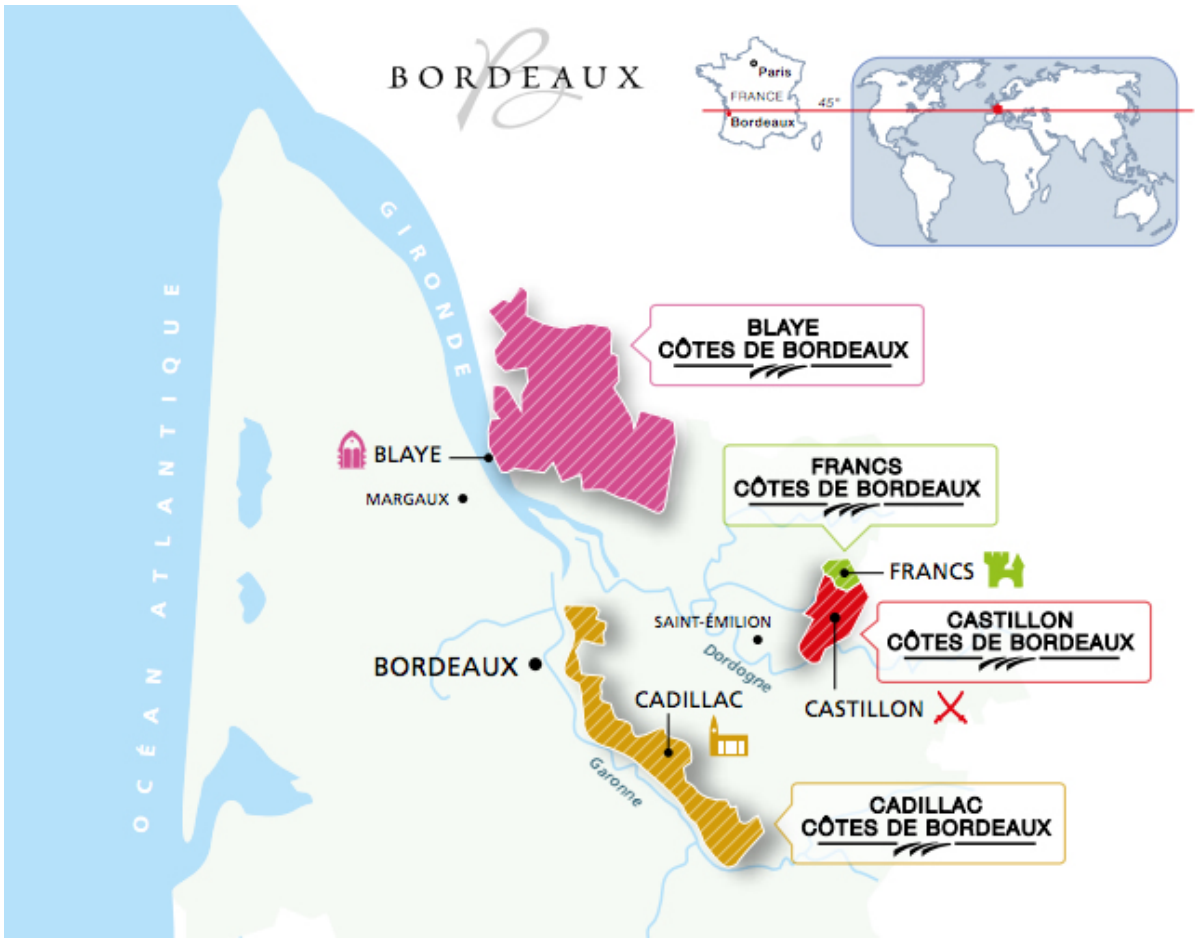
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Castillon leaves Côtes de Bordeaux

A new chapter in bordeaux wine

Tuesday, February 27, 2024



In the picturesque landscapes of French wine country, a notable shift is underway that might just reshape the map of Bordeaux wine as we know it. The winegrowers of Castillon have cast a decisive vote, signaling a bold move towards independence from the broader Côtes de Bordeaux appellation. This move, favored by an overwhelming 85% majority, suggests a yearning for a distinct identity and a closer affinity to the

prestigious AOC village wine status, separate from the umbrella of Côtes de Bordeaux.

The heart of this transition lies in the belief among Castillon's vintners that their wines would gain more recognition and identity as a standalone appellation. This sentiment echoes the trajectory of Côtes de Bourg, a neighboring region that opted out of joining the Côtes de Bordeaux conglomerate at its inception in 2009, a decision that, in hindsight, seems not to have hampered its reputation or success.

The rich tapestry of Bordeaux's wine regions saw a significant reorganization in 2009 with the creation of the Côtes de Bordeaux group, aiming to streamline and bolster the marketing of wines from its constituent areas. Castillon, along with Blaye, Cadillac, and Francs, came under this new banner, transforming from its previous designation as Côtes de Castillon to the collective nomenclature aimed at strengthening market presence.

However, this recent vote by Castillon's winegrowers indicates a desire to revisit and perhaps rekindle the region's more localized legacy. According to Thomas Guibert, head of the Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux appellation, this step towards independence is seen as an "emancipation," a term that conveys both the excitement and the solemnity of the endeavor. It's an attempt to carve out a niche that respects the unique characteristics of Castillon's terroir and winemaking traditions.

The Côtes de Bordeaux, known for its expansive 2,000 hectares dedicated exclusively to the production of red wine, boasts a diversity of grapes with Merlot leading the charge, followed by Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, and Carmenere. This area is also notable for its commitment to sustainable practices, with a significant portion of its vineyards managed under organic, biodynamic, or self-sustaining principles.

The unfolding drama of Castillon's bid for appellation status is more than a bureaucratic shuffle; it's a testament to the enduring importance of place, identity, and tradition in the world of wine. As the Union des Côtes de Bordeaux mulls over this proposal, the wine world watches with bated breath, eager to see how this quest for identity will unfold and what it might herald for the future of Bordeaux wines.

While the final decision remains in the hands of the Union des Côtes de Bordeaux, the move has sparked conversations about the nature of appellations and the balance between collective strength and individual identity in the wine industry. Whether or not Castillon achieves its goal, this moment underscores the dynamic and ever-evolving landscape of wine production in one of the world's most revered regions.