

Hi. I'm Jim McDermott.



When I retired from Congress after representing the Seattle & King County area for 28 years, I decided to go to France and take a cooking class, because *pourquoi pas?* I went to Saint-Yzens, a small village about an hour north of Bordeaux. Among other things, I learned to cook duck and became educated on duck fat as a staple of French cuisine.



I also met wonderful people in this village, including Guy Durand Saint Omer, a true French Renaissance man. Medoc became a second home for me, and in 2017 I bought a house in the quiet village of Civrac-en-Medoc. I spent most of the Covid year there working on my book (“Money, Love & Power: A Guide to Understanding Congress”) and have been living in France several months out of the year ever since.

After I finished my book, I started to learn more about wine. There are vineyards everywhere in Medoc and most have been in the family for generations. If I was serious about living in France and understanding this country, I knew I needed to up my wine game. In fairness to my home state, Washington has some of the best wines in the country, but they are New World wines.

I asked my friend Guy if I could buy a piece of a winery and he said, “*Absolument!*” He was working to restore production in a centuries-old cellar at Chateau La Hourqueyre, owned by the Batailley Family, who carry the tradition of 14 generations and were ready for a new venture to continue wine production in their home chateau. So in 2023, I bought one hectare of Château la Hourqueyre. That was the year of our first harvest, with the leadership of Guy, Tobias Paul, and our winemaker, Athanase Fakorellis. I love these wines, and want to share the rich Medoc viniculture tradition with my American friends.

When I was in Congress, I became chairman of the then-Subcommittee on Human Resources of Ways & Means. I was able to pass legislation to improve support for children in foster care and adoption assistance to families, a cause dear to my heart. A portion of the proceeds of each bottle of Le Joli Rosé goes to Seattle University's Fostering Scholars program, which helps youth in foster care attend college.

Santé,
Jim

