

CHÂTEAU FERRIERE

3RD CLASSIFIED GROWTH OF 1855, MARGAUX





Classé
CHATEAU
FERRIERE

CHATEAU
FERRIERE
GRAND CRU CLASSE
MARGAUX
CLAIRE VILLARS LURTON

- **OWNER : CLAIRE VILLARS-LURTON (2ND GENERATION OF WOMAN AS THE OWNER OF THE CHÂTEAU FERRIERE)**
- **3RD CLASSIFIED GROWTH OF 1855 IN MARGAUX**
- **3 TIMES ORGANICALLY & BIODYNAMICALLY CERTIFIED : AB, DEMETER & BIODYVIN**



SIZE OF VINEYARD : 24 HECTARES

SOIL : DEEP GRAVELS ON LIMESTONE SUBSTRATE

**GRAPE VARIETALS : 61% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 26%
MERLOT, 2% CABERNET FRANC, 11% PETIT VERDOT**

**WINES : CHÂTEAU FERRIERE, LES REMPARTS DE
FERRIÈRE, INSPIRATION**



CHÂTEAU'S STORY

For a better understanding of the property's origins, we have to go back to the eve of the French Revolution in Bordeaux, when the "aristocrats of the cork" were at the height of their power.

At that time, Bordeaux was the third largest city in the Kingdom of France and its main port. The city was known as the Porte de l'Occident (the Gateway to the West). Thanks to speculation by the vineyard owners and the massive colonial trade, the streets of the Port of the Moon seemed paved with gold. Taking advantage of this golden age, the Ferrière family took up residence at 70 Quai des Chartrons and became a major player in the ship-broker trade. The descendants of this family enjoyed considerable influence in many areas: King's Counsel, First Consul, Member of the Academy of Fine Arts, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Mayor of Bordeaux...

Moving ever higher in these elite circles, at the end of the 17th century, the Ferrière family acquired a wine estate in the heart of the Margaux vineyards and gave it the family name. The qualitative classification of the châteaux in 1855, under Emperor Napoleon III, for the Universal Exhibition in Paris, accentuated this phenomenon. Château Ferrière's owners were proud to see the property ranked as a third growth.

Gradually, the Ferrière family, like most of the great Bordeaux families, saw their social prestige diminish. It was not until the end of the 1980s, with the arrival of new owners, the Merlaut family, that Château Ferrière was restored to its former splendour. "Remain a family business for as long as possible" could then have been Château Ferrière's motto.





**CLAIRE, CHÂTEAU FERRIERE
CURRENT OWNER, USED TO
RUN AROUND HER VINEYARD,
UNTIL SHE REALIZED THE AIR
SHE WAS BREATHING WAS
UNHEALTHY.**

**THIS WAS A REAL TRIGGER TO
CONVERT THE CHÂTEAU
FERRIERE VINEYARD TO
ECOLOGICAL VITICULTURE.**



Endowed with determination and tenacity, Claire is a fighter. To make your way in the world of wine requires a strong personality. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Bernadette, Claire imposes her feminine style as a winegrower in the Bordeaux region. Always ready for a challenge, she has devoted herself to restoring Château Ferrière's prestige.

Despite being born into a family of winegrowers, Claire did not see herself destined to manage a wine property. She was living in Paris preparing a doctorate in physics applied to archaeology, but after the accidental death of her parents in 1992, Claire abandoned her studies and joined her grandfather Jacques Merlaut to continue her mother's work. She also enrolled at the Faculty of Oenology in Bordeaux. She immersed herself in the Bordeaux world of wine, while at the same time managing her family's various properties. Some, such as Château Chasse-Spleen already had well-established reputations, and Claire was always ready to take on a challenge!

When in 2000, the Merlaut group's properties were divided up between the family members, Claire inherited Châteaux Ferrière, Haut-Bages Libéral and La Gurgue. Just 32 years-old, the new owner devoted herself wholeheartedly to restoring Château Ferrière's reputation and performance. She redesigned the entire production chain, returning to a form of virtuous viticulture, reintegrating biodiversity and banishing the use of chemicals. This naturally led her to a conversion process and the obtaining of biodynamic certification for Château Ferrière's vineyard and wines. The property became the second 1855 classified growth to have organic certification in 2015 and then biodynamic certification from Demeter in 2018 and Biodyvin in 2019.

Thanks to her hard work, Claire has restored Château Ferrière to its rightful place as a Médoc third growth. Following in the footsteps of the great wine figures in the Merlaut family, there can be no doubt that Claire has risen to the challenge.



HAVING TAKEN UP THE TORCH FROM HER MOTHER BERNADETTE, CLAIRE IS THE RESULT OF THE 2ND GENERATION OF WOMAN OWNER OF CLASSIFIED GROWTH OF 1855.

CHARLES DE RAVINEL, CHÂTEAU FERRIERE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

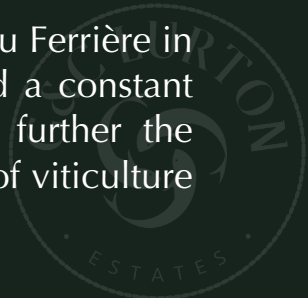


Originally from the Vosges and raised on a family-run farm, Charles developed a deep connection to the land and all living things from an early age. In the 1990s, he moved to Bordeaux, driven by a desire to immerse himself in viticulture and the wines of Bordeaux, which were deeply rooted in his family culture. Holding a BTS in Viticulture and Oenology as well as the National Diploma of Oenology from Bordeaux, he further honed his skills while cultivating a particular sensitivity to environmental issues and organic farming practices.

In 2004, he joined Château Brane-Cantenac as Vineyard Manager. Over ten years, he refined his approach to precision viticulture and, alongside the teams of winegrowers, learned to draw the best from each terroir. Eager to take on the global management of a wine estate, he continued his career as Managing Director at Château La Lagune in 2014, then at Château Camarsac in 2018. Driven by high standards and a passion he knows how to share with his teams, he dedicates himself, with humility, to enhancing the terroirs on which he works with his collaborators.

His experience across estates with varied economic realities and viticultural contexts has given him adaptability, responsiveness, and an open-minded approach to the evolving sector — while remaining firmly committed to respecting living ecosystems and the nobility of each product.

Faithful to his humanist and pragmatic vision of viticulture, he joins Château Ferrière in 2025 alongside Claire Villars-Lurton. Carried by an enduring passion and a constant pursuit of excellence, he invests himself fully with the teams to help further the progress of this Grand Cru Classé and support its transition toward a form of viticulture that is ever more vibrant, sustainable, and expressive of its terroir.



BIODYNAMIC PRACTICES

Claire will pass on a healthy vineyard to her children. That is her goal. "You can't talk about the terroir all the time without doing something to protect it". Having become aware of Château Ferrière's exceptional terroir, Claire wants to preserve it and make it sustainable, using biodynamic and agroecological methods. This way of cultivating the vines and making wine at Château Ferrière is, however, more complex than it might seem at first sight. Because of its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, the Bordeaux region has a maritime climate and so tends to be very humid. Every year, we have to be ever more ingenious in the fight against mildew: this vine disease is the main cause of reduced yields on wine estates. Training the teams in the vineyard and the winery in a new way of thinking and working, uniting them in this ambitious project and getting them to accept a new lunar, planetary rhythm dictated by Mother Nature... was a major challenge for both Claire and Gérard, Director of Production at Château Ferrière from 1978 to 2025.

Only 5% of Bordeaux's agricultural land is organic in the late 2000s, and yet Claire and Gérard accomplished the feat of converting the entire vineyard to organic and then biodynamic farming. They obtained organic certification in 2015, then biodynamic certification in 2018. Château Ferrière then became the second property in the 1855 classification to be certified organic by Agrocet and biodynamic by Biodyvin. The technical team has gradually risen to the challenge of constantly seeking balance. They have even gone as far as making the property completely independent in terms of its biodynamic preparations. Inevitably, this method of biodynamic cultivation and winemaking aroused interest among the other properties in the area. In response, Château Ferrière became the Médoc branch of the Mouvement de l'Agriculture BioDynamique (MABD) and hosts meetings at the property two times a year.





**CLAIRE AND HER HUSBAND — GONZAGUE LURTON —
CURRENTLY OWN THE LARGEST AREA OF VINES MANAGED
BIODYNAMICALLY IN THE BORDEAUX REGION.**



Cuvée
CHATEAU
FERRIERE

CHATEAU
FERRIERE
GRAND CRU CLASSE
MARGAUX
CLAIRE VILLARS LURTON

CHÂTEAU FERRIERE — KEY POINTS

- The Château Ferrière is the 2nd classified growth of 1855 certified in bio by agrocert and in biodynamic farming by Biodyvin and Demeter.
- Having taken up the torch from her mother Bernadette, Claire is the result of the 2nd generation of woman owner of classified growth of 1855.
- Château Ferrière is the Medoc branch of the Aquitaine BioDynamic Movement (MABD). Charles and Alexandre from the technical team thus support the wine properties in organic conversion by federating them and preparing for biodynamic methods.
- The property is in complete autonomy over its biodynamic preparations.
- A unique heritage of massal selection diversity: 40% of the vineyard, comprising the four grape varieties Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot, date back to 1954.