

# CELLAR MASTER WINE CLUB

December 2021

## 2018 Chateau Grand Corbin-Despagne Saint-Emilion, Bordeaux, France



Chateau Grand Corbin Despagne has been in the hands of the Despagne family for over two centuries, which is quite a rarity these days as very few families continue holding on to their estates. Chateau Grand Corbin Despagne was purchased by the descendants of the current Despagne family in 1812. The foundation of Chateau Grand Corbin Despagne began with Louis Despagne.

Prior to 1812, the Despagne clan was not yet a family with property to their name. But the Despagne family was definitely involved in the Bordeaux wine business. In fact, they were becoming established in St. Emilion. They worked as farmers at Cheval Blanc. Following the French Revolution, the Despagne family was awarded the right to purchase vineyard land.

Several years later, the Despagne family was finally able to purchase 20 additional hectares. Those additional vines created the vineyard that remains the same size that is still in use. Today, Chateau Grand Corbin Despagne is managed by François Despagne, the 7th generation of his family to take charge of the property.

The 29-hectare Chateau Grand Corbin vineyard is planted to 75% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon. Over the years, the Malbec that was previously planted here has been almost completely removed. The vineyard is located close to the Pomerol border. It is one of 7 estates to share the name of Corbin in their name.

The vineyard can be divided into 53 separate parcels. Their best terroir is closest to the Pomerol appellation, which explains why you find more clay, as well as sand in the soil there. The vines are old. Many vines are close to 40 years of age. However, they have a small selection of vines that are approaching 100 years of age.

The vineyard is planted to a density of 6,000 vines per hectare. The terroir is sand with clay, sandstone, and bits of iron in the soil. In 2004, they began moving to organic farming. After 2010, Chateau Grand Corbin Despagne was certified as being 100% organic.

To produce the wine of Chateau Grand Corbin Despagne, vinification takes place in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. The wine is aged in 50% new, French oak barrels for an average of 15 months, which could vary, depending on the character of the vintage.

Chateau Grand Corbin Despagne is best enjoyed in the first 5-18 years of life. Young vintages can be decanted for about 1 hour to 90 minutes. This allows the wine to soften and open its perfume. Older vintages might need very little decanting, just enough to remove the sediment.

Notes from [www.winecellarinsider.com](http://www.winecellarinsider.com)

*"Composed of 75% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2018 Grand Corbin-Despagne has a deep garnet-purple color and flamboyant scents of stewed black and red cherries, mulberries and sassafras with an undercurrent of wild blueberries, potpourri and ground cloves, plus a waft of vanilla pod. The full-bodied palate is densely packed with black and blue fruit preserves, supported by firm, ripe, rounded tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and perfumed."* **Wine Advocate 93 points.**

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## 2018 Murdoch Hill Landau Syrah Adelaide Hills, Australia

Murdoch Hill is a family-owned winery captained by talented young winemaker Michael Downer.

The Murdoch Hill property sits on the eastern side of the Adelaide Hills, past the town of Oakbank in the tranquil Onkaparinga Valley. With its mix of livestock and vineyards, the property has been in the hands of the Downer family for 80 years. The winery is a somewhat more recent addition, with Michael's parents Charlie and Julie planting the first vines in 1998. While originally outsourcing the winemaking duties, that all changed with the return of their youngest son to the family farm.

Michael formally trained as a winemaker at Adelaide University. After studying Oenology he toured the great wine regions of the world with harvest experience in Adelaide Hills, Barolo, Italy, Great Western, Victoria. Then came home to lead the winemaking at Murdoch Hill. His approach is to make wines focused on being honest to their origins and expressing creativity. Combining sound technical knowledge with an adventurous spirit. Employing winemaking techniques that give freshness and vibrancy resulting in delicate wines suited to pairing with the modern Australian food scene.

*"I simply wanted to come home and make wine that shows a sense of place, something that is embedded in the European wine culture. This required moving in a more minimalistic winemaking approach utilizing wild yeasts, gentle extraction techniques, reducing additions to show the purity of fruit, overall I wanted to make delicious drinkable wine styles that are". - Winemaker Michael Downer*

A vein of ironstone runs through the vineyard producing Syrah of exceptional quality. Landau displays red fruits, a medium-bodied palate with whole bunch influence giving, spice, complexity, and structure.

[www.murdochhill.com.au/](http://www.murdochhill.com.au/)

*"A show-stopping vintage for this wine with such complex, deeply ripe dark-plum and berry aromas on offer, as well as cocoa and deeply wrapped spices. The palate is suave and supple. Very polished tannins carry ripe dark-cherry and berry flavors long and seamless."* **James Suckling 96 points.**