

(/bordeaux-en-primeur)

 (<http://www.decanter.com>) / Wine News (<http://www.decanter.com/wine-news/>)

Chopard boss buys Bergerac chateau

Richard Woodard

(<http://www.decanter.com/author/Richard%20Woodarc>)

January 18, 2012

Karl-Friedrich Scheufele, co-president of the Chopard luxury watch business, has acquired major Bergerac wine estate Chateau Monestier La Tour.

Monestier la Tour

[Image: Christine Ontivéro]

Scheufele, a self-professed lover of **Château Haut-Brion**, opened rare Bordeaux specialist **La Galerie des Arts du Vin** in Geneva in 1996 and also owns **Le Caveau de Bacchus**, a chain of wine shops with branches in Geneva, Gstaad and Lausanne.

He and his wife Christine have been searching for a wine estate in France for many years, and 'fell in love' with **Monestier La Tour**, a 100-hectare hillside estate 20km from Bergerac.

The property, which has 30ha of vineyards on clay-limestone soil and a large park, was bought and restored in 1998 by Dutch businessman Philip de Haseth-Möller.

Haseth-Möller restructured the vineyards and restored the 13th century château buildings, bringing in consultant winemaker **Stéphane Derenoncourt** and viticulturalist **Claude Bourguignon** in 2003, working alongside estate director Jean de Laitre.

The château produces wine under the Bergerac, Côtes de Bergerac and Saussignac appellations, including about 7,500 cases of red based on Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec, and 5,000 cases of white from Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon and Muscadelle.