Thomas Drouineau, œnologist at Maisons Kressmann/ Delor



Owner: Henri Musso

Location: Saint-Laurent-du-Médoc, Lieu-dit Les Landes.

Planted surface area: 2 hectares

Terroir: Gravel over a subsoil of clay; dark sand and gravel on a subsoil of gravel.

Grape varieties: 50% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Sauvignon

Plantation density: average 6900 vines/ha

Vine management: mechanical leaf thinning, partial manual harvesting.

Vinification: stainless steel vats with internal temperature control systems. 2nd winery with cement vats.

Maturing: 12 months in new barrels (50% French oak)



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