

CLUB ENOLOGIQUE



1825
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Uncorking greatness

CHAMPAGNES OF THE YEAR
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Cabernet kingdom

Of all the places in the world that now cultivate
Cabernet Sauvignon, none is as revered –
or as grandiose – as the Left Bank of Bordeaux



FEDERICO GARON

In an edition of *Club Oenologique* themed around Cabernet Sauvignon, where else to start other than Bordeaux? Within the pages of this, our Cabernet issue, we focus on plenty of iterations of the grape variety – and the other constituent parts of the famous Bordeaux blend – from around the world, be it California, Chile or Tuscany. And as you'll see over the following pages, Bordeaux actually plays a relatively small part of this package. There is such a thing as being too obvious, after all. But as a scene-setter, it seems only right to turn to the grand estates that serve as the bastions of Cabernet-based wines the world over.

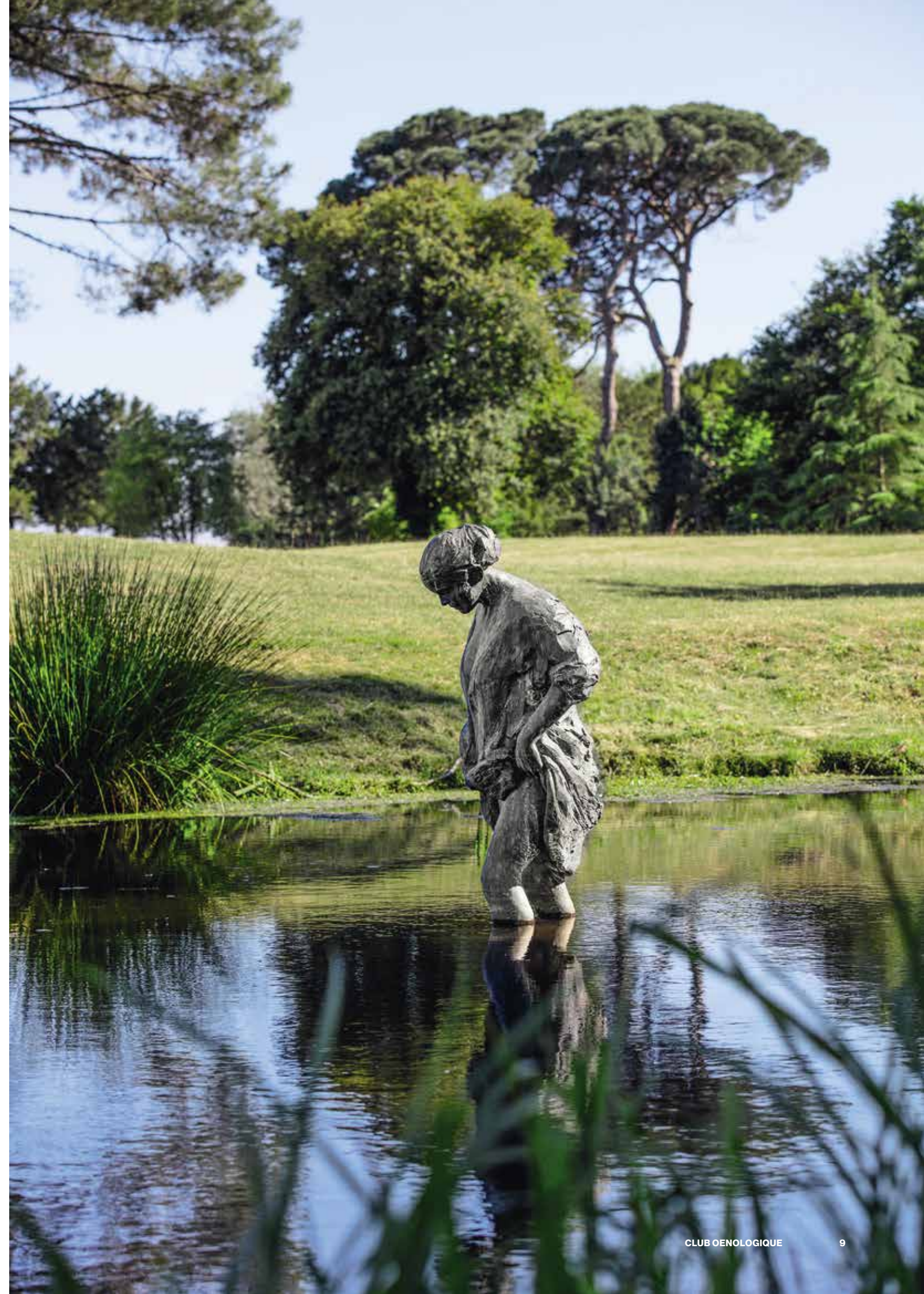
And within Bordeaux, where better to showcase Cabernet than the Left Bank, specifically the Médoc? The photos featured here are taken from the book *Bordeaux 1855: A Guide to the Grands Crus Classés*, published by Flammarion, a celebration of the Médoc's classed growths of 1855, be it their châteaux, vineyards, cellars or gardens. Or indeed, their wines. And because the 1855 classification covers both the Médoc and Sauternes, you'll find one shot from the latter that bucks the Cabernet trend. No prizes for guessing the estate...



Above, from left: the grand, tree-lined approach to the much-photographed first growth Château Margaux, and the marginally more modest entrance to second growth Château Lascombes. While both properties are based in the appellation of Margaux, Lascombes is atypical in having a preponderance of Merlot in its vineyard

Opposite and previous spread: the grounds of Château Giscours, also based in Margaux, are home to a substantial park embellished with water features, sculptures and various rare tree varieties, among them monkey puzzle, giant sequoia and black oak. The Giscours label features a mermaid, with its second wine known as La Sirène de Giscours

B BRAASTAD, CHRISTOPHE JOUNIAUX, FEDERICO GARCIA





C. GOUSSARD, CHÂTEAU DU TERTRE

Above: Gruaud-Larose's uniquely positioned, uninterrupted 82ha (202 acres) form an island in the centre of the St-Julien appellation. The largely homogenous vineyard features hilltops of Günzian gravel that encourage the slow maturation that lends balance to its Cabernet Sauvignon

Opposite: Château du Tertre boasts a high proportion (more than 20%) of Cabernet Franc in its vineyard, and it also employs various different vessels during vinification. These vessels include wooden vats that bring out Margaux's typical silky mouthfeel, and oval, concrete vats designed to replicate the effect of amphorae by keeping the grape deposits suspended in the liquid and lending roundness to the wine



Château du Tertre boasts a high proportion of Cabernet Franc and employs various different vessels during vinification



The Château Talbot vineyard covers 110ha (272 acres) in St-Julien on the banks of the Gironde estuary, planted on hilltops of alluvial gravel swept along from the Massif Central by the Dordogne River and from the Pyrenees by the Garonne. The vineyard is dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon, which occupies two thirds of the surface area

CHATEAU TALBOT; DEEPISTUDIO



The 1855 classification covers the sweet wines of Sauternes, as well as the red wines of the Médoc, including, of course, Château d'Yquem. The soil here, on the slopes of the Ciron River, is also gravel but over a foundation of clay. The 110ha (272-acre) vineyard spans three hilltops planted with Semillon (80%) and Muscadelle (20%)

Bordeaux 1855: A Guide to the Grands Crus Classés by Conseil des Grands Crus Classés is published by Flammarion (2022).

