

Labranche Laffont Madiran Vieilles Vignes

THE FACTS

COUNTRY: France

REGION: South West France

APPELLATION: Madiran

THE STORY

Christine Dupuy took over her family's six-hectare (15 acres) wine estate in 1992 when her father passed unexpectedly. She was 23 at the time and the estate had been in the family since the French Revolution. By chance she had just finished her degree in enology, but she had little practical experience. So she went to neighboring Château d'Aydie, Domaine Capmartin, and Domaine La Chapelle Lenclos, all of whom were among the most prestigious domains in the appellation at the time. During that first year they helped this precocious young vigneronne get off on the right foot.

THE ADJECTIVES

OVERALL: A study in density

AROMAS / FLAVORS: Black fruit, licorice, leather, spice

MOUTHFEEL: Bold with chewy tannins

THE SELLING POINTS

PAIRINGS: Korean barbecue, Brazilian steakhouse dishes, smoked pork

