

Château de Pitray,

**`Les Prairies` Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux 2021**

Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France

PITRAY



Grape Varieties    **75% Merlot**  
                              **23% Cabernet Franc**  
                              **2% Malbec**

Winemaker	<b>Jean de Boigne</b>
Closure	<b>Natural Cork</b>
ABV	<b>13.5%</b>
Residual Sugar	<b>0.7g/L</b>
Acidity	<b>3.65g/L</b>
Wine pH	<b>3.56</b>
Bottle Sizes	<b>75cl</b>
Notes	<b>Vegetarian, Vegan</b>

## PRODUCER

Château de Pitray has belonged to the Simard de Pitray family for over 600 years, making it the oldest family-owned property in Bordeaux. Although classified as Côtes de Castillon, the Château is located just 8km east of Saint-Emilion and shares the same clay-limestone plateau. Jean is the 25th generation of the family to run this historic estate, which boasts 130 hectares of vineyards, forests and meadows. His mission has been to produce accessible, sustainably grown wines that are worthy of his ancestry and historic surroundings. In 2020, Jean's friend, winemaker Nina Mitjavile, inspired several changes at Château de Pitray after observing the untapped potential of its clay-limestone soils. These include drastically cutting yields in the vineyard, as well as reducing the use of new oak during ageing. Nina is now consultant winemaker for the Château. As head winemaker at her family's renowned right-bank estates, Tertre Rôteboeuf and Roc de Cambes, she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Château de Pitray, as well as sharing Jean's meticulous approach in the vineyards and winery. Her involvement has been instrumental to the improved quality of these wines, leading to the relaunch of Château de Pitray with two distinct cuvées from the 2020 vintage, 'Les Prairies' and 'Pitray'.

## VINEYARDS

Located eight kilometres east of St. Emilion, the 36 hectares of vines at Pitray share the same limestone and clay plateau. The vineyards have an average age of 32 years old and are farmed sustainably with a focus on promoting soil health and increasing biodiversity. No herbicides are used. The vineyards are divided into plots of different varieties, soil types and microclimates. 'Les Prairies' is a blend of 75% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Franc and 2% Malbec and a true reflection of the estate's plantings.

## VINTAGE

The 2021 vintage was the most challenging year in four decades, yet exceptional vineyard management allowed the winery to express the best characteristics of this difficult year. Fresh and humid weather conditions created an elegant expression of fruit with unexpected complexity, producing rich black fruit aromatics rather than the anticipated crunchy red fruits. The dedication and skill applied to vineyard labour proved essential in transforming challenging circumstances into wines of distinctive character.

## VINIFICATION

The parcels are harvested and vinified separately in thermo-regulated concrete tanks before blending. 'Les Prairies' is a more fruit-forward and supple style. Most of the blend is therefore aged in stainless steel for 12 months, with the remaining 33% aged in one year-old barrels to lend additional roundness to the palate.

## TASTING NOTES

"Les Prairies" opens with a vibrant bouquet of ripe blackcurrant and subtle black tea aromas. On the palate, it shines with lively fruit character, while a gentle, silky texture is framed by graceful tannins, leading to a polished, lingering finish.

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