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Château Julia La Petite Julia, Haut Médoc - 2020

Winemaker: Sophie Martin

AOC: Haut Médoc

Vintage: 2020

Vol: 13.5 %

RS: 0 g/L

S02: 25 mg/L

Total Production: 6,000 bottles (4.5 ha)

Grapes: 60 % Merlot, 35 % Cabernet

Sauvignon, 5 % Petit Verdot

Vine Age: 40 years

Soils: Clay-Limestone

Vegan: No

Allergens: Albumin

Closure: Cork + Foil

Drinking Window: 3 - 5 years

Ethos: Lutte Raisonnée, Certified HVE

Producer: On the sandy Medoc plains around the village of Pauillac, down a dirt track road there are two small parcels making up about 30 rows of 60-year-old Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon vines planted by Sophie Martin's father and grandfather. They sold the grapes to local cooperatives until 2010, when neighbouring coop growers started selling their land to Lynch-Bages, Sophie decided to build a barn in her garden and buy winemaking equipment.

Her 0.62 hectares of Pauillac vines in the Bages lieut-dit produce around 3 - 4,000 bottles each vintage, making her the smallest Pauillac producer by a short mile and it's with celebration that I welcome her wines onto the UK market

Viticulture and Vinification: Manual harvest. Tank ferment and short tank maturation prior to bottling. Low addition of sulfur used throughout. Fined using albumen and gentle filtration.

Tasting: Prettiness and perfumed and elegant. Ripe fruit, pepper, plum, blackberry, generous texture with a gentle chewiness, elegant finish.

Points/Reviews/Tasting: Jancis Robinson (16.5) Dense, inky and sumptuously plump cassis fruit encased in a corset of dry but supple, tea-leaf-scented tannins. The wine has a grip that is firm, persistent, but diplomatically courteous, willing to share the stage. There's a cool breath of wonderfully minty, dark-mineral freshness that builds into the finish. Very Good Value (TC)