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Growing up in Libourne, it was inevitable that Olivier was to fall in love with the world of wine, but it's his revolutionary approach to winemaking and desire to break the rules that sets him apart.

Having worked in export sales for a number of negociants, in 1998 he became co-founder and the buyer at ChateauOnline, one of the first e-commerce websites in the wine business. In 2003 he and Anne were married and decided they wanted their own vineyards, as he says: "you would have had to be crazy to buy a property in Bordeaux in 2003" ... but that they did. After much searching they discovered a property, whose garden meanders to the bank of the Dordogne, just 5km south of Libourne. At that time the vineyard area totalled 4.5 ha and was planted mainly with Merlot and some old Cabernet Franc. With his father-in-law's help they bought nearby plots and extended to 8 hectares. The first few years were about slowly replanting and discovering the terroirs and by 2016 all of his vineyards were worked bio-dynamically, with 2019 being the first certified vintage. As well as vineyards in the Bordeaux and Bordeaux Supérieur appellation, Olivier co-owns and rents a couple of other plots including a small cuvee 'Aux Plantes' St Emilion Grand Cru ... His first vintage, 2011, was awarded by Revue des Vins de France "The best new talent for wines less than 20€" and also ranked second amongst all St Emilion Grand Crus. However, his irrepressible and somewhat "revolutionary" approach to winemaking and love of breaking the rules, had to find an outlet in such a traditional region, hence the creation of Bel a Ciao ... here his imagination can play and develop wines such as the exciting Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc orange wine, which from 2021 is organic.

Viticulture

Since 2016 all of Olivier's vineyards on his Libourne estate have been worked bio-dynamically, with 2019 being the first certified vintage. He strives for this in his less conventional projects, and since 2021 his orange wine has been certified organic too.

Winemaking

Being a winemaker isn't only about knowing the vineyard and its growth, the wine and its evolution, or driving a tractor. It's also about learning to work on your own, when everything goes wrong" ... this attitude is very much applied in Olivier's winemaking. Hands off, allowing the terroir to express itself, whatever the climate or fermentation throws your way. Dynamic, honest and reflective of human skills and ability to know when not to interfere.

Highlights

- Olivier's unique, informed yet unconventional approach in this most traditional of regions make him a producer to watch.
- Immensely characterful, no SO2 added, IGP Atlantique Orange wine, organically farmed Aux Plantes St Emilion Grand Cru, innovative Solera Cab Franc and classic Bordeaux.
- Non-interventionist vineyard practices, with a hands-on approach to ensure the highest quality fruit.

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**Olivier Cazenave et
Château, Bel a Ciao, Vin
Orange, IGP Atlantique,
France, 2022**

Product code: 4442



**Château Minvielle, AOC
Bordeaux, France, 2022**

Product code: 4525



**Château Minvielle
Rouge, AOC Bordeaux
Superieur, France, 2020**

Product code: 4524



**Franc de Bel, Solera
Cabernet Franc, Vin de
France, Bordeaux,
France**

Product code: 5349



**Aux Plantes, St Emilion
Grand Cru, Bordeaux,
France, 2019**

Product code: 4526



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