

Vignobles Despagne-Rapin – Château Lamarsalle

The Family:

The Despagne family, rooted in the soils of Saint Emilion for over three centuries, has been involved in the winemaking world for at least 11 generations. This unmeasurable level of savoir faire, experience and tradition accumulated by different generations of growers, coopers, winemakers, merchants and proprietors has imparted the family with a certain wisdom that bears the test of time. In 1972, by inheritance, the family acquired parts of the vineyards purchased by Louis Rapin between 1938 and 1964, located in Montagne, in Saint Emilion, in Pomerol and in Libourne to which they added other plots they purchased in Saint Emilion and Pomerol. The estate is currently owned and operated by Françoise Rapin and Gérard Despagne along with their three children Nicolas, François and Nathalie Despagne.

The Vineyard:

The Domaine de Maison Blanche, as it was named during the 19th century, is one of the most pristine and beautiful in the Libourne region. It is located in the village of Montagne, in the heart of the Montagne Saint Emilion appellation of origin, which juts out westward into Pomerol. A large white stone mansion surrounded by extensive forested gardens overlooks a vast stretch of consolidated vineyards and traditional winemaking facilities that house one of the largest collections of French oak barrels in the region as well as an ancient underground cellar for storing older vintages, some of which date back to the Second World War. Overall, the estate encompasses 32 hectares of Merlot, Cabernet and Cabernet Franc vines planted in clay-limestone and clay-sand soils. The vines are 50+ years old for the most part and are farmed using bio-dynamic methods without chemicals, pesticides or irrigation.

The Cuvée:

Château Lamarsalle is the second estate of the Despagne-Rapin family in Montagne. Mentioned in the Cocks & Férel guide in the 1870s, the Château Lamarsalle vineyard comes from the breakup of the Domaine de Petit Corbin, which itself was once part of the Corbin lordship that included lands in Saint Emilion, Montagne and Saint Georges. Today, the wine is made at the Domaine de Maison Blanche and is composed of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, the proportions of which vary by vintage.

- Harvest: Manual and machine, manual sorting and destemming, yields of about 45 hl / hectare
- Vinification: traditional vinification, naturally induced yeasts, no added chemical components, tannins or enzymes. Fermentation occurs in vats for 2 to 4 weeks followed by naturally occurring malo-lactic fermentation in steel tanks
- Ageing: Steel tanks and small oak barriques
- Blend: 40 to 60 % Merlot and 40 to 60 % Cabernet Franc (depending on the vintage)

