



COUVENT • ON THE MOVE •

DENIS POMARÈDE TASTES COUVENT WITH CENTRALESUPÉLÉC AND CAMBRIDGE WINE CLUBS IN PARIS

Couvent des Jacobins was welcomed at the British Council in Paris on February 22, 2020 for a vertical tasting of Couvent des Jacobins and CALICEM with the wine clubs of CentraleSupélec, one of France's most prestigious engineering schools, and Cambridge University, a leading European university.

Nearly 30 wine lovers attended the masterclass, led by Couvent winemaker and general manager Denis POMARÈDE. The afternoon was spent introducing Bordeaux and Saint-Émilion, the village history; vines, grape varieties, the winemaking process. Denis also shared with the group Couvent des Jacobins' nearly 650 years of crafting fine wines at the heart of Saint-Émilion.

It was a pleasure to introduce to the group vintages from the past 4 decades of the *domaine*. That stimulated the discussions around such wide topics as how a wine estate develops an identity (or *marque de fabrique*); what is the influence of weather patterns on vintages, berry concentration, alcohol

levels and winemaking conditions; what are the factors enabling wines to age and why some vintages can age longer than others; and the increasingly important of the environment and the conversion of the estate to organic farming. Denis also introduced CALICEM, the new confidential cuvée made from very old vine plots by the Couvent team.

We tasted the following vintages:



Couvent des Jacobins 2015 • *The second vintage with nearly 5% of petit verdot in the blend. A dense, rich, complex wine, with good acidity and freshness. An example of Couvent when climatic conditions are favourable, with ageing potential beyond 2040.*

Couvent des Jacobins 2008 • *A more traditional blend for Couvent before the introduction of petit verdot at the estate. Nearly 20% cabernet franc give the wine still solid structure. Well-blended oak and a mellowing merlot after nearly 10 years of age. Ageing potential through 2030.*

Couvent des Jacobins 1996 • *A more mature vintage, off the beaten track after 1995, itself a well-recognized vintage internationally. A vintage close to its peak, with rich secondary aromas and remaining freshness. Nearly 25% cabernet franc in the blend.*

Couvent des Jacobins 1983 • *A jump of nearly 40 years in the past. A favourable weather throughout, with a still deep ruby colour, harmonious bouquet tending towards tertiary aromas, cigar box, and remaining red fruits. Long finale with good tension. At or nearing its peak.*

CALICEM 2015 • *A great concentration of dark fruits, silk, aromatics, well-integrated oak and the saline finale, a trademark across vintages of CALICEM.*





Verticale Couvent and CALICEM – © Pics CentraleSupélec