

Château Coutelin-Merville



SAINT-ESTÈPHE BORDEAUX, FRANCE

Saint-Estèphe is one of the many famous Left Bank red wine appellations, known for reds based on Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Situated at the northern end of the Haut-Médoc region on the gravelly western shores of the Gironde estuary, Saint-Estèphe is separated from its famous neighbor, Pauillac, only by a stream, yet there are significant differences between them.

Because Saint-Estèphe is marginally further from the gravel-bearing waters of the Garonne river, the soil here is far less stony than that found in the southern part of Haut-Médoc. Instead, a heavy clay and limestone base dominates this area, resulting in poorer-draining soils, delayed ripening and higher acidity levels in the wines. These factors mean that, over the last few decades, many Saint-Estèphe's winemakers have increased their emphasis on Merlot, as it performs better on clay-rich soils than Cabernet Sauvignon. Because wines from here have traditionally been rather austere and tight in youth, Merlot also serves to soften the texture. The wines are richly coloured and deeply flavored, and are known for their longevity.

DESIGNATION

CHÂTEAU COUTELIN MERVILLE
SAINT-ESTÈPHE CRU BOURGEOIS

VARIETY

50% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon

VINEYARD

20 hectares located in the AOC Saint-Estephe L'Hopital de Mignot vinicultural area. Planted to 50% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon in clay and limestone soils with an average vine age of 25 years.

PROCESS

Hand-harvested and carefully processed into temperature-controlled cement vats for fermentation. Daily pumpovers lend gentle but deep extraction. Racked multiple times before aging for 12 months in French oak barrels— 30% new.

TASTING

A rich and full wine with oodles of fruit, spice and slightly woody mellow tannins. Very capable of aging. Pair with red roasted meats, game and flavorful cheeses.

WINERY

Château Coutelin Merville is a cru bourgeois located in Saint-Estephe. The estate has been under the ownership of the Estager family for over 100 years. The terroir is a mix of calcareous clay and limestone with a planting density of 8,300 vines per hectare. Today, Bernard and Francois are in charge of the domaine and follow sustainable practices in the vineyard.