



CHÂTEAU DE MERCUÈS, ICÔNE, 2020

The quintessence of French Malbec

Château de Mercuès was the summer residence of the Bishops and Counts of Cahors since the middle ages, and in 1959 became one of the very first Relais & Châteaux in France. The vineyard is located on the third terraces of the Lot valley, between Caillac and Mercuès, and is planted on an ancient alluvial soil from the Mindel era. This cuvée is made from grapes hand-selected on the vine from Château de Mercuès' high-density vineyards (6666 vines per hectare) offers a great Malbec with velvety nuances. The bunches are picked by hand and go through a meticulous vinification process to create an exceptional cuvee characterized by fine and velvety tannins.

VARIETAL: 100% Malbec**COLOR:** Red**REGION:** Occitanie**APPELLATION:** AOP Cahors**AGING POTENTIAL:** 20 years**FORMAT:** 75 cl**ALCOHOL:** 15 %**VINTAGE:** 2020*VINTAGE 2020*

The year 2020 was a "solar" year and this great vintage will be recognized in the future for the remarkable quality of its wines.

The year started with a mild and humid winter, allowing a good replenishment of the water tables. The spring was hot, dry and without frost which led to very early growth in the vineyard. The following summer was particularly dry, with no signs of rain until the return of the summer storms on August 15th, which enabled the grapes to finish ripening and avoid too much hydric stress. These positive conditions meant that the vines needed far less treatment than normal.

VINIFICATION & MATURATION

Fermentation in steel vats.

Aged for 18 months in 225 litres barrels (50% of which are new wood) for 80% of the volume.

Since 2018, 20% is aged in small 7 hl amphorae.

Aged for another 30 months in bottle before release.

TASTING NOTES

"This wine captivates with its seductive deep violet hue and presents a complex bouquet, with delicate notes of liquorice, black fruit and rosemary. The powerful, velvety tannins are a foretaste of a finish that is both refreshing and pleasantly crisp."

