

Albéric Bichot at the heart of a journey to Antarctica with the Tara Ocean Foundation

*The schooner of the **Tara Ocean Foundation** left the port of Lorient in December 2020 in order to study, through a 70,000 km journey, the microbiome, those marine micro-organisms that are invisible in the ocean but key players in the health of our planet.*

*Thanks to the partnership between Domaines Albert Bichot and the Tara Ocean Foundation, Albéric Bichot, head of **Domaines Albert Bichot**, was able to join the crew at the end of December for ten days of exploration in Antarctica...*

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The Microbiomes Mission, a collective adventure

At the end of December 2021, **Albéric Bichot**, a passionate explorer with several expeditions to his credit, joined the crew of the schooner *Tara* in the northern Antarctic Weddell Sea. He joined the ship, in order to share a part of this unprecedented mission, from the South Atlantic to Antarctica, and thus reaffirm the support of the **Domaines Albert Bichot** towards the **Microbiomes Mission**.

Thousands of kilometres later and after an epic crossing of Cape Horn, the schooner reached Deception Island, on the opposite side of Terre Adélie. It is in homage to the latter that Albéric named his eldest daughter, as well as the eponymous Domaine, created in 2005 in Mercurey. **The ship is now continuing its voyage to South Africa, while Albéric Bichot has returned to his terroirs in Burgundy.**

Antarctica is a marker of climate change

The Weddel Sea is currently undergoing various simultaneous pressures related to climate change, such as the warming of the climate and water masses and the acidification of the ocean due to the acceleration of CO2 absorption. These changes may have consequences for the entire ecosystem functioning in the Weddel Sea.

In addition, the melting of the ice due to global warming is increasingly threatening the pack ice and the icebergs. The dynamics of these polar ecosystems may be affected over time. In addition, warming may progressively exclude certain species adapted to the polar regions.

Global warming at sea but also on earth: a common fight between the Tara Ocean Foundation and the Maison Albert Bichot

Global warming is also a threat on earth. In the world of wine, this is characterised mainly by the observation of extreme weather events leading to the advancement of phenology (flowering, veraison) and therefore of the grape harvest, the increase in alcohol content and the decrease in acidity, and the evolution of yields... In this sense, the Tara Ocean Foundation and Maison Albert Bichot **are committed to a common goal: the protection of maritime and terrestrial terroirs.**



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Chili

The experience is also in the hold of the boat!

As a partner of the Mission Microbiomes, Albert Bichot wanted to study the influence of marine power, the currents of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and changes in latitude on the evolution of wine. Thus, **12 magnums representing 6 emblematic cuvées of the House** (among which a Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru 2017 from Domaine du Pavillon, a Chablis Grand Cru "La Moutonne" 2018 from Domaine Long-Depaquit, or a Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru "Les Malconsorts" 2017 from Domaine du Clos Frantin) have embarked on board the schooner while similar magnums are aging in the historical cellars of the House in Beaune.

A unique comparative tasting will take place when the ship returns in October 2022.



Supporting the Tara Ocean Foundation is a matter of course

For Maison Albert Bichot, supporting the Tara Ocean Foundation is an obvious choice.

Already committed to organic viticulture since the early 2000s, **Maison Albert Bichot is reaffirming its fight for the protection of the environment and biodiversity by joining the collective adventure around the Microbiomes Mission.**



About the House of Albert Bichot :

Albert Bichot owns 107 hectares of vines spread over 6 exceptional estates in the most prestigious appellations of Burgundy. In addition to his expertise as a winemaker, Albert Bichot is a négociant-vinifier-breeder, selecting and buying grapes and musts to ensure the quality of all his wines. Albert Bichot wines carry an emotion, a philosophy that makes the House one of the greatest names in Burgundy.

Albert Bichot
#bichotocean



**As of the 2018 vintage, Albert Bichot wines from the Côte d'Or (Domaine du Clos Frantin, Château-Gris and Domaine du Pavillon) and Côte Chalonnaise (Domaine Adélie) are certified "organic wines".*

About the Tara Ocean Foundation:

The Tara Ocean Foundation is the first foundation recognised as being of public utility dedicated to the Ocean in France. It develops high-level ocean science, in collaboration with excellent international laboratories, to explore, understand and anticipate the upheavals linked to climate and environmental risks.

Fondation Tara Océan
Mission microbiome
#fondationtaraocean



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Mission Microbiomes

The expedition

Sailing for 21 months to sample the ocean microbiome and share with the public



1 mission, 2 phases

CHILE WITH THE GEODOS PROGRAM
SOUTH ATLANTIC WITH THE ATLANTECO PROGRAM

Nutrients rich upwelling areas

RESEARCH APPROACHES & FOCUS

OCEAN STREAMS

How climate change is impacting ocean currents and the microbiome distribution ?

- 1 • Chilean coasts : oxygen depleted area
- 2 • Guyane - Amazone : influence of Amazon river's outputs on the link between the South and North Atlantic
- 3 • Weddell Sea : one of the key ocean & climate area with the major drawdown of surface waters
- 4 • Chili and Africa : upwellings areas of rich deep ocean waters driving the most productive fisheries on earth and the biological carbon pump

FERTILIZATION & POLLUTION

How watersheds use and pollution such as agriculture or microplastic pollution alter the microbiome structure and function ?

- 5 • Chilean Coasts : influence of the melting glaciers on salinity and local microbiomes
- 6 • Great rivers : (Amazone, Orange, Congo, Ogooué, Volta, Senegal) with great influence on local oceans

SMALL SCALE FEATURES

How small scale ocean features alter the ocean microbiome models at large scale ?

- 7 • Atlantic Ocean : understand how the microbiome is modified by small gyres ?

