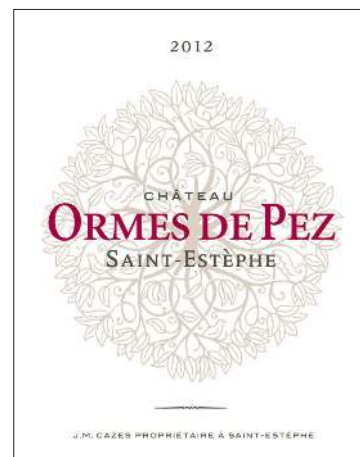




APPELLATION
Saint-Estèphe

VINTAGE
2012

OWNER
Jean-Michel CAZES



Surface : 35 hectares

« Terroir » (soil) : Garonne Gravel

Harvest : Hand-picked and sorted at the vineyard

Ageing : French oak barrels for 14 months (45% new wood)

Blending : 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot

« All's well that ends well. »

Hot and dry weather ensued with the occasional peaks in temperature from July 15th to September 24th further accentuating the water deficit. These particular climatic conditions brought about local difficulties, prompting disparities in maturity with small berries. Following a similar pattern to the flowering, veraison remained slow.

Even at the flowering stage, the vegetative cycle in Saint-Estèphe was a week later than in Pauillac. This gap was closed by the end of the summer, thanks to the more clayey composition of these gravelly soils, which minimise the effect of a major water deficit and guarantee a gradual ripening of the grapes. As was the case at Lynch-Bages, the leaf-thinning and green-harvesting operations ensured optimal maturity whilst preserving a good and longer-lasting sanitary state. In the end, the agronomic yield was 45hl/ha.

The picking of the Merlot extended over four and a half days starting on October 4th. Harvesting finally ended on October 18th.

The 2012 vintage is characterized by ripe and well-balanced wines, classic in style and particularly well structured with good body, while the tannins prove supple and ripe. The full-flavoured finish is marked by an aftertaste of spicy notes.