

The history

Once upon a time, 18th and 19th centuries

Jean Cavignac from Girond department public record office, was able to recount the big steps of Guiraud history following the chronology of the estate succession.

The "AU BAYLE"house.

Was the first name of château Guiraud when it belonged to de Mons a noble family.

February 22nd 1766, Léonard Joseph DEMONS de SAINT-POLY sells the "Maison Noble du Bayle" for 53.000 livres to Pierre Guiraud, « the eldest, merchant ». The bill of sale description shows that vines are the most important, even if there is also wheat. As a matter of fact, the estate seems to be farmed by « valets » or « growers », also named « wine growers » so that means it is above all a wine estate, even though there are some wheat and meadows for sheep.

Château GUIRAUD

Pierre GUIRAUD

It is Pierre Guiraud, a protestant merchant, who buys Bayle in 1766 and will give it his name.

His great grand father, Arnaud Guiraud, is a Bordeaux merchant and bourgeois. His grand father Jacques marries a merchant's sister. His father, Moïse, goldsmith merchant and David Lagourue heiress (his brother in law) is qualified as « merchant » in 1750.

Pierre Guiraud will have only one sister who marries a wine merchant. Pierre himself will get married on the 16th of september 1755 with Lydie Balguerie, heir of a famous family of the protestant business. Pierre's parent give them as a dowry a 40.000 livre house, occupied by associated merchants, and a 25.000 livres sum for them to « start a business with Sir Fresquet ». The Fresquet family is a protestant merchant family which owns businesses in Marseille and Bordeaux.

It is 1766 when Pierre and Lydie buy the « Maison noble du Bayle » for 53.000 livres. Pierre will be a cautious wine grower.

Guiraud couple bequeaths the estate to their son Louis, it is worth 83.224 livres.

Louis and Pierre-Aman GUIRAUD

After a non working youth, Louis Guiraud starts from 1789 to hold various functions, which will lead him to administrate the Bazas County in 1795.

The same year he marries Marie Martin, who had born in Preignac and lives in Bazas just like him.

In 1799, Louis inherits from his parents. That very same year, he declares himself as a « farmer » in his tax declaration. He leads the estate and succeeds in getting it out of the devaluation where it has been for several years.

At the beginning of the 18th century, Guiraud is on the list of the 600 hundred more taxed estates of the department and on a list of 60 leading citizens.

When he dies in 1837, the estate is worth 250.000 F.

In less than 40 years, the value of Guiraud has triple. We can even say that even more than his father, Louis Guiraud was the one who made Guiraud great growth out of Bayle. Owner living in the estate, farming, he knew how to make a first growth –with its contemporaneous meaning- out of an important wine property.

On his testament, Louis Guiraud lets to his son Pierre-Aman all his goods, for a total of 352.445 francs. The latter also has the responsibility of giving 180.000 francs to his sister.

Pierre-Aman Guiraud took possession of the Sauternes estate when his father died in 1837 and pay to his sister the sum indicated in his father testament. This payment must have brought him some difficulties in his business, and after two summons to pay before execution, he did not have choice but to sell the estate to François Henri Nauté at the civil court of La Réole, July the 17th of 1846.

Château GUIRAUD after the GUIRAUD family

The same year on September 7th, the adjudication was made to Maître Cubourg for 142.100 francs. On the 9th; he was declaring the estate's sale to: J.B. Dupons, A.Coutereau, C. Caubet, J.A. Depons and A. Ardusset. But Guiraud is sold again in 1858 to a jewish Banker from Paris: E. Aaron alias F. Solar. He will resell it in 1868 for 300.000 francs to P. Schröder, wine merchant in Bordeaux (represents the protestant business of the Chartrons, in Bordeaux). In 1867, the latter sells the Château to a Mister Bernard.

That is how after 80 years within Guiraud family hands, the « Maison Noble du Bayle » goes from hand to hand, loosing its first name to a new and well known one: « Château Guiraud ».

GUIRAUD at the 20th century

In 1933, Paul Rival receives Château Guiraud for his 20th birthday gift. Since he studied agronomy, he naturally administrates the estate.

In July 1981, Paul Rival sells Guiraud to the Canadian society Dolphin international Vineyard limited. The estate becomes a SCA with a capital of 50.000 francs, plus a wine stock, some agricultural machines and material for the chai.

From that moment everything is done to recreate Guiraud flavour and made him rebirth from his ashes.

In this aim, Xavier Planty arrives in 1982. Oenologist with a vegetal physiology master's degree, he is going to start a large reflection both on the vineyards and the chai.

He takes over the head office of the estate in 1986 by becoming his representative manager and he is going to preside over the destinies of Guiraud and make it noble again.

On Dolphin Vineyard Limited's demand, he is going to organize the sale of the property.

GUIRAUD at the 21th century

Four personalities united to take over Guiraud, 1^{er} cru classé 1855.

Xavier Planty has been the estate manager for 24 years, he also owns Château du Carpia. Guiraud's development and its qualitative level are the result of a fine and demanding approach of the vineyard.

Fascinated by botrytis and its action on the grapes, he did a really deep work on its way of life, its way of acting and its purity in the wines.

Xavier Planty looks for suitability between maximum concentration, gustative balance and aromatic purity.

He succeeded in sharing his passion with...

- Olivier Bernard, world wide known for the rigor of Domaine de Chevalier white wines. Greedy, passionate, efficient, he made out of Domaine de Chevalier one of the great names of Pessac Leognan.

&

- Stephan Von Neipperg, owner of Château Canon la Gaffelière and La Mondotte, is the most beautiful « success story » of saint Emilion. Agronomist, oenologist, fine taster, he joins Xavier Planty in his biological approach of the vine and noble rot.

The meeting of these three wine makers with Robert Peugeot was an anthology moment.

Robert Peugeot is an industrial and president of FFP (familial holding quoted on the stock exchange). That was his angle of approach for buying Guiraud.

The meeting of these four personalities for a dinner in Paris is the founding event of this new team.

A shared passion for wines, gastronomy, nature, hunting... this « art de vivre » made them agree very quickly on the quality and the philosophy of the growth.

Guiraud is being carefully looked after.

The rest of history has now to be written...