

# CHATEAU BEL AIR OUY

Bordeaux 'Bad Boy' Jean-Luc Thunevin, and his wife Murielle Andraud, bought their first plot of unclassified Bordeaux vines in 1989, in Saint-Emillion. Working against the grain, Thunevin aimed for low yields and in 1991 released his first vintage of Chateau Valandraud, one of the world's first "garage wines".

Using new oak and favoring extraction, Thunevin rocked the industry in France, not caring what anyone was thinking. Each year, Thunevin increased his production, while Robert Parker fed him points.



In 1995, Chateau Valandraud wine won a 95 rating from Parker, and soon, its wines were out-pricing established Bordeaux classified growths. Coined a "bad boy" and a "black sheep" by Parker, Thunevin crumbled the clos in Bordeaux, home to a very traditional practice. He began as an innovator from off the map, who modeled an alternative for the aspiring garagiste wine producer. A self-coined "modern winemaker", Jean-Luc now produces six different wines at Chateau Valandraud, but he's also a Bordeaux négociant for Jean-Luc Thunevin Selections.

As the holder of about 20 properties, including Chateau Valandraud, Virginie de Valandraud, Chateau Bel Air Ouy, Chateau Prieuré Lescours and Clos Badon Thunevin, all of which are Grand Cru vineyards in St Emilion, Jean-Luc represents an additional 25 to 30 properties, mostly located in the area of Bordeaux, especially the Right Bank.

Preferring natural wine production, Jean-Luc favors concrete steps over labels, such as using no herbicides or insecticides, and employing cover crops. His entire company policy is based on the environment, including social policies and working conditions for employees.

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## SAINT EMILION GRAND CRU



**Varietal/Blend:** 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Malbec

**Farming:** Sustainable

**Fermentation:** Stainless steel

**Aging:** 100% new barrels

**Alcohol:** 13%

**Soil:** Clayey limestone

**Vine Age:** 30 years old

**Yeast:** Indigenous

**Fined:** Yes

**Filtered:** Yes

**Production #s:** 2,500 cases

This château is located on the commune of Saint-Etienne de Lisse. This beautiful property overlooking the vineyards was purchased by Jean-Luc Thunevin in 1999. The chateau and cellars have been entirely restored. The vineyard is located on a great clayey-limestone terroir next to Château Fleur Cardinale. The vines are carefully taken care of by Murielle and her team, the same way as Château Valandraud.

**Country:** France

**Region:** Bordeaux

**Sub Region:** Saint Emilion Grand Cru

**Vineyard:** Saint Etienne de Lisse

**Vineyard Size:** 6.5ha