

## Château Grand-Portail

### La Croix Blanche



|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>VINTAGE</b>     | <b>2020</b>   |
| <b>REGION</b>      | <b>Bordeaux</b>   |
| <b>APPELLATION</b> | <b>Bordeaux</b>   |
| <b>VARIETAL</b>    | 95% Merlot<br>5% Cabernet Sauvignon   |
| <b>ALCOHOL</b>     | 13.5%   |
| <b>TERROIR</b>     | Limestone-clay, alluvial deposits   |
| <b>INFO</b>        | 50 Ha (120.5 Acres) total vineyard. 6.5 Ha (16.06 Acres) in Escoussans, devoted to "La Croix Blanche" from 3 plots<br><br>Vinification and aging in stainless steel tanks & 10% in 2 and 3 years old French oak barrels<br><br>Unfined / Filtered<br><br><b>Sustainable Agriculture Practices - HVE 3 farm certified having High Environmental Value.</b> |

#### About the Estate:

Château GRAND-PORTAIL- family estate for generations now run by the young son, Olivier CAILLEUX - is located in Escoussans within the Entre-deux-Mers area but more precisely, in the heart of the small, distinctive and expressive Haut-Benauges appellation. Known to produce excellent dry white wines, this unique niche terroir also produces rare-to-find and remarkable red wines when the vines are planted on the best exposed and higher slopes, reaching here more than 100 meters, with a non-obscured view over the other side of the Garonne River, where lies the appellation of Graves.

Château GRAND-PORTAIL "La Croix Blanche" Bordeaux, is made from a specific and single plot, surrounding an old Christian cross, stopover on the Santiago de Compostelle pilgrimage, also being the highest point of the estate in Escoussans. The vines do benefit there a South, South-West and East exposure on a limestone-clay soil, rich in alluvial deposits. It provides a perfect ripeness for Merlot, predominant in this specific Cuvee.

Château GRAND-PORTAIL "La Croix Blanche" is a pure pleasure, an everyday, attractive "easy drinking" nicely balanced Bordeaux at an incredible value, and so approachable whatever is the vintage. This top value is BTG @ Balthazar NYC.

55% Merlot from "La Croix Blanche" plot, 40% Merlot from "Balaurin" plot, and the little 5% Cabernet-Sauvignon from a clayey east exposure slope & plateau in Soullignac. Olivier Cailleux is of course as glad as we are with this irresistible, flavored & fresh 2020, right after the 2018 & also terrific 2019 Vintages, superb vintages' "trilogy" and still < \$20!

#### Tasting Notes:

Fresh, ripe & so fruity nose on cassis, plum, ripe Merlot with light tobacco, soft leather & vanilla hints. Appealing & seductive palate with caramel, cassis & chocolate notes, then delivery all the great ripeness & length with peppery touches.

**Food Pairing:** Pizza, Tomato soup, charcuteries...

#### Press Review:

"Bright darker cherries, ripe herbs, leather, & some forest, earthy notes all emerge from 2020 Ch. Grand-Portail La Croix Blanche, a medium-bodied, supple, nicely textured Bordeaux that already offers considerable charm." *Jeb Dunnuck*

2019 Vint. 90 Pts - **Best Buy** Wine Enthusiast