

## Albert Bichot joins forces with the Tara Ocean Foundation for its Microbiome Mission

Having set sail in December 2020, the **Tara Ocean Foundation's** Microbiome Mission will travel 70,000 km over the course of two years to study marine microorganisms. This first-of-its-kind mission is paired with a wine-ageing experiment for **Albert Bichot**, an emblematic name in Burgundy wines and a partner-patron of the foundation.



### November 2017: *The meeting of two impassioned men*

It was in November 2017, at the 157<sup>th</sup> Hospices de Beaune wine auction, that **Albéric Bichot**, Managing Director of Albert Bichot, met **Romain Troublé**, Managing Director of the Tara Ocean Foundation.

A strong bond was established between the two men, particularly so as Albéric Bichot had just purchased both "Presidents' barrels", a Corton Grand Cru Clos du Roi, for the price of €410,000, which was then divided among 3 associations, including the Tara Ocean Foundation.

### *An obvious choice for Albéric Bichot, who is an explorer at heart*



This encounter triggered a project that made sense for Albéric Bichot.

Before joining the family business and taking over its management in 1996, this **impassioned explorer** had participated in several expeditions, notably in the Great Canadian North alongside the French adventurer Nicolas Vanier and on the borders of Adélie Land in Antarctica.

In fact, he named his eldest daughter Adélie as well as the estate he created in 2005 in Mercurey that now comprises nearly 8 ha of vines.

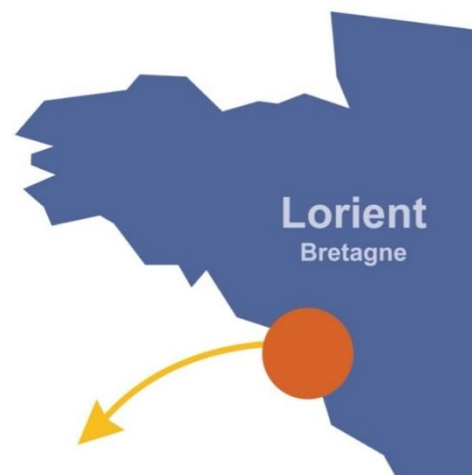
Teaming up with the Tara Ocean Foundation is also an opportunity for Albert Bichot, whose wines have been certified organic since the 2018 vintage\*, to **join in on a collective adventure** that promotes the protection of the environment and biodiversity.

### December 2020: *Launch of the "Microbiome Mission"*



On **12 December 2020**, the schooner *Tara* set sail from the port of Lorient in Brittany, for a new major scientific expedition.

For nearly two years, the sailing laboratory will travel 70,000 kilometres to study the ocean's most fundamental fabric: its **microbiome**. These marine micro-organisms, the ocean's invisible inhabitants, play a key role in the well-being of our planet.





### **The experience is also in the boat's hold!**



During this mission, Albert Bichot also wanted to study the marine influences - the currents in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and changes in latitude - on the **maturation of wine**.

And so, **12 magnums representing 6 of the House's emblematic cuvées** (including a Corton-Charlemagne Grand Cru 2017 from Domaine du Pavillon, a Chablis Grand Cru "Moutonne" 2018 from Domaine Long-Depaquit, and a Vosne-Romanée Premier Cru "Les Malconsorts" 2017 from Domaine du Clos Frantin) were loaded onto the schooner while similar magnums stayed behind to age in the House's historic cellars in Beaune.

**A unique comparative tasting session will take place when the boat returns in September 2022.**

In the meantime, tastings will be organized onboard in order to welcome lovers of the great wines of Burgundy at the various ports of call.

Chili

#### **About Albert Bichot:**

*Albert Bichot owns 107 hectares of vines divided between 6 exceptional estates in Burgundy's most prestigious appellations. In addition to its expertise in vinifying wines, Albert Bichot is also a negociant-winemaker-ager, selecting and purchasing grapes and musts to ensure the high quality of all of its wines. Albert Bichot's wines bear witness to emotion and to a philosophy that make the House one of the greatest names in Burgundy.*

  [Albert Bichot](#)  
[#bichotocean](#)

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

#### **About the Tara Ocean Foundation:**

*The Tara Ocean Foundation is the first recognized public interest foundation in France dedicated to the world's oceans. The Foundation has developed a state-of-the-art ocean science, in collaboration with top international laboratories, in the aim of exploring, understanding and anticipating the impact of climate change and environmental risks.*

[Fondation Tara Océan](#)  
[Mission microbiome](#)  
[#fondationtaraocean](#)



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Pointe à Pitre

# 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 ?

