

Chateau Trapaud - St-Emilion Grand Cru

- Your every-day Valandraud
- Historic estate enjoys a renaissance under female winemaker
- Reflects its idyllic vineyard -- all contiguous plots, organically farmed, on the St. Emilion Côte

The Producer

St. Emilion has, over the last 25 years, become the focal point of excitement in Bordeaux. The famed Garagistes such as Valandraud, Le Dome and La Mondotte have pushed small plots of terroir to new heights in the region. Many Chateaux are smaller and far less grandiose compared to their Medoc counterparts. There is a feeling that the wines are made more by farmers than corporate conglomerates. The wines themselves are driven by bold fruit and are ready to drink sooner and are more easily approachable to New World palates. Ch. Trapaud is a small family run estate making wines from exceptional terroir in a traditional manner at an outstanding value.

Ch. Trapaud is located on the famed Côte of St. Emilion, not far from the legendary Chateau Pavie, Ausone and newer stars Valandraud and Pavie Macquin. The Côte is known for its gentle slope and clay/limestone soils. The rare hillside vineyards offer great drainage and exposure not found anywhere else in Bordeaux. Trapaud's 15 hectares are contiguous – a relatively rare and advantageous vineyard configuration - and are planted to predominantly Merlot with Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon adding to the blend. They are farmed organically (unusual for Bordeaux) by fourth generation proprietress, Beatrice Larribiere.

In 1927, Georges Larribiere acquired Chateau Trapaud property which included 4 hectares of vineyards, acres of pastures and livestock. Georges passed the property to his son Gaston, who continued to expand the area of operation up to 10 hectares of vines. Late 60s, Gaston in turn handed it down to his son Andrew. Andrew added 4 more hectares until his daughter, Beatrice, current proprietor took over in 1997.

Beatrice's training began in childhood working on the family estate. She also did stints at wineries Australia and California, which expanded her horizons and world view. Upon returning, she sensed generational differences, changing tastes and consumption, and she had a desire to make changes reflecting the market she perceived. Beatrice modernized the winery and began converting the vineyard to organic farming. She claims she does not follow the local trend of riper wines to appeal to Robert Parker but she makes the wine she feels the land wants to give.

The Wine

The Larribiere family have been stewards of this 15th Century estate for 4 generations. The vineyard is planted to 45-50 year old vines on average with the oldest planted in 1900. Total is 15 hectares composed of 70 merlot, 20 cab franc, 10 cabernet sauvignon all surrounding the estate on clay-limestone soils. In the hands of Beatrice Larribiere, 4th generation of the family. She took over in 1995. Since 2009 they have converted to organics. They do a 10-15 day fermentation. 70 hectolitres is free run juice, 10 hl is from press. Minimum usage of micro-oxygenation, malolactic occurs in concrete, 12 months in barrel. This wine won a Gold Medal at the prestigious Concours Agricole of Paris in 2011.



Region: Bordeaux

Appellation: St-Emilion Grand Cru

Vineyards: Trapaud

Farming: Organic

Soil: Clay-Limestone, with sand on top

Varietals: Merlot (70-80%) Cabernet Franc (20%), Cabernet Sauvignon (10%)

Vine age: 45-50 year average, with oldest planted in 1900

Planting system: Cordon Royat

Vine density: 38 hl/ha

Production: 7000 cases

Vinification: Cultured yeasts, maceration, cold soak, 2 week ferment in concrete

Aging: 12 months in French oak, 50% new

Tasting Notes: bold black and red fruit with bay leaf and chocolate, medium plus bodies with soft tannins and a long stony finish.