

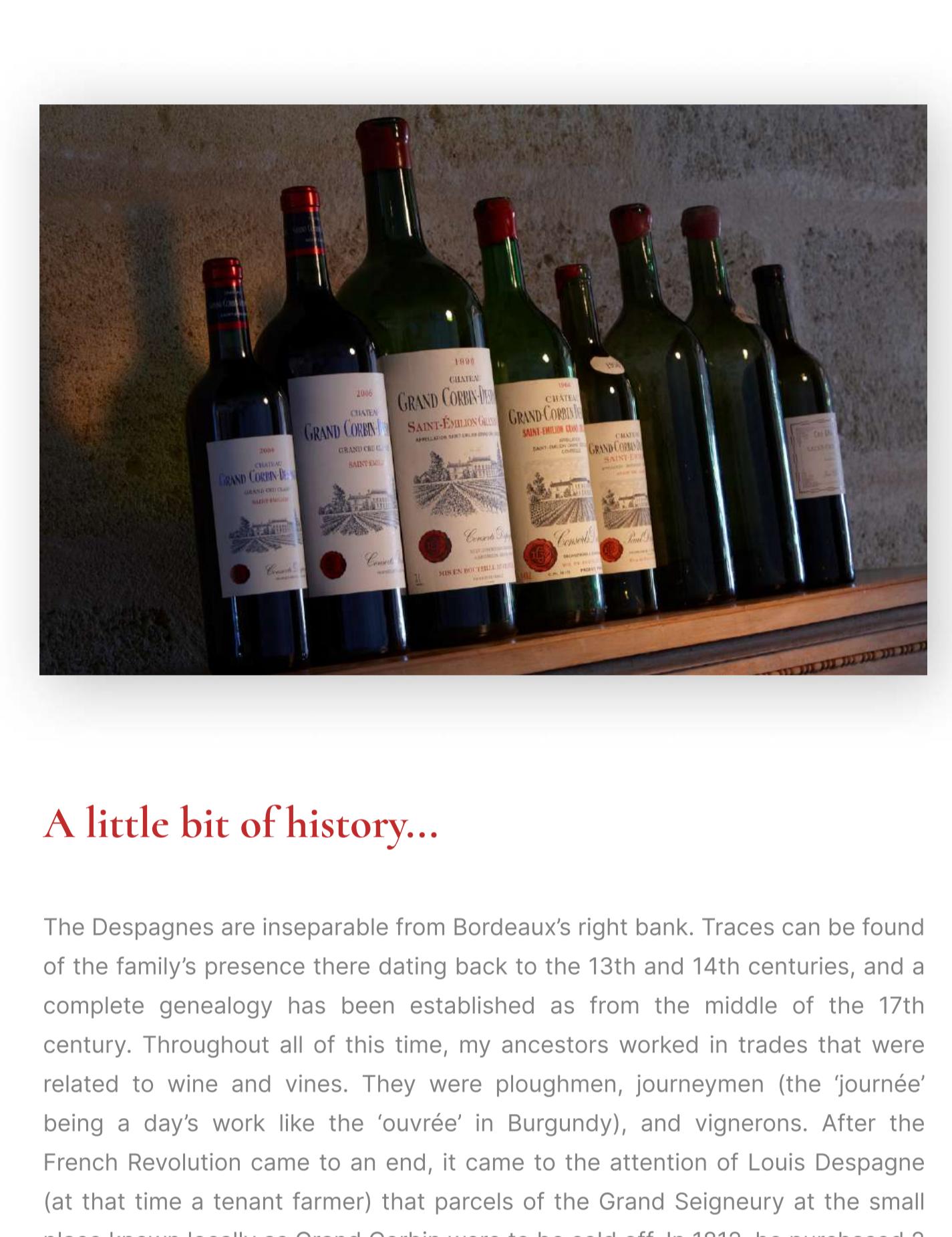
## GRAND CORBIN-DESPAGNE

### Newsletter No. 9

#### *Back to our origins*

Dear all,

Along with a new year come new wishes. So here's hoping that all your wishes for 2023 are fulfilled!



#### By the way...

At Grand Corbin-Despagne we've just completed the 2022 vintage, which is showing huge promise. I was lucky enough to be able to give an interview on a French national TV channel about the wine's outstanding potential (a link to the broadcast on 25th December follows). Naturally, we're hoping to continue along this path of high quality in 2023 and are keeping our fingers crossed for kind weather throughout the growing season with fewer climatic hazards.

In this new format, which allows me to keep you informed about Grand Corbin-Despagne on a regular basis, I'd like in this edition to take you back to the origins of the estate. When I speak to clients or wine critics, I realise that it's always a good idea to mention the origins of my wine estate, not only how it was depicted on the labels of our first vintages with the name "Cru Grand Corbin Propriétaire Jean Despagne", but also giving them some historical background, in particular the history of our Grand Corbin seigneurie, which passed through the hands of several families. My family's historical presence at the Grand Corbin-Despagne estate enabled it to implement from generation to generation a wide range of wine-growing practices, and I realise today that I carry out the same skills as my ancestors did and adopt the same approaches. Observing, adapting and adjusting one's approach are part and parcel of what I like to call good common sense farming.

#### A little bit of history...

The Despagne are inseparable from Bordeaux's right bank. Traces can be found of the family's presence there dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries, and a complete genealogy has been established as from the middle of the 17th century. Throughout all of this time, my ancestors worked in trades that were related to wine and vines. They were ploughmen, journeymen (the 'journée' being a day's work like the 'ouvrée' in Burgundy), and vignerons. After the French Revolution came to an end, it came to the attention of Louis Despagne (at that time a tenant farmer) that parcels of the Grand Seigneurie at the small place known locally as Grand Corbin were to be sold off. In 1812, he purchased 2 hectares (just under 5 acres) of these parcels, with the intention of creating an individual estate with a distinct identity. This estate was given the name Château Grand Corbin-Despagne in 1880, and the vineyard was extended to cover its 28 hectares (69 acres) of today.

As a member of the 7th generation, I'm the custodian of this terroir, and I've naturally undertaken to continue the actions of my family, whose commitment to our terroir has always been underpinned by respect for time and by humility. We have always tried to manage our vineyard by learning lessons from the past in order to move forward into the future and enable the next generations to benefit especially from a healthy eco-system and a dynamic vineyard.

The terroir which we have is unique in so far as its geographical situation is close to the boundaries of Pomerol. It gives the wines of Grand Corbin-Despagne a very distinct elegance and great ageing potential. We have never sought to make wines that follow a fashion; instead we have continued to produce wines with a definable identity, underpinned by the perennial equation of a terroir, a family, a savoir-faire and a wine.



Familie Despagne

Familie Despagne

Owners since 1812

Château Grand Corbin-Despagne

Grand Cru Classé

Organic since 2004, officially certified since 2013

2022: the 211st vintage of the Despagne family

in the Grand Corbin terroir

The 27th vintage of François Despagne

2022 Château Grand Corbin-Despagne