

Château Franc-Maillet

As the holder of 20 properties, including Chateau Valandraud, Virginie de Valandraud, Chateau Bel Air Ouy, Chateau Prieure 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 on Right Bank.

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".

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 off-the-grid innovator, who modeled an alternative for the aspiring garagiste vintner. A self-coined "modern winemaker", Jean-Luc now produces six different wines at Chateau Valandraud, but he's also a Bordeaux negociant for Jean-Luc Thunevin Selections.

Preferring natural wine production, Jean-Luc favors commitments 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 high-standard working conditions for employees.

Cuvée Jean-Baptiste 
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Pomerol

Varietal/Blend: 90% Merlot / 10 Cabernet Franc

Farming Practices: sustainable

Soil: gravel over red clay

Vine Training: Guyot

Year Vines Were Planted: 30 years old

Yeast: ambient

Fermentation: 30 days in stainless steel

Malolactic: yes

Maturation: Merlot ages in new barrels /
Cabernet remains in tank

Alcohol: 13%

Fined: yes

Filtered: yes

Country: France

Region: Bordeaux

Subregion: Pomerol

Vineyard: esate (Seoteur Maillet)

Vineyard Size: 0.7ha.

The history of this property starts in 1919 when Jean-Baptiste Arpin returns from World War I and buys a few parcels of vines in Pomerol. For three generations, the Arpins have extended and improved the property. Since 1994, various qualitative improvements were made in the property: debudding, cover crop, deleafing, thermoregulation, better control of the vinification and maceration processes. The cuvee « Jean-Baptiste » is produced in collaboration with and is exclusive to Jean-Luc Thunevin. There is a parcel of Merlot within the Franc Maillet vineyard that is planted on a streak of the same red clay that typifies Chateau Petrus just up the road. It is this parcel that makes the special Cuvee Jean Baptiste.

orders@tedwardwines.com

212-233-1504