

Bordeaux Rising Star Château Phélan Ségur Sold

One of Bordeaux's most promising properties will soon have a new owner. Belgian businessman Philippe Van de Vyvere has agreed to purchase Château Phélan Ségur from the Gardinier family. The sale price was not disclosed. The transaction is expected to close in early 2018.

The deal gives Van de Vyvere 173 acres of St.-Estèphe vineyard land and a winery whose scores have been rising for the past decade. "I fell in love with Château Phélan Ségur, that magnificent estate overlooking the Gironde," Van de Vyvere told *Wine Spectator*. "I spoke many times with the Gardinier brothers, making sure they understood that I was a buyer who would respect the estate's venerable history and who was determined to carry on the excellent work done thus far. My intention is to ensure Phélan Ségur remains one of the great wines of the St.-Estèphe AOC."

Located on mainly gravel-clay soil, the estate produces 35,000 cases annually. The first wine accounts for roughly 60 percent of that production.

"We typify the classic St.-Estèphe *terroir*," general manager Véronique Dausse told *Wine Spectator*. Dausse and the rest of the team, including *maitre de chai* Fabrice Bacquey and consulting enologist Michel Rolland, will remain in place after the sale.



Château Phélan Ségur

The vineyard was created in 1810 and the château was built a decade later by Irish merchant Bernard Phélan. The estate's second wine, Frank Phélan, is named after his son. Xavier Gardinier acquired the estate in 1984; he died in 2013.

The proposed sale of Phélan Ségur comes after a restructuring of the parent company, Gardinier & Fils, last May into three groups: Gardinier Hospitality, Gardinier Retail and Gardinier Estate.

Van de Vyvere owns Sea-Invest, a seaport terminal operator. "I have several friends who own wineries in the Bordelais, and my dream of one day owning a beautiful property myself came true when I met the Gardinier family," he said.

—Suzanne Mustacich