

# 2018

## LE PHÉNIX

What an astonishing year with, in six months, more rainfall than normally in a whole year!

Except for a good flowering, the weather conditions made life difficult in the vines up till mid-July.

While the estate is totally committed to its conversion to organic growing, the season proved difficult. However, constant vigilance, dogged determination, rigour and monitoring on a daily basis enabled us to overcome these difficulties and bring in, on the one hand, a normal-sized crop, and on the other, a magnificent one –an amazing feat given the context.

From July 15th on, outstanding anti-cyclonic conditions set in and lasted right up till the end of the picking, the only interruption being a few necessary rain showers that arrived with perfect timing to restore the vines' energy. While temperatures were high, they were never extreme, unlike the 2003 vintage, for example. The nights were cool, and the substantial water reserves brought by the spring rain, enabled excellent photosynthesis to take place.

The grapes were able to ripen without ever being burned by the sun, resulting in a vintage marked by the freshness of its fruit character.

At Angéus, with a harvesting tailored to the grapes' ripeness, the thick-skinned berries reached perfect ripeness, producing refined, velvety tannins. The grape pips ripened very early, displaying a dark brown colour -a rare occurrence that merits mentioning, and which helped provide outstanding, stable polyphenol qualities.

Despite the very hot summer, the acidities were maintained right to the end, giving the first wines tasted a sapidity, balance, freshness and elegance worthy of the greatest vintages.

# CHÂTEAU ANGÉLUS

*Saint-Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé « A »*  
Famille de Boüard de Laforest

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## Commentaire de dégustation du millésime 2018

Des merlots magnifiques de fraîcheur, une sélection de très vieux cabernets francs sur des sols argilo-calcaires, une extraction en douceur font de ce millésime un très grand Château Angélu. Une couleur profonde attire le regard. Une parfaite pureté aromatique (un travail de tous les jours) alliée à des notes de fruits noirs charme le nez. En bouche, une légère sucrosité laisse la place à une élégante tension avec des tannins raffinés, veloutés. L'alcool (en deçà de 2010) et le bois sont parfaitement intégrés. La finale est persistante, portée par l'élégance des cabernets francs, par la pureté du fruit et ponctuée par de délicates notes épicées.

Assemblage 2018 : 65 % Merlot, 35 % Cabernet Franc

### *Tasting notes on the 2018 vintage*

*Magnificent freshness in the Merlot, a selection of very old Cabernet Franc planted on clay-limestone soils and gentle extraction during the vinification have combined to make this vintage a very great Château Angélu. A lovely depth of colour attracts the eye. Perfect aromatic purity (the fruit of precision work on a daily basis), together with notes of black fruit give great charm on the nose. On the palate, a sweet note gives way to elegant tension with refined, velvety tannins. The alcohol (below that of 2010) and the oak are perfectly integrated. The finish is lingering, underpinned by the elegance of the Cabernet Franc, by the purity of the fruit, and accompanied by delicate spicy notes.*

*2018 blend: 65% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Franc*