

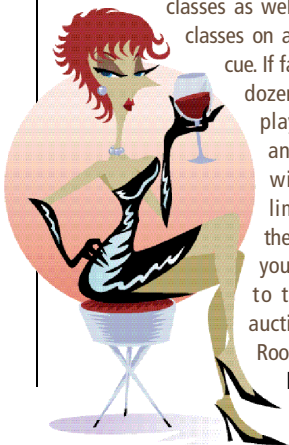
The
ENTH Degree

LUXE Life

LA VIGNA, URUGUAY

A major producer of Tannat grapes, Uruguay is a rising star on the wine scene, and a visit here would not be complete without a stay at La Vigna, a seven-room "country house hotel" just 75 miles outside the capital city Montevideo. Situated on the grounds of a former winery, the 1880 farmhouse is decorated entirely in family heirlooms and locally sourced antiques that have been lovingly refurbished by Argentinians Lucila Providente and her husband, architect Agustin Battellini. "Absolutely everything that you will eat, we produce it here," says Agustin, who is committed to organic gardening and sustainable, natural farming practices. Guests are welcome to partake in farm chores or make cheese alongside the owners, who have created the award-winning label La Pécora Pazza, "The Crazy Sheep," in Italian. There's a studio on site for pottery, furniture refinishing and weaving classes as well as Uruguayan cooking

classes on an outdoor adobe barbecue. If farm chores aren't for you, dozens of art books are displayed in old grape crates and the pantry is stocked with Lucila's homemade limoncello. Or, breathe in the scent of wild lavender as you bicycle to the beach or to the Saturday antiques auction in Colonia Valdense. Rooms from U.S. \$120. lavigna.com —EMILY HAILE



THE PRINCE OF PÉCHARMANT

French author de Saint Exupéry's bloodline extends beyond words into wine.

The Little Prince may have brought author Antoine de Saint Exupéry worldwide fame in 1943, but the de Saint Exupéry family has been writing its own history for over 300 years among the vines of the Dordogne.

The vineyards of the region are heavily concentrated around Bergerac and produce 13 different *Appellation d'origine contrôlée* (AOC) wines, among the best known of which is Pécharmant. The oldest of the Bergerac vineyards, Pécharmant owes its distinct flavor to the sandy soil with embedded layers of iron and clay. Pécharmant comes from the words "pech" (hill) and "charmant" (charming) and this meaning is best understood at the perched Château de Tiregand in Creysse, where Francois-Xavier de Saint Exupéry, his wife and three sons tend to 106 acres of planted vineyards, and uphold their ancestral name.



The soft-spoken family man learned the business from his father and also spent six months in California's Napa Valley where he says he tasted, compared, played a little golf and learned a lot. In the end, the draw of the Dordogne was too powerful. "I wanted to come back to my roots, and the pride I had for my family heritage brought me the desire to develop something here at home."

To this end, de Saint Exupéry says he rigorously evaluates his own wine, as well as the wine of others. It's all part of his plan to produce elegant Pécharmant wine for clients, as well as for generations of the de Saint Exupéry family to come. "I believe the love of good food and good wine is a gift you pass to your children to last their whole life." chateau-de-tiregand.com.

—KIMBERLEY LOVATO

PHOTO: MICK ROCK/CEPHAS