



## **La Grande Maison Younan Collection Celebrates Membership into The Grand Cercle des Vins de Bordeaux**

*Saint-Emilion Grand Cru, Château La Croix Younan joins one of Bordeaux's Elite  
Associations for Quality and Innovation*

**New York, NY, February 18, 2020** – [La Grande Maison Younan Collection](#), one of the world's fastest-growing luxury hospitality groups, is proud to announce that its Saint-Emilion Grand Cru property, [Chateau La Croix Younan](#), has been selected to become a member of the prestigious Bordeaux wine association, The Grand Cercle des Vins de Bordeaux. The selection represents the first time an American-owned château from Saint-Emilion has been included in The Grand Cercle's 'Rive Droite', an elite selection of 113 wines representing winemaking excellence in Bordeaux's Right Bank, that was established in July 2002.

Competition for membership into The Grand Cercle des Vins de Bordeaux was fierce in 2020, with only four chateaux selected from a pool of over 140 applicants. Judging for the selection was conducted by nine jurors, who blind tasted three consecutive vintages (2015, 2016, 2017) from each chateau. Included in the tasting were wines from current classified Grand Cercle des Vins de Bordeaux members to ensure an impressively high standard of quality was used for benchmarking. Following the completion of the blind tasting process, an overwhelming 12 out of the 14 Grand Cercle des Vins de Bordeaux board members approved the inclusion of Chateau La Croix Younan into the association.

With 164 chateaux members counted among its ranks, the aim of The Grand Cercle des Vins de Bordeaux is to showcase the superb quality of Bordeaux wines as well as the expression of the individual personality of each chateau member. The association unifies some of the finest wines in the Bordeaux region under a common fundamental focus on quality as well as ethical practice regarding production and distribution.

American business magnate Zaya S. Younan acquired Château La Croix Younan (formerly Château La Croix Fourney), a property of nine hectares in 2017. From the beginning, his focus was on making a limited quantity of exceptional wine to compete with the best wines in the region. “It had always been a dream of mine to own a winery in the prestigious Saint-Emilion region. I have big ambitions for Château La Croix Younan. My goal was to make one of the finest wines in Saint-Emilion, and the selection of Château La Croix Younan into The Grand Cercle des Vins de Bordeaux highlights the incredible potential of this unique property,” noted Mr. Younan, Chairman & CEO of La Grande Maison Younan Collection. “We have made significant improvements in our vineyard and production facility in order to make an exceptional wine that embodies the luxury heritage of the La Grande Maison Younan Collection brand. I am particularly excited about our upcoming Château La Croix Younan 2018, which promises to be an exceptional vintage. We intend for this wine to set a new bar for quality and excellence. The best is yet to come.”

In addition to Château La Croix Younan, La Grande Maison Younan Collection also owns the Saint-Emilion Grand Cru property, [Château Zaya](#) (formerly Château La Garelle) which was acquired in 2019.

Château La Croix Younan and Chateau Zaya’s technical team is headed up by Dr. Alain Raynaud and Mr. Antoine Schmitt. Dr. Raynaud is the former President of the Union des Grands Crus and one of the founders and current President of the Grand Cercle des Vins de Bordeaux. Mr. Antoine Schmitt began his career in the industry at Chateau Cheval Blanc (1st Grand Cru Classé A Saint-Emilion) during the 1992 campaign. He has collaborated with Dr. Alain Raynaud for the past ten years.

#### **About the Younan Company**

[The Younan Company](#) is a global private equity firm that specializes in acquisitions and management of assets and companies in the luxury consumer space. The company’s strategy is to build an integrated portfolio of luxury properties, products and services. Today, The Younan Company is recognized as a global luxury brand with more than \$2.2 billion in assets under management through its subsidiaries [Younan Properties](#) and [La Grande Maison Younan Collection](#). The Younan Collection owns and manages luxury hotels and resorts in France, including [Chateau de Beauvois](#), [Hotel Saint-Martin](#), [Chateau Le Prieure](#), [Alexandra Palace](#), [Chateau de Vaugouard](#), and [Chateau de la Perriere](#); premium cigar maker [El Septimo Geneva SA](#); [Golf des Forges](#), [Golf du Petit Chene](#), [Golf d’Avrille](#), and [Golf de Vaugouard](#); two vineyards in Saint-Emilion, including [Chateau la Croix Younan](#), and [Chateau Zaya](#); and [MPA Studio de Creation](#) in Paris. In 2019, it acquired its first beach resort, [Malibu Foz Hotel and Resort](#) in Figueira da Foz, Portugal.