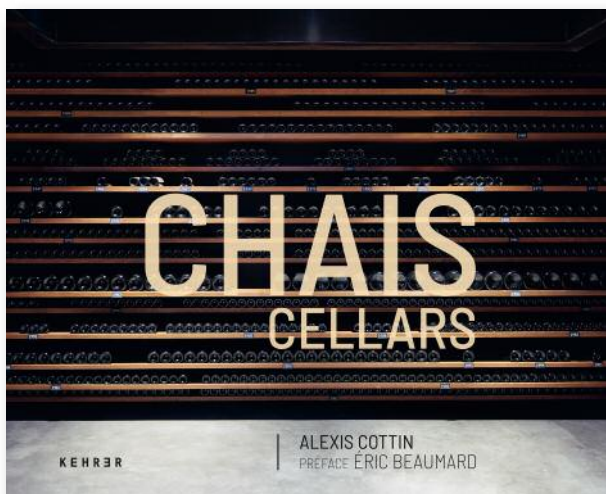


NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG



## Alexis Cottin *Chais / Cellars*

Text by Éric Beaumard  
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**Unique insight into 40 outstanding Bordeaux wine cellars  
with a preface by Éric Beaumard, one of the world's best sommeliers**

Wine cellars are mysterious. Silent cathedrals, these spaces shelter a slow and continuous transformation. Wine evolves continuously, in the darkness imparted by the oak barrels. A cellar must guarantee three factors: a stable temperature, a constant hygrometry and a controlled darkness. The rest is pure creativity, uncorrelated to winemaking. Modern architectural creations, troglodyte caves, raw or noble material, the choices have no other purpose than useless grace. These silent cathedrals are mysterious, forming a bond between time and space, liquid and solid.

These unique places, where substance and form miraculously meet, allowed Alexis Cottin to capture photographs revealing the human aspiration for beauty.

### **From the introduction by Éric Beaumard:**

*»When Alexis came to find me at the George V to present me his work, he caught my whole attention. If it is true that today, after thirty years of the sommelier life, I have had the chance to taste wine in many of these properties, it hasn't always been this way. In 1987, when I knocked on the doors of these castles, they often remained closed. And the only pictures I took were of their exteriors. My first memories are therefore turned towards the vineyards! From the gesture of a bunch of grapes cut by the harvester to that of the sommelier who releases the wine from its glass prison, as Baudelaire described it so well; the fruit of the vine undertakes a journey that is at first very fast, then slower. It mimics the wine-making process, which everyone keeps jealously out of sight. This secret cave, once open to rare initiates, is the cellar.*

*Fortunately, most estates are now open for visits, as long as you have announced yourself. This revolution in welcoming visitors was more than necessary. And in recent years, we have had the pleasure of walking on the Gunzian gravel, blue clays, and fossil-rich limestones of their soils before reaching the cellars. With this new approach to promoting viticulture, owners can now share their passion and show their hosts the considerable work they've invested in the vineyards. Logically, after the vines, it is the infrastructures of the cellars that were remodeled or sometimes completely redesigned. We discover here the impressive executions of these endeavors.»*

**Alexis Cottin** (born 1987) began his career as studio director of Thierry Bouët. He then developed his own photographic work, focusing on fashion and architecture. *CHAI'S* is his first book. He lives and works in Paris. [alexiscottin.com](http://alexiscottin.com)

### **Book Signing**

Kehrer Pop-up Gallery& Books  
@Manuel Rivera Ortiz Foundation, Arles  
Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at 5pm

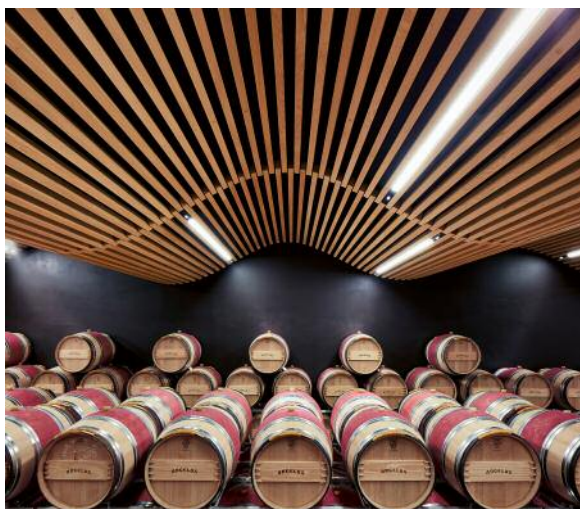
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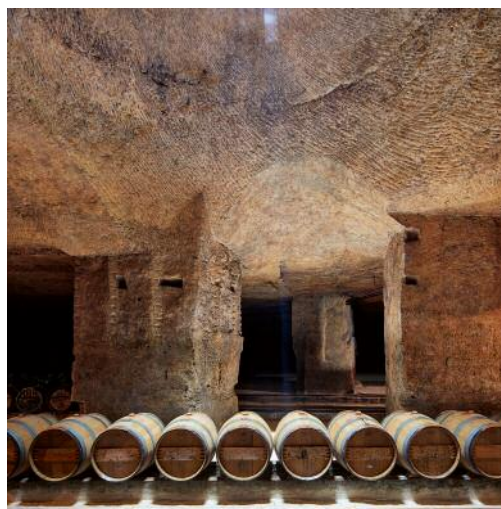
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