

Château le Tertre Roteboeuf and the stunning 2018 wines from François Mitjavile

We visit François Mitjavile at Tertre Roteboeuf as often as we can throughout the year and each time he greets us with ever more little nuggets of wisdom about philosophy, art and wine. When we went in June last year, in what turned out to be the first week of sun after the appalling spring, we were treated to a masterclass on vineyards, aspect and soil from the vantage point of the Château's garden which overlooks the sweeping vineyards of St Laurent des Combes and it brought so much to life. In April this year, we tasted with Nina Mitjavile, François's daughter – every bit as rapier sharp as her father, her heart is in the Côtes de Bourg at Roc de Cambes so you get a brilliantly different perspective from her father's.

Roc and Domaine de Cambes lost nearly half of their juvenile fruit to a hailstorm on 26th May but with the warm weather which followed, the vines recovered well enough to bring the remaining crop to full ripeness. Harvest began at Domaine de Cambes on 5th October; at Tertre Roteboeuf (which miraculously escaped any major damage from the spring mildew and later hail) they started on 7th October, with Roc de Cambes coming in a full week later. Normally there would be a two week plus gap between the Merlots and Cabernets, but in 2018 there was just one week, such was the level of ripeness of the Cabernets.

The Mitjavile wines are unique, a totally different expression of St Emilion and Bourg to any other, and with low production and extremely high demand, a rapid response is strongly recommended for all three wines.

Nicola Arcedeckne-Butler MW
May 2019

£ per case
in bond

Domaine de Cambes, Bordeaux	2018	6 bottles	£185
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75% Merlot, 5% Malbec, 20% Cabernet Franc

Dense red black with a deliciously attractive nose of spiced new wood, black cherries, deep dark fruit, really alluring, toasty and rich with a hint of brioche too, so charismatic. Super sweet on the palate, rich and intense on entry, really stunning with lovely balance, and supple, ripe tannins, scarcely visible, layered behind the fruit. A superb wine which will appeal early but live long. Drink 2024 - 2035

Roc de Cambes, Côtes de Bourg	2018	6 bottles	£260
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80% Merlot, 5% Malbec, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon

Deep opaque red black with a nose of really toasty, smoky black fruit, deliciously alluring with notes of black cherry, plums and damson too. Ultra-ripe on the palate, rich and sweet, with fat black fruit and a hint of mocha and spice, some dark chocolate too yet very fresh and poised, a real juxtaposition with its racy fruit and rich intensity. Tannins are substantial and ripe but totally masked by the fruit, and the really long finish has fabulous power and intensity. My unexpurgated note had a record three 'yums' scattered throughout. So alluring, it probably won't be kept for long, but it would benefit from at least ten years in bottle. Drink 2027 - 2038+

Château le Tertre Roteboeuf, Grand Cru St Emilion	2018	6 bottles	£790
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80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

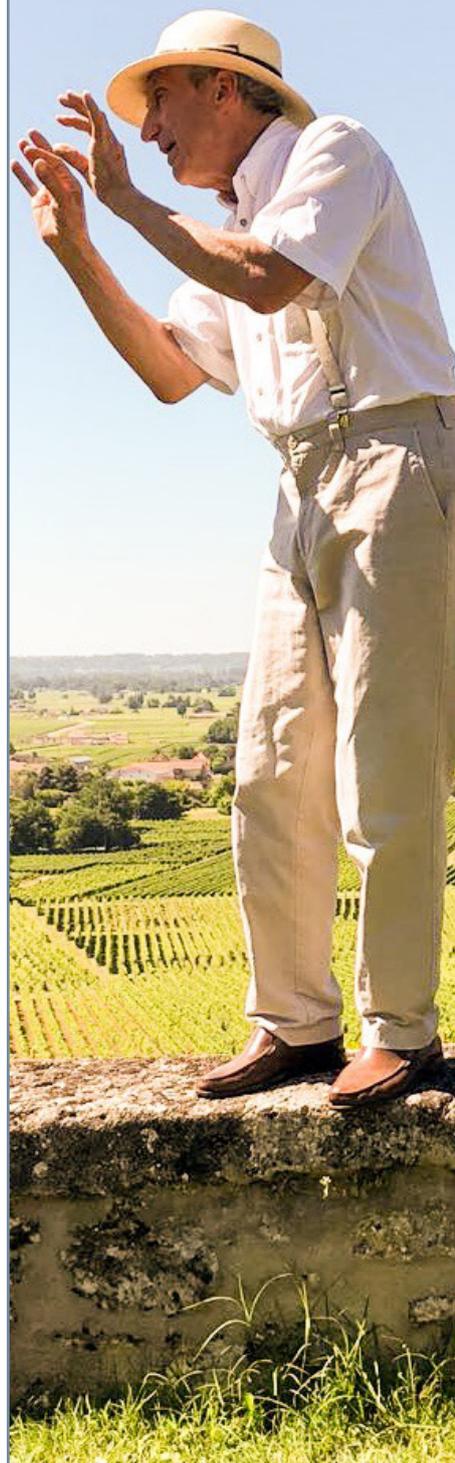
Deep opaque black red with a nose of intense black fruit, grilled and rich, some mocha notes, very ripe and savoury, leading to a super-sweet palate with big juicy fruit, strong new wood notes behind, toasty and grilled, and tannins so ripe you have to remember to look for them, going to a spiced, rich, juicy, creamed, super-ripe finish which goes on and on. This is just superb, finding the right words to describe this corner of paradise was really rather challenging! Drink 2028 - 2044+

We tasted these wines on Monday 1st April 2019 at Château le Tertre Roteboeuf

These wines will be shipped in the spring of 2021

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