



# Château Vieux Mougnaac

## OUR HISTORY



In 1870, the hunting lodge was bought by the MILHARD Family. **Felix MILHARD** from the 1st generation decided to plant a vineyard in their family property. At that time, he was the only worker in the farm and decided to produce his own wine.

**Maxime MILHARD**, from the 2nd generation, continued this tradition and produced wine too. Unfortunately, the Second World War came and he was made prisoner of war in Germany during 5 years. His wife Marcelle carried on the hard work of the farm and kept on the wine production, waiting the return of the soldier. During his stay in Germany, he worked in a farm and learned how to grow and make white wine. After his miraculous return home, Maxime decided to plant white grape: 100% *sémillon*, and still nowadays we produce the same white wine with the same vine stocks.



At the end of the 1950's, **Yves MILHARD**, 3rd generation, decided, not to sell their wine to a wine broker but to set up his own winery on his farm and sell directly to the customers. Apart from selling the wine on the farm, they also sold in local markets, essentially in Dordogne and Charente.

In 1991, **Sylvie MILHARD**, 4th generation, decided to carry on the Château Mougnaac's traditions with her husband Michel BESSARD. Together, they are now selling their wines all over France, presenting their products at wine shows but also in partnership with gastronomic restaurants.



In 2009 appeared the 5th generation with **Jeremy** who decided to take over from his mother, Sylvie, who will keep the Commercial and Administrative part of the vineyard estate. Jeremy will look after the Oenotourism and the public relations as well as the Technical part including the vineyard, the cellar, the bottles and the landscaped area works surrounding the Chateau. He chose to continue the story of CHÂTEAU VIEUX MOUGNAAC and works with the traditional methods used by his ancestors.



**Lætitia**, his sister, is a teacher at the Oenology Faculty of Bordeaux University and oversees the Oenotourism section inside the Aquitaine Federation of the Independent wine-growers.

The MILHARD-BESSARD family efforts were rewarded in 2012 with the certification of their wines in Organic Agriculture.



## GENERALITIES ABOUT THE VINEYARD



**Our geographical location:** 50 kilometers from the city of Bordeaux and 12 kilometers from the village of Saint - Emilion. Our vineyard is in the Grand Saint Emilion area, at the limit of the Lussac Saint-Emilion appellation, more precisely the property is located in the in the hamlet of Mougnaç, part of the municipality of Petit-Palais -et-Cornemps.

**Area:** 10 hectares. 9 hectares are dedicated to red vines and 1 hectare to white.

**Grape varieties:** Red: 70% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc. / White: 100% Semillon

### Vineyard management



Since 1870, the Milhard - Bessard family has worked the vineyard with the same passion following nature and the rhythm of the seasons. The family respects traditional methods and the environment, without the use of chemicals and herbicides, the vineyard is certified for organic farming since 2012.

Its soils are ploughed to force the roots to go deep, giving the wine the characteristic of terroir. The organic farming practices and knowledge of the Milhard - Bessard family favour naturally mature and healthy grapes, without treatments against decay.

Well thought out practices are for instance the Bordeaux style pruning leaving two branches with disbudding to open and aerate the grapes and then manually stripping leaves on the sunrise side at the end of flowering ( in July ) and on the sunset side three weeks before the harvest (end of August ) .

In order to get the best possible quality, the grapes are selected on criteria unchanged for five generations: noble grapes and maximum maturity are the hallmarks of an exceptional wine.



### The heritage



At Chateau Vieux Mougnaç, aware of developing and promote our heritage, we kept our vine lodge) on our plot of the place called " The Cofour " .

It was built by our ancestors with great care because its role was valuable until the 1950's .

It offered shelter in inclement weather for staff and draft animals of a vineyard cottage, but also a little home for meals and a warehouse for equipment.

This cabin was also a meeting place for lovers ...

## The horse



In 2013 a project was proposed to acquire a draft horse at Château Vieux Mournac so as to return to traditional plowing.

Thanks to the establishment of a participatory funding and its success, our project will finally be inaugurated in 2017 in time to finalize other projects currently underway including the Educational Farm and Gîtes.

*The Milhard - Bessard family wishes to thank the generous donors for the success of this project, funding, for the horse will be achieved in part thanks to your donations.*



## THE CELLAR WINE



Since 1870 the Milhard - Bessard family have been producing its wines from healthy and mature grapes.

The wine-making process takes place in concrete vat of small volume to match plot size.

A maximum extraction of aromas and natural phenolic components is made by careful control of the fermentation temperature, with regular daily and pumping

An old model of vertical hydraulic press is still used which gives good quality to the pressed wines.

After fermentation, the wines are matured in concrete vats for 2 years and in French oak barrels for vintage wines.

Clarification is achieved only by racking in a waning moon and fining with egg white before bottling.

The family carries out the bottling of the wines with great care.



## WINE TOURISM



As their wine has been sold directly to individuals for five generations, the Milhard - Bessard family considers it a priority to extend a special welcome to its customers.

Château Vieux Mournac provides an unforgettable moment because they have stood by their convictions and values transmitted from their ancestors.

Château Vieux Mournac is certified by many Tourism and Hospitality Networks in the Gironde for the quality of its reception and the services provided to guests over many years.

CHÂTEAU VIEUX MOUGNAC is certified by the largest network to welcome motor homes in Europe since 2007 "Welcoming FRANCE PASSION" for the quality of its facilities and services available to the motor homes: flat location and stabilized in the heart of the park of our Chateau for safe and quiet nights, a place to play boules, toilets, etc.



### Ils nous ont fait confiance .

« Habitée à visiter de nombreuses propriétés viticoles à travers le monde, je tiens à souligner que la visite du Château Vieux Mournac fut une très belle expérience ! Cette visite se caractérise par son authenticité et l'accueil chaleureux par la famille propriétaire des lieux. De nombreuses activités y sont proposées, et notamment des "ateliers terroirs" particulièrement ludiques. Et sans doute plus qu'ailleurs, j'ai compris l'impact des techniques de production bio sur l'environnement, et en suis sortie... convaincue !

*Catherine LEPARMENTIER DAYOT  
Permanent Secretary, Great Wine Capitals Global Network  
Développement Tourisme International  
Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Bordeaux »*

Et bien d'autres ...

**Butterfield  
& Robinson**  
BIKING AND WALKING SINCE 1966



« Le Château Vieux Mournac est devenu partenaire de Golf In Bordeaux parce que c'est un domaine authentique géré par la même famille depuis de nombreuses générations.

La famille est passionnée et passionnante, elle propose des ateliers ludiques et originaux qui correspondent au travail quotidien du vignoble et du chai. En sortant de là on a envie de travailler avec eux ! Leur vin est tout simplement bon et fait avec amour. C'est un château qui mérite d'être visité.

**Caroline VISSER**

**Golf In Bordeaux**  
TOUS LES PLAISIRS

“Thank you for the superb and open hearted reception you offered with our kind Mother and talented Brother during our visit at Chateau Vieux Mournac. All of my companions were raving of your hospitality and the most valued bottles of Ch. Vieux Mournac you gave as final departure. But you, Laetitia made it! Warm regards,

**René Chazottes, Director of Wine, Maître Sommelier  
The Pacific Club  
| 4110 MacArthur Boulevard | Newport Beach, CA 92660”**

The Pacific Club



## Packages tours

### Classical Visit: Discovery of authenticity

Discover authenticity at the heart of the Grand Saint- Emilion by visiting a family vineyard and winery. Everything ends with a unique tasting of 2 wines from the estate.

**1 hour | 5 € | By appointment only | Participants: 1 up to 20 people (if more please contact us)**

### Prestige Visit: Château Vieux Mougnaç and its secrets

Live a unique experience with Jérémie. He will present you the fermenting room, the wine cellar and the museum with old tools of the family. You will finally taste 4 wines from the estate with Sylvie.

**1h30 | 10€ | By appointment only | Participants: 1 up to 20 people (if more please contact us)**

## The educational farm



The goal for Jérémie through this structure with variety of animal species and fruit trees, is to show the Farmer - Vigneron spirit of the Milhard - Bessard Family and the CHÂTEAU VIEUX MOUGNAC experience.

So the Farm's mission is to provide guided tours and interactive workshops in school or after-school for children and teenagers. Families and adults can find themselves in a unique place promoting the values of "working together " and the "joy of discovery" in the countryside.

## The bread oven

In the grounds of CHÂTEAU VIEUX MOUGNAC is a bread oven made of four walls in dressed stone.

The furnace chamber is constructed of bricks and the mouth, in turn, is surrounded by a chimney. It played an important role in the life of the Mougnaç hamlet until the 1950s.

In the past, each country farmhouse had its bread oven, but with the proliferation of bakeries in the villages

and the development of transport, they have gradually fallen into disuse.

At CHÂTEAU VIEUX MOUGNAC, conscious of the need to develop and promote our heritage, we have restored our bread oven to working order and use it regularly at various events, allowing us to regain lost smells and forgotten traditional gestures.



## STAY IN OUR LODGINGS



**Luxury, calm and comfort...**

**An innovation for summer 2017!**

Château Vieux Mognac offers you the possibility of staying in one of its cottages equipped with every comfort: Wi-Fi, swimming pool, barbecue area, spa ...



On the occasion of a stay with friends, family or even as a couple, you can enjoy our beautiful region, its sporting and cultural activities, beautiful walks and hiking ...

Everything is here so that you can spend an unforgettable and authentic stay in our area.

