

# Les Sieurs de Bellegrave 2011 Vintage

A very early vintage !

Apart from a cold, snowy spell in December 2010, the winter was mild and dry. The key characteristic of the growing season was the absence of spring, as winter was followed directly by summer, with extraordinarily warm weather in April and May that accelerated the vines' vegetative growth, resulting in a particularly early bud-break and early, rapid flowering. The water deficit remained severe up until mid-July, when véraison, or colour change, started.

There was regular rainfall from then until September, followed by abnormally hot, sunny weather for the season, leading to difficult conditions that were particularly favourable to complete ripening of the Cabernet Sauvignon.

However, Cabernet Sauvignon, the dominant grape variety on our estate, produced very low yields.

We paid special attention not to extract too much tannin during fermentation, in order to ensure that our wines reflected the true character of our appellation. As a result, our wines are very fruity with very voluptuous tannins, which are likely to be lovely to drink when young. A real winemaker's vintage...



Ludovic & Julien Meffre - April 2012

## LES SIEURS DE BELLERAVE 2011

**Harvest dates** : September 13th to 27th 2011

**Blend** : 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 46% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc

**Maturing** : 12 months aging, 10% new barrels

**Bottling date** : June 7th 2013

**Production** : 6 000 bottles

**Alcohol by volume** : 13%

## THE ESTATE

**Surface Area** : 8,35 ha

**Soil** : Garonne gravel

**Average age of the vines** : 25 years

**Encépagement** : 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc

**Density** : 8333 vines/ha

**Pruning** : Guyot double

**Winemaking** : Temperature control, maceration in cool conditions, 3 weeks of vatting, traceability monitoring.

**Maturing** : 12 months in barrels

**First wine** : Château Bellegrave

**Owners** : Ludovic & Julien Meffre