

## Margaux AOP update

In 2021, the rules of the AOP wines of Bordeaux were modified to approve six accessory grapes, four red (Arinarnoa, Castets, Marselan, Touriga Nacional) and two white (Albariño and Lilorila) for limited use in the wines of the Bordeaux AOP and the Bordeaux Supérieur AOP's

In December 2022 three other appellations, Médoc, Haut-Médoc, and Listrac-Médoc AOP's embraced the changes and are now permitted to include small amounts of the four red grapes in their vineyards and wines.

In July 2023, the Margaux AOP published a revision to the *Cahier des Charges*. The Margaux AOP has not accepted the entire list of accessory grapes, but has approved the use of Castets which will be limited to 5% of an estate's total vineyard acreage and a maximum of 10% of the final blend in any given wine.

**Castets** is recognised for its resiliency to downy mildew. It is considered to be a VIFA/*variété à fin d'adaptation* (variety of interest for the purpose of adaptation) that could prove responsive to the challenges of climate change and is believed to be able to produce wines consistent with the typicity of red wine from the Margaux appellation.

Margaux is a Cabernet Sauvignon dominant wine. According to the updated documents as published in the Official Journal of the EU, 60% of the total vineyard acreage is planted to Cabernet Sauvignon, with another 30% planted to Merlot. Cabernet Franc and Petite Verdot make up 10% of the current plantings.

It is yet to be seen where and when Castets will be planted and how it will be used.