Maxime Castillo, professional bodyboarder
Abatilles quick facts

- **DRINK WELL, DRINK LOCAL**
- **50,000,000 BOTTLES/YEAR**
- **EXPORTS TO 30 COUNTRIES**
- **SINCE 1925 in Arcachon**
- **472 metres (1,549 feet)**
- **100% recyclable**
- **ZERO NITRATES**
- **50 employees**
- **2,000 restaurants in France**
- **17 local starred restaurants**
- The spring only draws **38% of the volume permitted by the local authorities (2018 figures)**

**Metres**

**38%**
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Drawing water responsibly

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**Water is a gift**

More than being an industrial mineral water producer, the Abatilles Spring is a precious resource, part of nature’s heritage and a real gift that we must protect accordingly. Every day we strive to balance the production-preservation equation.

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**Our CSR* policy**

*Corporate Social Responsibility*

Abatilles continues to grow while controlling its production volumes. It meets its ecological challenges and makes the necessary technical investments for its business to thrive. Our small team of 50 people commits every day to apply our CSR policy with concrete and measured processes that aim to:

- Preserve the purity of our water
- Draw it in reasonable quantities
- Protect our immediate environment
- Reduce our environmental footprint

---

- Reasonable quantities: only **38%** of the volume permitted by the local authorities
- Optimised bottling process to reduce energy consumption (**40% less since 2008**)  
- **Fully recyclable** bottles and caps, recovered and reprocessed
- Objective to recycle **25%** of all plastic by 2025
- Participation in recycling PET* bottles (packaging eco-tax*)
  
  *PET = Polyethylene terephthalate*
- Regular decrease in the weight of plastic used in our bottles and caps
- Starting materials **sourced only in France**
- Volumes produced of the glass-packaged range **multiplied by 3** between 2013 and 2019
- Our employees are motivated to protect the environment
- **Sorting bins** for bottles, caps, plastic films, glass, cardboard and batteries in the workshop
- **Research and development initiatives** to seek out alternatives for plastic

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### Local & responsible

The identity of Abatilles is inherently linked to its connection with the area around the Bay of Arcachon and the affection it has from local people. Abatilles proudly asserts and demonstrates its bond with the Bassin d’Arcachon brand, which helps define it. We are fully aware of our environmental and societal impact, and contribute actively to local development by prioritising local partners and stakeholders.

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**This is a long-term commitment to get the very best from our water and help people enjoy life together.**

Hervé Maudet  
Abatilles General Manager
Light and pure

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Where does it come from?

The Abatilles spring was discovered by drilling that took place in 1923. The water is drawn from a captive aquifer formed during the Eocene at a depth of 472 m (1,549 feet). Every drop comes from rain that falls in the Massif Central mountains, which seeps through the ground at a speed of 1 km every 300 years. As it filters through rock, sand and clay, Abatilles Water takes on different minerals, which determine its make-up that has remained constant since 1925, and collects naturally in the aquifer. Here in the Abatilles area by Arcachon Bay this water has been drawn and bottled directly for nearly 100 years.

Unique, pure water that is great for the whole family!

Lovely balance

Its original underground purity and low mineral content, hailed by the Bordeaux Academy of Medicine, make Abatilles Water stand out and give it lovely balance due to the distribution of minerals in it.

Zero nitrates

Its unique depth of 472 metres (1,549 feet) acts as a natural geological barrier shielding against pollution and nitrates. Furthermore, there is no agricultural activity anywhere near the spring. It is one of the very few French springs to declare zero nitrates*.

*Lower than the detection limit

Low mineral content

With its rate of 354 mg/l of dry residue, it features on the very short list of French waters with low mineral contents, because any excess minerals are filtered out as it passes through the different geological layers. It is liked for its neutral taste and its draining and detox effects. It aids the elimination of toxins without putting stress on the body’s metabolism.

Zero nitrates

Nitrates themselves are not bad for the health. The harmful effect comes when they break down into nitrites, which affect the blood’s capacity to transport oxygen through the body.

Interesting fact

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Mineral content and purity guaranteed

Abatilles Water is drawn from below with perfectly protected equipment. Its natural qualities and original purity as it emerges from the well undergo no processing or human contact until you open a bottle of it! Notably its composition, which must remain stable over time, is regularly tested in-house and by the Regional Health Agency under the auspices of the French Ministry of Health.

12,500 quality tests per year

IN OUR LABORATORY: every two hours, tests are carried out on samples from different points: from the aquifer, as it emerges from the well, from tanks and from bottles, etc. Reference samples are also stored in the sample library for two years, so that preservation of the water’s quality in our bottles can be checked.

OFFICIAL TESTING: every month, the Regional Health Agency performs independent analyses in laboratories certified by the French Ministry of Health. The Environment and Hydrology Laboratory carries out analyses at the well and on the bottling line, and takes samples from bottles.

IFS Food Standard*

Certified at higher level.
* International certification that guarantees the safety and quality of our products.

Natural mineral water is one of the most highly tested products in the food industry.

472 metres
(1,549 feet)
Drawn from a single well, a natural mineral water’s composition is distinctive in that it remains stable over time and has a balanced mineral content, and requires no processing: **Added bonus:** its therapeutic qualities (its positive effects on health) have been recognised historically by the Academy of Medicine.

Because of the great depth from which it is drawn, Abatilles Water has a unique composition; it is balanced and has zero nitrates, and this has remained unchanged since 1925. It is bottled directly from the aquifer and undergoes no manipulation or processing.

Spring water is drinkable as soon as it is drawn and undergoes no treatment, unlike tap water. However, its mineral content is not fixed and varies over time. Its composition offers no specific therapeutic qualities. It can come from different springs that are geographically far from each other.

Tap water comes from different sources: lakes, rivers or ground water. It must be filtered and disinfected with chlorine and ozone to meet regulatory requirements.

**Interesting fact**

Unlike Spring Water, whose composition can vary, Mineral Water must guarantee a consistent and stable mineral content. It is important to be able to tell the difference. Not all waters are the same.
Abatilles water: good for everyone

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La Bordelaise

For several years, premium mineral waters have become essential in the world of fine dining. Like wine, they stimulate the appetite and curiosity of consumers. Many specialists, such as water sommeliers and wine connoisseurs, have developed growing interest in the subtleties of rare waters.

Both still and fine sparkling Abatilles Mineral Water have introduced themselves into this category of Grand Cru Waters, thanks to:

• Their origin and terroir. Drawn from a depth of 472 metres (1,549 feet) for nearly a century in an exceptional, protected environment not far from Bordeaux and its fine wine estates
• Their unique, balanced composition with their low mineral content and zero nitrates
• Their unparalleled taste. Fresh and elongated on the attack, fine texture, round and very neutral
• Their distinctive packaging reminiscent of that of Bordeaux wines

Still or fine sparkling natural mineral water

GLASS

Recyclable glass range: 75 cl, 50 cl and 33 cl

PET

Fully recyclable PET range: 1 litre and 50 cl
Fine eating and drinking

Loved by chefs and foodies alike, Abatilles Water is a great favourite in restaurants of note. Its subtle taste and elegant bubbles enhance the flavours of the wines and dishes it is served with.

2,000 restaurants in France
15 starred restaurants in Gironde

Amore - Bordeaux
Au chien qui file - Paris 2ème
Auberge en Gasconne - Astarac
Auberge Saint-Jean - Saint-Jean de Blaignac
Bistrot du Grand Louis - Mérignac
Bovem - Bordeaux
Café de la Poste - La Rochelette
Café du Port - Bordeaux
Café Français - Bordeaux
Cauldalie Smith Haut-Laflitte - Martillac
Château Cordellian Bages - Pauillac
Château de la Tour - Béguey
Charbonnel - Brantôme en Périgord
Chez Carmen - Toulouse
Chez Hortense - Cap-Ferret
Chez Mariottat - Agen
Chez Pierre - Arcachon
Christopher Coutanceau - La Rochelle
Club TF1 - Paris
Comptoir Cuisine - Bordeaux
Couleur Café - Bordeaux
Château de Monrecour - Saint-Vincent-de-Cosse
Familia - Bordeaux
Ganache - Bordeaux
Garapapilles - Bordeaux
Gaya - Châtelaillon
George V - Paris
Golf de Bordeaux-Lac - Bordeaux
Hostellerie de Plaisance - Saint-Émilion
Hôtel de la Renaissance - Bordeaux
Hôtel L’imprimerie - Paris Cléry
Hôtel-Restaurant Claude Darroze - Langon
Julien Crugue - Bordeaux
L’Albatros - Saint-Trojan-les-Bains
L’Amazonie - Paris 8ème
L’Équilibre - Bordeaux
L’Escalier - Cap-Ferret
L’Essentiel - Poitiers
L’Estacade - Bordeaux
L’Imparfait - Bergerac
L’Ombrière - Bordeaux
L’Orliens - Bordeaux
L’Usurier - Moissac
La Barbade - La Boule
La Brasserie Bordelaise - Bordeaux
La Chabotterie - Montreverd
La Colomiche - La Teste-de-Buch
La Ferme aux Grives - Eugénie-les-Bains
La Fleur de Sel - Noirmoutier
La Grand’Vigne - Martillac
La Martine - Paris 16ème
La Table d’Hôtes - Le 4ème Mur - Bordeaux
La Table de Montesquieu - La Brède
Le Terrace Rouge - Saint-Émilion
La Villa Noû - Pianic
La Yole de Chris - La Rochelle
Le 16 - Paris 16ème
Le 7 - Bordeaux
Le Beau Marché - Saint-Jean-de-Luz
Le Big - Bordeaux
Le Bistrot du Régent - Bordeaux
Le Cardinal des Mers - Saint-Georges-de-Didonne
Le Clos Saint Front - Périgueux
Le Dijieux - Bordeaux
Le Gabriel - Bordeaux
Le Grand L’Île d’Oléron
Le Louis XIII - Paris 6ème
Le M Domaine de Rochebois - Vitrac
Le Marly - Neuilly-sur-Seine
Le Miramar - Biarritz
Le Patio - Arcachon
Le Pavillon des Boulevards - Bordeaux
Le Pincemin - Versailles
Le Pressoir d’Argent - Bordeaux
Le Prince Noir - Lormont
Le Pyrénées - Toulouse
Le Skiff Club - La Teste-de-Buch
Le Zagaya - Pessac
Les Canailles Club - Toulouse
Les Clés d’Argent - Mont-de-Marsan
Les Prés d’Eugénie - Eugénie-les-Bains
Logis de La Cadène - Saint-Émilion
Monsieur Dior - Paris 8ème
Monsieur Georges - Paris 8ème
Piccolina - Paris
Pinasse Café - Cap-Ferret
Relais & Châteaux Michel Trama - Puymirol
Restaurant la Pergola - Toulouse
Restaurant Michel Sarran - Toulouse
The Art - Courbevoie
Turbine Bazar - Toulouse
Vivres - Rochefort
Everyday drinking

Its unique composition, balance and zero nitrates make Abatilles an ideal water for everyday drinking for everyone. It is like a family friend that has often shared everyday life and holiday memories for generations.

The family’s well-being partner that brings a breath of fresh air from the Arcachon Bay!
100 years of history

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The spa years - 1926 to 1964  18
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Discovery in the roaring 20’s

In 1923, Gabriel Maydieu, who owned land in the Abatilles area decided to drill for oil there. He hired Louis Le Marié, a Breton graduate engineer. At a depth of 472 metres (1,549 feet) the well became suddenly flooded and a jet of warm sulphur-rich water at 25°C (77°F) shot out to a height of 7 metres (23 feet).

This was August 1923 and the Abatilles Spring had just been discovered!

It was named Sainte-Anne by Louis Le Marié after the patron saint of Brittany.

The Bordeaux Academy of Medicine undertook analysis of the water and all the results confirmed that this was a “health water” with therapeutic and diuretic properties fit for spa treatments.

On 8th April 1925, its low mineral content and very balanced composition led to the foundation of the Abatilles Spa Company. The water was prescribed by doctors and distributed for sale in flagons exclusively in chemist’s shops. During summer 1925, the Academy of Medicine and the French government granted official authorisation for the spa to operate.

In 1926, having built a pavilion to house bottling operations, the Abatilles Company decided to construct a small spa in the neo-Basque style with showers and bathrooms, a restaurant, a chic water bar designed as a kiosk, which is still the Abatilles emblem today.

The spring and its landscaped park became a major resort, where spa guests and world celebrities came for cures and parties.

This great progress was however interrupted for around ten years by the Second World War.

It was only in the 50’s when the Spring became one of the spas certified by the French Social Security and patrons’ expenses were reimbursed, that business took off again.

Without any possible doubt, the most cheerful venue in the region. This is so true that when you arrive in Arcachon and ask the cabmen what is worth seeing, they all mention the Abatilles Spa Company park first. Elegant ladies frequent the Spring to remain youthful, while the gentry take the waters to recover from over-eating.”

1926 – Extract from contemporary documents.
The spa years

During the period of reconstruction after the war, the French Spa and Climate Federation urged the government to use the spas that were recognised for their healing properties. In 1954, basing their arguments on the health benefits of the Arcachon Bay and the medicinal qualities of Abatilles water, the mayor of Arcachon, Lucien de Gracia and the Director of the Spring, Doctor Penaud, managed to persuade the authorities to grant reimbursement of Abatilles spa treatments by Social Security.

Industrialisation

In 1961, Vittel Group took over Abatilles. The Spring’s order book exploded, and its bottling facility was used by other large groups. In 1991, Nestlé Waters Group acquired Perrier Vittel Group and with it the Abatilles Spring. This ownership lasted until 2008, when the Spring was taken over by two independent businessmen, one from Arcachon and his associate, who worked to build the water’s brand recognition for a few years.

A new breath of fresh air

In 2013, Jean Merlaut, a wine producer and merchant, and wine négociant Hervé Maudet fell in love with the Abatilles Spring. They took the leap of faith of investing in a highly efficient production facility and over the years have made the Spring into one of the flagships of the local economy.

The Abatilles brand has been built around a strong regional focus, the work of an engaged, passionate team of women and men, robust regional partnerships with sport, well-being, fine dining and wine, and growing love of the product amongst its drinkers.

1923 - The Sainte-Anne des Abatilles spring is discovered
1954 - Abatilles spa treatment costs reimbursed by French Social Security
2008 - The spring is bought by Arcachon resident Roger Padois and his associate Olivier Bertrand
1915 - 1930 - The Abatilles Spa Company is founded
1961 - Vittel Group takes over the company operating the spring
1991 - Nestlé Group acquires Perrier Vittel Group and becomes owner of the Abatilles spring
2013 - It is sold to Bordeaux wine producer and merchant Jean Merlaut and Hervé Maudet, the present Spring General Manager.
l’eau de votre bébé
SOCIETE THERMALE DES ABATILLES
Fournisseur de la Cité d’Argent
ARCACHON (Gironde) — Téléphone 22-54-44

ABATILLES
source sainte-anne
l’eau de votre bébé

ARCACHON
Depuis 1925

ABATILLES
VOTRE EAU MINERALE NATURELLE DE GENERATION EN GENERATION

EAU DES
ABATILLES
Sante des Reins

ACTUALITÉS
1925-2000

ARCACHON
GIRONDE
LA MOINS CHÈRE
DES EAUX DE CETTE CLASSE

SOURCE S'TE ANNE
LA PLUS PROFONDE DE FRANCE

Vue au Parc des Abatilles
Our partners
Proud to refresh them all year round!

Sport

Abatilles Mineral Water is the regional water from Arcachon Bay with its wide-open spaces and fresh sea air. It brings well-being, purity and good health. Good health is all about sport and drinking water! Sport can be a pastime or a competition, and it embraces the values that we promote in building close relationships, especially with the large family of local sportspeople and their clubs. We are already historic partners of Union Bordeaux Bègles, Girondins de Bordeaux, Matmut Atlantique Stadium, Bordeaux Metropole Marathon and more recently with the Toulouse Stadium.

Wine & fine dining

Still or fine sparkling Abatilles Water served in Bordeaux bottles is a very popular choice in restaurants. The shape is strongly reminiscent of the classic Bordeaux wine bottle. All its qualities have made it an essential partner for a growing number of wine organisations and events, and celebrations of fine dining.
Mineral water science, tours & heritage
The schedule

Every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the year from 10.00 to 11.30 a.m., €10 per person per visit. Free for children under 10.

- Guided tour
- The well and workshop with introduction to the 7 production steps
- Open-air photo exhibition
- Small historical museum
- Sale of "Made in Abatilles" goodies
- Tasting the water from the spring taps

PLEASE NOTE!
Tours must be booked through the Arcachon Tourist Office
Tel. +33 557 529 797

European Heritage Days

Abatilles takes part every year in the European Heritage Days. This is a great opportunity to find out what goes on behind the scenes at the only natural mineral water spring in Gironde.