

JUST ADD WINE

ABOUT LOÏC PASQUET - LIBER PATER GRAND VIN DE GRAVES

HE HAD A DREAM!

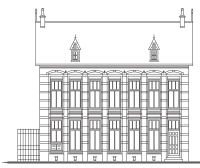
Loïc fall in love with wine when he was very young. Since that time, it was always his dream to own his own vineyard and to produce his own wine. Before he devoted his life to wine, he was an automotive engineer for Peugeot. At the same time, he spent all his free time looking for a small vineyard with fine terroir. It was five years of extensive research and visits before he finally found what would become the Liber Pater vineyard. When this opportunity arose, he bought the vineyard and almost immediately gave up his "day job" as an engineer. That was in 2006. He has since devoted all his time, money, and effort to this seemingly mystical viticultural endeavor.

BEFORE PHYLLOXERA

The vineyards currently in production include Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot vines that are at least 40 years old. His Semillon vines are over 80 years old. He uses these to produce a dry white and/or a sweet white wine depending on specific vintage conditions. He is in the process of planting some very old Bordeaux grape varieties in his vineyards. These include Castets, Mancin, and Pardotte, hardly (green) household words! Yet these varieties all existed in Bordeaux vineyards before they were devastated by the phylloxera vine louse in the last decades of the 19th century. Today, his is the only vineyard in Bordeaux - or anywhere - in which these varieties are being cultivated. Additionally, he is planting them at an extremely high density of 20.000 vines per hectare (almost 8.100 vines per acre). That is twice the plantation density of that found in the first growths of the Médoc. To prevent attacks of phylloxera, he built three small lakes to flood its soil if necessary, because this insect can not withstand water.

SPANISH MULE

Since purchasing what would become Liber Pater, he has worked very hard to improve all aspects of the vineyard. His new, high-density plantings have caused him to purchase a Spanish mule for all the mechanical tilling of the soils. It alone is narrow enough to pull a plow between the rows! A typical plow horse or ox is simply too wide! He uses no chemical fertilizers in his vineyard. Vineyard tasks such as pruning, leaf thinning, green harvesting, etc. are all done exclusively by hand. As a result of his efforts, all Liber Pater wines are certified organic by Ecocert.



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His annual production is Lilliputian. In most vintages, he produce only about 1500 bottles of red wine and 300 to 600 bottles of dry and/or sweet white wine. His philosophy, his goal is really quite simple and clear: He wants to produce the perfect wine, not just a really good wine. He wants it to be one of the most rare and luxurious wines in the world, understandably exclusive, if not elitist. This is why he chooses not to sell any of his 2008 vintage wine under the Liber Pater label. He did not feel that the wines were up to the quality standard that he has set for Liber Pater. To fund these important investments and all these choices Loïc sells his wine expensive! He doesn't sell his wines through the regular channels and refuses to do business in the trade in Bordeaux. He likes to travel the world to find individual clients passionate about his wines and the originality of his approach. The look-a-like point of view he chose a beautiful bottle shape biblos. The label is different from all other wines. It completely surrounds the bottle.

GÉRARD PUVIS

He has commissioned the famous French artist, Gérard Puvis to design the Liber Pater label. Each year Gérard creates a new and different label whose mission it is to be both esthetically appealing and to tell the story of the vintage. For example, the 2006 label celebrates the "Liberalia Festival"; for the 2007 vintage, the label's theme is "The Leaves"; while the label for the 2009 relates the trials and tribulations of the spring hailstorms.

CAP GUALA

Finally - and this is what concerns most consumers - Loïc also questioned the use of the cork. For him, this material porosity varies from one year to another no longer reflects the current quality requirements. He chose the cap Guala, invented by the automotive industry by a subconstructor of Ferrari. It looks like a suppository, but provides the same slow oxygenation of each bottle. We discovered Liber Pater with the vintage 2007 last year in June in Bordeaux during Vinexpo on one of the outside organized Offs. The adventure of Liber Pater is just beginning. It has the merit to question deeply the world of wine in Bordeaux. Currently his wines are distributed to collectors in Hong Kong, mainland China, Russia, Dubai and now also Exclusive for Europe by Just Add Wine Natural Wines Netherlands.

Needless to say, we wish we had unlimited stock for this wines but unfortunately this isn't the case so do give us a call should you wish to reserve the Liber Pater wines.