



Domaine Simon Blanchard Montagne-St Emilion “Guitard” 2018



REGION	Montagne-St Emilion A.O.C.
GRAPES	84% Cabernet Franc, 16% Merlot
SOIL	Clay-Limestone with a limestone base full of fossilized starfish.
VITICULTURE	Organic Farming. Double Guyot pruning. Periodical grass covercrops. Harvest date: September 29, 2018. Yield: 39 hl/ha.
VINICULTURE	Hand picked fruit. Manual berry selection. 10 % whole-cluster maceration is followed by a natural extraction via manual pigeage. Fermentation in temperature controlled stainless steel tanks via natural yeast. Malolactic fermentation in French oak barrels: 58% new (400L), 21% one wine, 21% two wines. The wine is aged in barrels 15 months prior to bottling.
ALCOHOL	13.5%

While the label clearly reads Montagne-St Emilion, **Domaine Simon Blanchard** was founded with an aspiration slightly more Burgundian. The objective? Make the Bordeaux with an emphasis on parcel selections, and by soil type—recording a pure, site-specific, unblended vintage of each block, year by year.

Simon Blanchard was born seven years after the 0.32 hectare ‘**Guitard**’ vineyard had been planted. He was 39 years old when he bought it in 2015. Millesime 2018 marks Simon’s fourth vintage, made entirely from grapes grown on his own estate.

With a density of 6500 vines per hectare in the vineyard, Simon harvested by hand September 29th, 2018 for a yield of 39 hl/ha. The vines are planted on a clay-limestone plateau with a limestone base, full of fossilized starfish. Winter wheat aerates the rows November through spring, and a natural grass cover crop remains, increasingly trimmed, as harvest approaches.

10% whole-cluster maceration is followed by a natural extraction via punch downs—*pigeage*—with a wooden paddle. Only wild yeasts are employed for fermentation. Malolactic fermentation is allowed to occur in barrel. Further aging in French oak takes place over 14 months, with three amounts of use: 58% new (400L), 21% one wine, 21% two wines. Harmony, balance, and respect for the fruit is the result.

Simon Blanchard is among the brighter lights of Bordeaux’s New Wave. Collectors take note: Incredibly small quantities are produced, and fewer still imported to the United States.

— Michele D’Aprix, Winemaker MDX  Soil Matters