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1 **Volcanological evolution of Montagne Pelée (Martinique): a textbook case of alternating**
2 **Plinian and dome-forming eruptions**

3

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5

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8

9 **ABSTRACT**

10 Montagne Pelée is one of the most active volcanoes of the Lesser Antilles arc, with two to three
11 magmatic eruptions per millennium and an estimated magmatic production rate in the order of
12 $0.7 \text{ km}^3/1000$ years. Montagne Pelée is also infamous for the very large number of people
13 (30 000) killed by an eruptive phenomenon at the onset of the 1902-1905 dome-forming
14 eruption. Active for ~ 550 kyrs, Montagne Pelée has undergone two major flank collapses that
15 influenced its volcanological as well as magmatic evolution. The last one occurred at around
16 36 ka. Due to changes in the threshold effect following the decrease in load of the volcanic
17 edifice due to flank collapse, there was a switch in emitted magma from generally andesitic to
18 basaltic andesites. After 10 kyrs of intense activity, the load exerted by the new edifice once
19 again prevented dense basaltic andesite magma from reaching the surface, whereas andesitic
20 magmas, similar to the initial ones, continued to be emitted. All the magmas come from a
21 common magma ponding zone at 200 ± 50 MPa, 875 ± 25 °C, an oxygen fugacity ($f\text{O}_2$) between
22 0.4 and 0.8 log unit above the nickel-nickel oxide (NNO) oxygen buffer, and melt H_2O contents
23 of 5.3-6.3 wt %. Based on comparative on-land and marine tephrochronological studies, we

24 have reconstructed a detailed eruptive history of the volcano over the last 25 kyrs. The volcano
25 produced a succession of Plinian-SubPlinian and dome-forming eruptions, making it a textbook
26 case for studying this duality, which sometimes occurred during a single eruption. We identified
27 more than 55 magmatic eruptions, with a ratio of 2/3 for dome-forming vs. Plinian eruptions.
28 An unusual feature of this volcano is that dome-forming eruptions often start with violent,
29 superficial and laterally directed explosions. These generate highly devastating dilute and
30 turbulent pyroclastic density currents on the southwestern and southern flanks of the volcano,
31 as illustrated by the seven events of this type during the first months of the 1902-1905 eruption.
32 On the basis of the past eruptions over the last millennia, a series of scenarios can be proposed
33 in the event of reactivation, including no magmatic eruption, a phreatic event or a magmatic
34 eruption (Plinian or dome-forming eruption, with or without an explosive phase).

35

36

37 **Keywords :** Montagne Pelée (Martinique, Lesser Antilles) ; flank-collapse; magma ; Plinian
38 eruption ; dome-forming eruption ;

39 1. Introduction

40

41 Subduction volcanoes are the most abundant emerged volcanoes on Earth. Their activity
42 is highly dependent on the subduction rate: high subduction rates result in a high partial melting
43 rate of the mantle wedge above the subducting lithosphere, leading to a high magma production
44 rate and a high eruptive frequency, sometimes with very large-volume eruptions (km³ to tens
45 of km³). This is the case of most of the volcanoes of the Pacific “Ring of Fire”, where the
46 subduction rate can reach more than 10 cm/year (DeMets et al., 2010). Conversely, when the
47 subduction rate is slow, the magma volume and the eruptive frequency of the volcanoes are
48 lower: this is the case for the Lesser Antilles arc where the subduction rate of the North and
49 South Atlantic plates beneath the small Caribbean plate is of the order of 2 cm/year (Wadge,
50 1984). Magmas at subduction zones commonly result from a mixture of diverse sources that
51 may include the subducting slab with its fluids, the mantle wedge, and the crust through which
52 the melt ascends (Davidson, 1987; McCulloch and Gamble, 1991). They show widespread
53 compositions ranging from basalts to rhyolites, most of them belonging to the calc-alkaline
54 series (Gill, 1981); intermediate magmas (basaltic andesites, andesites) are the most abundant
55 compared to basalts and more evolved magmas such as dacites and rhyolites. Magmas are thus
56 rather silica-rich, but also volatile-rich (Eichelberger, 1995; Cassidy et al., 2018), giving rise to
57 diverse eruptions, from effusive to highly explosive. The most frequent eruptive styles are
58 vulcanian to subPlinian or Plinian eruptions and lava dome-forming eruptions. In addition, it is
59 not rare to observe a shift in eruptive styles during an eruption (hereafter designated as multi-
60 style) because of a small change in composition (through emission of different parts of a
61 stratified magma reservoir or different lenses of melt in a transcrustal plumbing system) or
62 changes in magma flux, due to a transition of the degassing regime within the conduit during
63 ascent of a magma of constant composition (Woods and Koyaguchi, 1994; Martel et al., 1998;

64 [Villemant and Boudon, 1998](#); [Degruyter and Bonadonna, 2012](#)), or magmatic gas flushing
65 ([Caricchi et al., 2007](#); [Gonnermann and Manga, 2007](#); [Cassidy et al., 2018](#); [Caricchi et al.,](#)
66 [2018](#)). In addition, significant modifications to the volcano's shape through flank collapses
67 (Lesser Antilles, [Boudon et al., 2007](#); [2013](#); Mount St Helens: [Voight et al., 1981](#); [Bezymianny](#)
68 [1956](#); [Belousov, 1996](#); Shiveluch 1964: [Belousov, 1995](#)) may also generate changes in eruptive
69 styles, by modifying the load pressure on the plumbing system. In the last few decades, there
70 have been several eruptions worldwide of this multi-style type such as Mount St. Helens (USA,
71 1980-1986) ([Christiansen and Peterson, 1981](#)) and Soufrière Hills (Montserrat, 1995-2010)
72 ([Sparks and Young, 2002](#)).

73 The existence of a duality between the two end-member eruptive styles (Plinian-
74 SubPlinian vs. lava dome-forming) is common in subduction zones. Understanding magma
75 behaviour during these two contrasted eruptive styles is essential in terms of risk assessment
76 and for the protection of the populations that live on the flanks of such volcanoes. Montagne
77 Pelée (Martinique), in the Lesser Antilles arc, offers a good opportunity to shed light on this
78 duality: the succession of these two eruptive styles over the last tens of thousands of years has
79 been systematically detailed. Numerous works have been carried out on this volcano combining
80 on-land and offshore studies. The eruptive history has been established by on-land studies
81 ([Roobol and Smith, 1976](#); [Westercamp and Traineau, 1983a, b](#); [Smith and Roobol, 1990](#);
82 [Germa et al., 2011a, 2015](#); [Boudon et al., 2005](#); [Michaud-Dubuy et al., 2019](#)) supplemented by
83 tephrochronological studies on marine cores collected during oceanographic cruises ([Boudon](#)
84 [et al., 2013](#); [Solaro et al., 2020](#)). The structure of the volcano has been approached by studying
85 flank-collapses combining on-land and offshore investigations ([Vincent et al., 1989](#); [Le Friant](#)
86 [et al., 2003, 2015](#); [Boudon et al., 2007](#); [Brunet et al., 2015](#)). Petrological investigations have
87 been performed on eruptive products ([Traineau et al., 1983](#); [Bourdier et al., 1985](#); [Dupuy et al.,](#)
88 [1985](#); [Fichaut, 1986](#); [Fichaut et al., 1989a, b](#); [Gourgaud et al, 1989](#); [Smith and Roobol, 1990](#);

89 [Martel et al., 1998; Pichavant et al., 2002](#)). Detailed studies on selected eruptions, including
90 dome-forming ([Lacroix, 1904; Perret, 1937; Fisher et al., 1980; Fisher and Heiken 1982;](#)
91 [Boudon and Lajoie, 1989; Bourdier et al., 1989; Lajoie et al., 1989; Tanguy, 1994, 2004;](#)
92 [Villemant and Boudon., 1998; Boudon et al., 2015](#)) and Plinian or sub-Plinian eruptions
93 ([Bardintzeff et al., 1989; Traineau et al., 1989; Balcone-Boissard et al., 2010; Carazzo et al.,](#)
94 [2012, 2019, 2020; Michaud-Dubuy, 2019; Michaud-Dubuy et al., 2019](#)) have also been carried
95 out.

96 Here, the objective is to synthetize the numerous works dealing with Montagne Pelée to
97 propose a complete updated panorama of the volcano's evolution, including its structure, its
98 volcanological history and its magmatics. Such a synthesis provides useful constraints on other
99 volcanic systems in subduction zones. Moreover, we can use these data to improve our
100 knowledge in the event of reactivation and for volcanic crisis management.

101

102

103 **2. Montagne Pelée in the Lesser Antilles arc**

104

105 Montagne Pelée is located in the northern part of Martinique Island in the Lesser Antilles
106 arc ([Fig. 1a](#)), one of the two subduction arcs bordering the Atlantic Ocean, the other being the
107 Sandwich Islands arc. It results from the oblique subduction of the northern and southern
108 Atlantic plates under the Caribbean plate at a relatively slow rate of 2 cm/year ([Wadge, 1984](#)).
109 The arc extends from 12° to 18° N with a marked convexity towards the East ([Fig. 1a](#)). Arc
110 volcanism has been active since 40 Ma ([Bouysse et al., 1990; Martin-Kaye, 1969](#)). The nature
111 of the crust on which the Lesser Antilles arc volcanoes are built is poorly known, though it
112 potentially interacts with magmas during their ascent and storage. [Davidson and Harmon \(1989\)](#)
113 proposed that the whole arc is built on top of the accretionary prism of the former Aves volcanic

114 arc. In addition, [Larue et al. \(1991\)](#) suggested that in the south, where the accretionary prism is
115 the thickest, sediments overthrust the volcanic arc and form part of the crust. However, the
116 extent of such overthrust fore-arc sediments is unclear and these features have not been
117 described north of St Lucia ([Larue et al., 1991](#); [Van Soest et al., 2002](#)). [Speed and Walker](#)
118 [\(1991\)](#) suggested that the southern part of the Lesser Antilles arc (from Dominica southward)
119 is built on young oceanic crust produced by the opening of the Grenada Basin. [Bouysse et al.](#)
120 [\(1990\)](#) proposed that only the northern part of the arc is built on an older volcanic arc belonging
121 to the Aves system. [Kopp et al. \(2011\)](#) imaged the present island arc structure as a ~25 km thick
122 crustal system, composed of three layers. A three-kilometer-thick upper crust of volcanogenic
123 sedimentary and volcanoclastics rocks is underlain by an intermediate felsic middle crust and
124 a plutonic lower crust. The island arc crust may comprise inherited elements of oceanic plateau
125 material contributing to the observed crustal thickness. [Xenoliths show considerable island-to-](#)
126 [island variation in their petrology from plagioclase-free ultramafic lithologies to gabbros and](#)
127 [gabbro-norites with variable proportions of amphibole, indicative of changing magma](#)
128 [differentiation depths \(Melekhova et al., 2019\).](#) In addition to the Moho, a mid-crustal
129 discontinuity is identified at about 10-25 km depth along the arc, with slightly deeper values in
130 the north (Montserrat) as for the Moho (from 25 to 35 km depth south to north) ([Schlaphorst et](#)
131 [al., 2018](#)).

132 Along the Lesser Antilles trench, the volcanic arc regionally shows a north-south
133 dichotomy. North of Dominica, the arc is divided into two groups of islands. An older arc
134 (Oligocene- early Miocene) is represented by the most easterly islands, on which the volcanoes
135 are extinct, sometimes very eroded and covered by a thick carbonate platform ([Fig. 1a](#)). Active
136 volcanoes are located on the islands of the western part, which represent the recent arc whose
137 construction began around 20 Ma ([Bouysse et al., 1990](#)). This has been interpreted as a
138 migration of the volcanism ([Pichot, 2012](#) ; [Legendre et al., 2018](#)). The origin of this split into

139 two distinct arcs is debated. The peculiar curvature of the Lesser Antilles trench has been
140 acquired since the Paleocene subsequent to the entrance of the buoyant Bahamas Bank in the
141 Greater Antilles subduction zone. This event locked the subduction process, triggering the plate
142 boundary reorganization, cessation, and migration of the arc in the forearc of the subduction
143 zone. Since the late Oligocene-early Miocene, the volcanic arc of the Lesser Antilles shows a
144 peculiar feature; south of Martinique, [the arc emplaced and stayed in a rather steady-state](#)
145 [position and](#) the volcanic activity was continuous and slightly migrated westward (less than 10
146 km, i.e., the width of the island) whereas north of this island, it ceased during the late Oligocene-
147 early Miocene interval and migrated westward to its present-day location. The duration of the
148 volcanic hiatus is estimated to be approximately 10 Myr. South of Dominica, the two branches
149 of the arc merge and the deposits of the older arc are frequently covered by those of the recent
150 arc. The southern part of the arc is bordered to the West by the 3000 m-deep Grenada back-arc
151 basin.

152 Twelve volcanoes are currently considered as active on the main islands of the recent arc.
153 From north to south they are: Mount Misery (St Kitts), Nevis Peak (Nevis), Soufrière Hills
154 (Montserrat), Soufrière (Guadeloupe), Morne Aux Diables, Morne Diablotin, Morne Trois
155 Pitons-Micotrin and Morne Plat Pays Volcanic Complex (Dominica), Montagne Pelée
156 (Martinique), Soufrière (St. Lucia), Soufrière (St. Vincent) and Kick'em Jenny (Grenada).
157 Martinique is the sole island in the arc that shows an across-arc distribution of volcanic
158 formations belonging to the old and recent arcs without juxtaposition, whereas on all the other
159 islands of the southern part of the arc products from the recent arc generally cover the older
160 ones ([Westercamp et al., 1989](#); [Germa et al., 2011a](#)). Thus, volcanic formations can be observed
161 with a migration of the activity from the Oligocene (25 Ma) to present from the southeast to the
162 northwest of the island. Montagne Pelée, located in the northern part of the island, is the only
163 active volcano on Martinique ([Figs. 1b, c, 2](#)).

164

165 3. Structure and volcanic evolution of Montagne Pelée

166

167 Montagne Pelée is one of the most active volcanoes in the Lesser Antilles arc. For
168 several decades it was considered that Montagne Pelée was located between two older
169 volcanoes (Fig. 2a). To the south is the Morne Jacob - Pitons du Carbet system, whose activity
170 ended around 320 ka ago (Samper et al., 2008; Germa et al, 2010) with a large flank collapse
171 (Fig. 1b), allowing the build-up of steep lava domes made of highly-crystallized and viscous
172 magmas (Boudon et al., 2013), while to the north is Mont Conil. Germa et al. (2011b) proposed
173 on the basis of a series of K-Ar ages that the activity of Mont Conil ranges from 550 to 126 ka,
174 representing a more recent activity than proposed in older works (Nagle et al., 1976;
175 Westercamp et al., 1989). Consequently, the first half of Mont Conil edification was
176 contemporaneous with the activity of Pitons du Carbet over a period of ~250 ka. Progressively
177 the magma production stopped in the south and became focused in the north beneath Mont
178 Conil, generating abundant lava flows and lava domes leading to a volcano with a probable
179 minimum height of 1050 m. Mont Conil's activity stopped 127 ka ago (Germa et al., 2011b,
180 2015) following a large flank collapse called "The Prêcheur event" that destroyed the
181 southwestern flank of the volcano (Le Friant et al., 2003; Boudon et al., 2007). The age of the
182 flank collapse is derived from two K-Ar ages obtained on pre- and post-collapse magmatic
183 samples: 127 ± 2 ka on a pre-collapse lava flow and 126 ± 2 ka on a lava dome (Piton Marcel)
184 located on the rim of the flank collapse (Fig. 2a) but inside the horseshoe-shaped structure and
185 thus corresponding to post collapse activity (Germa et al., 2011b). These two lava samples have
186 very close geochemical compositions, as do all magmas from Mont Conil and Montagne Pelée
187 (Labanieh et al., 2010; Germa et al., 2011b), suggesting a common magmatic system feeding
188 both volcanic centers (Fig. 3). This has led to the hypothesis that Mont Conil is not independent

189 of Montagne Pelée but can be considered as the primitive Montagne Pelée (first stage of
190 edification), destroyed by the Le Prêcheur flank collapse. Considering the geometry and size of
191 the flank-collapse structure, the summit area of this primitive volcanic edifice was probably
192 located not far from the summit of the present Montagne Pelée cone, but with a larger extension
193 than that of the present-day Mont Conil area (Fig. 2a). The collapse volume of the “Le Prêcheur
194 event” was first estimated at 25 km³ and the resulting horseshoe-shaped structure around 8 x 6
195 km (Le Friant et al., 2003). More recently, Germa et al. (2015) proposed a lower volume of
196 14.7 km³ obtained on the basis of a geomorphological model of evolution of the volcano. Most
197 of the debris avalanche flowed into the sea a part from an on-land one kilometer-long piece of
198 the flank (Morne Julien, Fig. 2a), considered as a large hummock, partially covered by the
199 products of more recent activity.

200 During the second stage of Montagne Pelée’s activity, following the Prêcheur flank
201 collapse, lava dome-forming eruptions and associated concentrated pyroclastic density currents
202 (C-PDCs) were the dominant activity; such PDCs are highly concentrated gravity-driven flows
203 of hot particles and gas. A new volcanic cone constructed which shows a well-defined
204 asymmetry with steeper aerial and submarine slopes on the western flank compared to the
205 eastern flank. Most of the pyroclastic deposits produced during this 2nd stage are indurated
206 forming a succession of ridges particularly visible on the more eroded western flank (Figs 2a,
207 b;). The emitted magmas are dominantly andesites (Fig 3).

208 The activity of the last tens of thousands of years and the resulting deposits have been
209 well studied by on-land and offshore investigations, with diverse interpretations. A first
210 scenario proposed the occurrence of two flank collapses in the last 25 kyrs (Le Friant et al.,
211 2003): namely the “St. Pierre” and the “Rivière Sèche” events. The St. Pierre flank collapse
212 was estimated to have formed a 6 x 4 km horseshoe-shaped structure on-land intersecting the
213 previously horseshoe-shaped structure and generating a second debris avalanche of 13 km³ (8.8

214 km³ following the model of [Germa et al., 2015](#)) that flowed into the sea in the Grenada basin.
215 Based on geophysical surveys (seismic reflection, bathymetry, reflectivity), the Le Prêcheur
216 and St. Pierre debris avalanche deposits (DAD) extend far into the Grenada Basin, reaching
217 more than 50 km from the coast ([Le Friant et al., 2003](#)). The age of the second flank collapse
218 was first estimated at 25 ka cal BP (¹⁴C dating of on-land deposits within the horseshoe-shaped
219 structure). Using stratigraphical and magmatic correlations between on-land deposits and tephra
220 layers identified in a piston core (CAR-MAR 4 - [Fig. 1b](#)) drilled during the Caraval cruise
221 northwest of Martinique, a new minimum age of 32 ka cal BP was proposed ([Boudon et al.,](#)
222 [2013](#)). After this second flank collapse a new volcanic edifice grew, with deposits distributed
223 both inside and outside the structure. A third flank collapse, called “The Rivière Sèche event”
224 affected this new volcano. Of lower volume than the previous ones (2 to 3.5 ± 0.7 km³,
225 following the model of [Le Friant et al. \(2003\)](#) or [Germa et al. \(2015\)](#), respectively), it produced
226 a horseshoe shaped structure (1.5 x 4 km) open toward the west and a debris avalanche that
227 mainly flowed into the sea, stopping at the base of the submarine flank ([Fig. 1b](#)). Part of the
228 debris avalanche remained on-land at the opening of the horseshoe-shaped structure, forming a
229 series of small hills ([Fig 2a](#)). U-Th dating on the lava dome located inside the structure gives
230 an age of ~9 ka for this event ([Le Friant et al., 2003](#)).

231 During the IODP Expedition 340, data were obtained from a series of marine cores off
232 Montagne Pelée, which allow a new interpretation of the extent of the offshore DADs ([Le Friant](#)
233 [et al., 2015](#); [Brunet et al., 2016](#)): a large part of these deposits, with a chaotic seismic reflection
234 signature, were initially interpreted as DADs, but in fact correspond to deformed sediments
235 (named SLD – [Fig 1b](#)). Thus, the debris avalanche originating from the first flank collapse
236 entered the sea, flowed over the submarine volcano slope, stopped and deposited around the
237 slope break forming the bulge observed in the bathymetry ([Fig. 1b](#)). This first - and largest -
238 DAD weakened seafloor sediment due to its weight, and initiated seafloor sediment failure.

239 Resulting submarine landslides propagated along a decollement surface, deforming in situ
240 alternations of hemipelagic sediments and turbidity deposits (SLD, [Fig. 1b](#)). The DAD
241 generated by the less voluminous second flank collapse may have locally remobilized sediments
242 within the submarine landslide deposit, by exerting a normal stress that drove the deformation
243 process. In addition, a core located on the submarine flank of Montagne Pelée (core U 1401A,
244 2590 mbsl) was drilled into what was interpreted as the third DAD resulting from the Rivière
245 Sèche event ([Fig. 1b](#)). Although it was not possible to drill through it because of the
246 heterogeneity of the deposit and the presence of large blocks ([Le Friant et al., 2015](#)), the pelagic
247 sediments and volcanic deposits that covered the DAD were sampled. A detailed
248 tephrochronological study combining ^{18}O stratigraphy and ^{14}C dating gives a minimum age of
249 36 ka for the emplacement of this DAD and thus of the associated flank collapse ([Solaro et al.,](#)
250 [2020](#)). This new age together with the re-interpretation of the offshore deposits challenges
251 several previous interpretations for the volcanic evolution of Montagne Pelée and the successive
252 flank collapses.

253 A second scenario proposes the occurrence of only two flank collapses, as described by
254 [Solaro et al. \(2020\)](#). While the morphology of the northern rim of the Le Prêcheur flank-collapse
255 structure is clearly established, particularly by the hydrographic network and the distribution of
256 the valleys on both sides of this rim, the southern rim is less clear, having been destroyed or
257 covered by more recent products ([Fig. 2b](#)). The age of 127 ka obtained for two lava domes on
258 the two sides of the rim is reliable ([Germa et al., 2011a](#)). The Rivière Sèche flank collapse is
259 also clearly identified by the presence of submarine DADs, some remnants of hummock
260 morphology on-land and the rims of the horseshoe-shaped structure ([Le Friant et al., 2003](#)).
261 However, the occurrence of the St. Pierre flank collapse event is questionable for several
262 reasons : (i) the northern rim of this horseshoe-shaped structure is not clearly established, (ii)
263 the distribution of the valleys coupled with the DEM underlines different orientations of the

264 valleys within and outside the two flank-collapse structures (Fig. 2b), (iii) the DAD is also not
265 clearly identified at the base of the submarine flank as it occurs intermixed with the first DAD
266 in the same bulge (Brunet et al., 2016) and (iv) the time interval that separated the Le Prêcheur
267 event (127 ka) and the Rivière Sèche event (≥ 36 ka) is around 90 ka. This time is short
268 (considering a mean magma production rate of 0.6-0.7 km³/1000 years, see discussion) to build
269 an edifice which is then destroyed by a large flank collapse (St. Pierre), before the
270 reconstruction of a new edifice, again destroyed by a new flank collapse (Rivière Sèche). This
271 second scenario with only two flank collapses (Le Prêcheur and Rivière Sèche events) dated
272 respectively at 127 and 36 ka is thus more likely (Fig. 2). In this new scenario, the Le Prêcheur
273 flank-collapse structure is larger than previously proposed and its volume probably closer to or
274 even greater than the volume initially proposed by Le Friant et al. (2003).

275

276

277 **4. Montagne Pelée's history in the last 36 ka cal BP (3rd stage)**

278

279 *4.1. The volcanic activity during the period 36 - 25 ka cal BP*

280

281 Following the last flank collapse (~36 ka), Montagne Pelée experienced numerous
282 explosive eruptions involving less differentiated magmas than those emitted before (Figs. 3, 4,
283 5, 6, 7). There was an increase in the magma production, attested by the abundance of eruptive
284 events : numerous marine tephra layers during the period up to 25 cal ky BP in the CAR-MAR
285 4 and U1401A cores (Boudon et al., 2013; Solaro et al., 2020 - Fig 7a, b, c), thick low-silica
286 pumice-rich (52-60% wt% SiO₂ - previously referred to as scoria) turbiditic deposits recognized
287 in the U1401A core (Solaro et al., 2020; Fig 7b) and abundant on-land low-silica pumice-rich
288 PDC deposits (Figs. 5, 6, 7d) (Traineau et al., 1983; Bourdier et al., 1985). These eruptions

289 generated low-silica pumice PDCs by column collapse filling the horseshoe-shaped structure
290 but also covering all the flanks of the growing volcano (Fig. 5). This activity occurred over
291 approximately 10 kyrs (i.e., ~36-25 ka), before decreasing progressively as shown by the
292 decrease in the number of macroscopic tephra in the marine cores (Fig. 7b,c).

293

294 4.2. *The activity between 25 ka cal BP and present*

295

296 The preceding activity was followed by a renewal of the production of felsic magmas
297 up to the present day (Figs. 3, 4). During this period, magmas covering the entire composition
298 range found in Montagne Pelée were emitted (Fig. 3a, b), with the most felsic ones ($\text{SiO}_2 > 60$
299 wt%) during the last magmatic eruptions of the last century (1902-1905, 1929-1932).
300 Combined on-land and offshore data indicates that at least 55 eruptions occurred on Montagne
301 Pelée (Figs. 6, 7). Plinian to subPlinian events and dome-forming eruptions were the two main
302 eruptive styles, with 17 Plinian to subPlinian events and a minimum of 38 dome-forming
303 eruptions (Fig. 7), including the two last historic eruptions (Roobol and Smith, 1976;
304 Westercamp and Traineau, 1983a, b; Traineau et al., 1989; Smith and Roobol, 1990, Boudon
305 et al., 2013; Solaro et al., 2020; Carazzo et al., 2012, 2019, 2020; Michaud Dubuy, 2019;
306 Michaud Dubuy et al., 2019). Most of these eruptions have characteristics in common with the
307 different historical and prehistorical eruptions described below.

308

309 4.3. *The prehistoric activity of Montagne Pelée and the key eruptions*

310

311 Written records of the historical volcanic activity of Montagne Pelée do not begin until
312 after the arrival of the Europeans in 1635 (Du Tertre, 1654), although settlements were present
313 on Martinique before that in the prehistoric period. Around 130 AD, the first Arawak Indians

314 settled in northern Martinique from South America. They were decimated by the P2 Plinian
315 eruption (now dated at 314 ± 69 AD; Fig. 6). Around 600 AD the Caribbean Indians, also
316 originating from South America, settled on the island, exterminating the Arawak Indians. The
317 Caribbean Indians experienced the last Plinian eruption of Montagne Pelée in 1348 ± 50 AD
318 (P1 eruption), as shown by the numerous remains found at several sites at the base of pumice
319 fallout deposits. They remained in Martinique for centuries after the P1 eruption, until the
320 arrival of the Europeans in 1635, who killed them off.

321 - *The Plinian P3 eruption* (1929 ± 12 cal BP; 113 ± 85 AD) occurred probably just before
322 the first settlement in Martinique. It was one of the most powerful Plinian eruptions of the recent
323 period (1 km^3 of magma DRE, $VE1 = 5$, $M = 5.4$, Carazzo et al., 2020). It produced an eruptive
324 column that reached a maximum height of 28-30 km generating a thick fallout pumice layer.
325 Several collapses of the column produced a succession of PDCs channeled along the main
326 valleys of the volcano, with an estimated volume of 0.7 km^3 DRE. The pumice fallout layers
327 (0.3 km^3 DRE, Fig. 8a) are extensive, covering the whole flank of the volcano, and extending
328 to the south onto the older volcano of the Pitons du Carbet with the 30 cm isopach located 15
329 km from the vent (Carazzo et al., 2020).

330 - *The Plinian P2 eruption* (1670 ± 32 cal BP; 394 ± 137 AD, Fig. 6), like the P3 eruption,
331 produced a significant volume of magma ($0.67\text{-}0.88 \text{ km}^3$ of magma DRE, $VE1 = 4$, $M = 5.2$)
332 with the pumice fallout mainly found on the northeast flank of the volcano (Carazzo et al.,
333 2019). The eruption started with the emplacement of a low-concentration PDC emplaced from
334 a violent laterally directed blast to the northeast, followed by an eruptive column that reached
335 23-26 km high, producing a pumice fallout that covered the northern flank of the volcano. This
336 column partially collapsed several times, due to an increase in the mass eruption rate, and
337 generated PDCs that were channeled along two main valleys on the southeast and northeast
338 flanks of the volcano.

339 - A dome-forming eruption occurred at 884 ± 111 AD. Only a few deposits of diluted
340 PDC (D-PDC) have been observed and dated from the western flank of the volcano (Smith and
341 Roobol, 1990). As no deposit was preserved on the lower part of the volcano, it was probably
342 an eruption of low intensity.

343 - *The P1 eruption* which occurred in 1348 ± 50 AD (624 ± 21 cal BP, Fig. 6) was a multi-
344 style eruption (Villemant and Boudon, 1998). It began with a phreatic activity as attested by the
345 centimeter-thick phreatic ash layer that covers the paleosoil on the western flank of the volcano
346 (Fig. 8b). It was followed by two lapilli- and ash-D-PDCs (Figs. 8b, 9a) generated by superficial
347 explosions in or at the base of a growing lava dome: the first one probably in the growing lava
348 dome due to the low proportion of vesiculated clasts and the second one, probably immediately
349 after, at the newly formed vent or in the higher part of the conduit as more vesiculated clasts
350 are present. The depressurization of the conduit triggered a Plinian phase (Traineau et al., 1989;
351 Bardintzeff et al.; 1989; Carazzo et al., 2012). This Plinian phase (VEI=4, M = 4.6) produced a
352 high plume that reached a maximum height of 19-22 km, generating a pumice fallout layer
353 covering principally the western flank of the volcano (Figs 8a, b, c, d). The partial collapse of
354 the column generated PDCs channeled along a valley on the southwest flank of the volcano.
355 The total volume of magma DRE emitted during the different phases of the eruption was in the
356 order of 0.2 km^3 .

357 - Another dome-forming eruption occurred in 1560 ± 80 AD. It was a dome-forming
358 eruption of small intensity that generated only a few C-PDCs channeled in the Rivière des Pères
359 valley located on the southwestern flank of the volcano (Figs. 2, 5; Westercamp and Traineau,
360 1983a).

361 When the first Europeans settled in 1635 and founded the town of St. Pierre, they
362 discovered a relief overhanging the bay devoid of vegetation; this was due to the last dome-

363 forming eruption that had occurred a few decades earlier. They gave it the name of “Montagne
364 Pelée” in reference to this unvegetated character.

365

366 4.4. *The historical activity*

367

368 During the historical period, the volcano erupted four times: first in 1792 and 1851
369 (minor phreatic eruptions), then in 1902-1905 and 1929-1932 (lava dome-forming eruptions
370 preceded by minor phreatic outbursts).

371

372 4.4.1. *The phreatic eruptions of 1792 and 1851*

373

374 The 1792 eruption, which was of mild intensity, began in January and ended three
375 months later. It produced block- and ash-fallout that contained old material and was limited in
376 extent to the summit area (Figs 2a, 5). The 1851 eruption, between August and October, after
377 four months of fumarolic activity, was more violent. Several phreatic explosions involving
378 block- and ash-fallout destroyed the vegetation in the summit area and produced a fine ash
379 which fell on the city of St. Pierre, 5 km away. The vents for these two eruptions were located
380 below the summit crater on the upper western flank of the volcano (Fig. 1c).

381

382 4.4.2. *The 1902-1905 dome-forming eruption*

383

384 This is one of the most well-known historic eruptions in the world, described in detail
385 by A. Lacroix in 1904. It can be divided into three main stages:
386 The pre-climactic stage: fumarolic activity was described inside the summit “Etang Sec” crater
387 in 1889. But as there were no other observations of persistent fumarole activity until 1900, it is

388 difficult to consider this as a precursor to the 1902 eruption. From the beginning of 1901,
389 fumarolic activity appeared in the crater, and at the beginning of 1902 a marked increase was
390 noticed, making it difficult to carry out human activity on the leeward side of the volcano (the
391 west side of the volcano). On April 23, a first phreatic explosion occurred. During the following
392 15 days numerous phreatic events produced a thick ash layer on the western flank of the volcano
393 and a much thinner layer over the city of St. Pierre. On May 5, a lahar generated by the
394 destruction of a natural dam in the Etang Sec Crater (Fig. 2a) flowed down the Rivière Blanche
395 towards its mouth killing 23 people in the Guerin factory, the first victims of the eruption.
396 During the night of May 5, a glow was observed by the inhabitants of St. Pierre indicating that
397 the magma had reached the surface inside the crater. During the night of May 7 - 8, a lahar in
398 the Rivière du Prêcheur destroyed Le Prêcheur village causing the death of 400 people.

399 The climactic stage began on May 8 and ended on August 30, 1902. During this period seven
400 violent and destructive turbulent D-PDCs destroyed the entire southwestern flank of the volcano
401 (Figs. 2a, 8e, f, 9b). Among these explosions, four of them were particularly violent: May 8th,
402 May 20th, June 6th and August 30th. The first one, on May 8th, partially destroyed the city of St.
403 Pierre (Fig. 9b) and killed its 28,000 inhabitants (Figs. 8e, f, g). The last one, on August 30th,
404 with a wider opening angle (~180°) destroyed part of the city of Morne Rouge located on the
405 southern flank of the volcano (Fig. 2a) and killed 1500 people. The total number of victims of
406 this eruption is therefore 30,000: this eruption has the sad record, worldwide and in historic
407 times, of being directly responsible of the deaths of the largest number of people by an eruptive
408 phenomenon. Throughout this stage, the lava dome grew continuously inside the Etang Sec
409 crater, being destroyed regularly by collapse of the unstable part of the lava dome or by
410 superficial and low explosions, generating numerous block- and ash C-PDCs channeled down
411 the Rivière Blanche valley (Fig. 8i) on the west side of the volcano (Lacroix, 1904; Tanguy,
412 2004). During this climactic stage, on July 9th, a vertical vulcanian explosion occurred on the

413 lava dome; it probably generated some ash- and pumice-fallout, but the collapse of the vertical
414 column also created an ash- and pumice-C-PDC that flowed in the Rivière Blanche valley. This
415 event was described by [Anderson and Flett \(1903\)](#).

416 Different interpretations have been proposed for the origin of the destructive and turbulent D-
417 PDCs. [Fisher et al. \(1980\)](#) and [Fisher and Heiken \(1982\)](#) proposed that they originated from an
418 ash-cloud surge separating from a block- and ash C-PDC flowing inside the Rivière Blanche
419 valley and moving perpendicularly to the direction of the C-PDC. [Bourdier et al. \(1989\)](#),
420 [Boudon et al., \(1989, 1990\)](#), [Charland and Lajoie \(1989\)](#), [Lajoie et al., \(1989\)](#) offered an
421 alternative interpretation based on a detailed field study. These D-PDCs resulted from laterally-
422 directed explosions which occurred at the base of the growing lava dome in the Etang Sec crater
423 with a wide-opening angle ($\sim 120^\circ$). These D-PDCs were high-velocity, highly turbulent and
424 dilute ground-hugging PDCs that expanded rapidly on the horizontal plane covering and
425 devastating large areas on the southern and western flanks of the volcano ([Fig. 9b](#)). Their
426 behavior, and the sedimentological characteristics of their deposits, are similar to those of the
427 lateral blast from the 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption ([Waitt et al., 1981](#)). More recently,
428 [Gueugneau et al. \(2020\)](#), based on numerical modeling, investigated the May 8th pyroclastic
429 current by testing an ash-cloud surge generated by a block- and ash C-PDC flowing in the
430 Rivière Blanche valley. They concluded that much of the distribution of the May 8th deposits,
431 but not all the features, can be explained by an ash-cloud surge that separated early from a
432 block- and ash C-PDC in the upper part of the volcano rather than in the lower part of the
433 Rivière blanche as proposed by Fisher and Heiken (1982). While this numerical model can
434 partially explain the distribution of May 8th deposits, it cannot explain the large distribution of
435 the deposits from the August 30th event which had a larger opening angle (180°). The authors
436 also suggest also that a blast-like event may be required at the initial stage of the explosion. So,
437 we can consider that the laterally-directed explosions which occurred at the base of the growing

438 lava dome are probably the best hypothesis to explain the distribution and features identified in
439 the deposits generated by all these events.

440 The post climactic stage: from August 30th, 1902 to the beginning of 1905, the lava dome
441 continued to grow (Fig. 8h) and numerous block- and ash C-PDCs partly filled the Rivière
442 Blanche valley (Figs. 8i). This period was marked by the formation of several spines piercing
443 the shell of the lava dome. The most spectacular was the growth between September 1902 and
444 March 1903 of a large spine that reached a maximum a height of 350 m above the lava dome
445 despite numerous collapses during its construction (Fig. 8j). Its estimated diameter of ~50 m
446 gives an indication of the upper width of the feeding conduit. It was completely destroyed
447 before the end of the eruption. This spine is the biggest ever observed in the world on a growing
448 lava dome.

449

450 *4.4.3. The 1929-1932 dome-forming eruption*

451

452 After 24 years of fumarolic activity, a new eruption started in September 1929,
453 described in detailed by F. Perret (1937). From August 1929, seismic tremors and an increase
454 of the fumarolic activity were recorded. The first phreatic explosion occurred on September 16,
455 1929. The phreatic activity was intense until November, the probable date of the magma arrival
456 at the surface. From 1929 to 1932 a new lava dome grew up inside the Etang Sec crater, and on
457 the western part of the 1902-1905 lava dome, (Fig. 8h). The unstable areas of this lava dome
458 collapsed creating numerous block-and ash C-PDCs (Fig. 8k, l) which completely filled the
459 Rivière Blanche valley (Fig. 8i). The accumulation of C-PDC deposits from the 1902-1905 and
460 1929-1932 eruptions exceeds 50 - 60 m in some places in the Rivière Blanche valley. No
461 explosive activity, like that observed at the beginning of the 1902-1905 eruption, occurred.

462

463 4.4.4. *The post-1932 activity*

464

465 4.4.4.1. *Hydrothermal activity.* Following the 1929-1932 eruption, major degassing of
466 the cooling lava dome continued for several years, before gradually decreasing and finally
467 disappearing around 1970. Several thermo-mineral springs are present on the western flank of
468 the volcano in different valleys but particularly in the high valley of Rivière Claire, and also
469 along the coast (Barat, 1984). Most of the hydrothermal springs along the coast are resurgences
470 of hydrothermal waters from the summit area flowing along the floor of the last flank-collapse
471 structure of the volcano (Zlotnicki et al., 1998). Their temperatures range from ~ 30°C, to a
472 maximum of ~70°C for Rivière Claire in the 1970's. They result from meteoric water that has
473 been heated through conductive heat transfer at depth (equilibrium temperature of ~200-240
474 °C). The temperature of the different hot spring has progressively decreased to be now only at
475 32°C for the Rivière Claire hot spring.

476

477 4.4.4.2. *Seismicity and landslides.* Since the last magmatic eruption of 1929-1932, the
478 volcanic seismicity beneath the active volcano has been very low. Two small crises have been
479 recorded: a first one occurred in October-November 1980 and a second one between December
480 1985 and June 1986. During the 1980 crisis, 55 events were recorded in six days. This small
481 crisis was correlated with the occurrence of an important landslide and associated mud-flows;
482 traces of this landslide were later found in the upper part of the Rivière du Prêcheur, near the
483 summit area. Since the 1990s, numerous landslides have occurred in the upper part of this river,
484 resulting from the instability of a cliff face made up mainly of pyroclastic products. These
485 landslides create dammed lakes in the river that are regularly breached, generating lahars that
486 can cause damage to the village of Le Prêcheur located at its mouth (Clouard et al., 2013;
487 Aubaud et al., 2013).

488 In 1985-1986, 40 local events of very low magnitude and shallow depth were recorded
489 beneath the southern rim of the Etang Sec crater (Hirn et al. 1987). In spite of the very low
490 energy of these signals, these events were interpreted as very local and shallow variations in
491 the effective stress of the hydrothermal system below the summit. From this period up to 2019,
492 a few tens of events were recorded each year beneath the volcano. They were of very low
493 magnitude ($M < 1$) and of superficial origin (between 3 km below sea level and 1 km asl)
494 resulting from the hydrothermal circulation. From April 2019, there has been increased
495 seismicity, with a succession of seismic crises each comprising several tens of low magnitude
496 events. They have all been located a few kilometers below the summit, and are related to
497 perturbations in the hydrothermal system. In the last ten years, rare deeper (~10 km) seismic
498 events have occurred, that are probably related to the magma plumbing system
499 (<http://www.ipgp.fr/fr/ovsm/bilans-trimestriels-de-lovsm>).

500

501

502 **5. Magmatology of Montagne Pelée's eruptive products**

503

504 *5.1. Typical calc-alkaline magmas*

505

506 Montagne Pelée has emitted magmas with geochemical characteristics typical of island-
507 arc calc-alkaline series (Figs. 3, 4, 10, 11 ; Traineau et al. 1983; Dupuy et al., 1985; Fichaut,
508 1986; Bourdier et al., 1989; Smith and Roobol, 1990; Villemant et al., 1996; Pichavant et al.,
509 2002; Davidson and Wilson, 2010; Boudon et al., 2013; unpublished data), like all the volcanic
510 centers from the recent arc in Martinique (Morne Jacob, Pitons du Carbet and Trois-Ilets
511 volcanoes in the south; Smith and Roobol, 1990, Germa et al., 2011). Volcanic rocks from
512 Montagne Pelée show a wide range of compositions, from basaltic andesites (i.e., $\text{SiO}_2 > 52$

513 wt%; alkali < 4.5 wt%) to dacites (i.e., SiO₂ < 66 wt%; alkali < 5.5 wt%) with a lack of
514 compositional gaps (Bourdier et al., 1985; Fichaut et al., 1989a; Gourgaud et al., 1989; Smith
515 and Roobol, 1990). Some cumulates exhibit a micro-basaltic composition (i.e., SiO₂ between
516 39-46 wt %; alkali < 2.5 wt%; Fig. 3). Nonetheless, the volcanic rocks are predominantly
517 composed of andesites (57-63 wt% SiO₂; total alkali < 5 wt%); basaltic andesites and dacites
518 are less common (Fig. 3) except for the time period after the last flank collapse when abundant
519 low-silica pumice of basaltic andesite composition was erupted. CaO and Al₂O₃ contents are
520 relatively high (6-10, 16-20 wt%, respectively; Fig. 10), but TiO₂ and MgO/FeO_{tot} ratios are
521 low. In the K₂O-silica classification diagram, volcanic rocks straddle the medium and low K
522 series (Fig. 4). They are low in Ni and Cr and have a Co/Ni ratio > 1, indicative of extensive
523 crystallisation of ferromagnesian minerals. Strontium abundances do not correlate with SiO₂,
524 indicating extensive plagioclase crystallisation, contrary to Ba (Fig 11). K₂O/Rb ratios range
525 between 300 and 350, characteristic of the volcanic rocks of the whole Lesser Antilles arc (Gill,
526 1981). Chondrite-normalized REE patterns of the studied rocks show a slight LREE enrichment
527 with La/Yb ratios around 5 (Davidson et al., 2007). These geochemical characteristics are
528 typical of island-arc calc-alkaline series (Jakes and White, 1972) and have been described for
529 volcanic rocks of the other Lesser Antilles islands.

530 Geochemical studies have stressed the importance of fractional crystallisation of basaltic
531 magma and magma mixing as mechanisms for the origin of the chemical diversity of Montagne
532 Pelée magmas (Figs. 3, 4, 10, 11; Dupuy et al., 1985; Fichaut et al., 1989a; Smith and Roobol,
533 1990). Chemical variations within individual eruptions are ascribed to fractional crystallisation
534 (McBirney, 1980; Martel et al., 2006; Pichavant et al., 2002). The presence of gabbroic
535 cumulates demonstrates that crystallisation of mafic magmas takes place in the magma
536 chamber, leading to a wide range of derivative liquids, from basalt to basaltic andesite and from

537 basaltic andesite to dacite once amphibole is fractionating, and even through to rhyolite (Fig. 3,
538 4, 10).

539

540 5.2. *Magma origin at depth*

541

542 There is considerable geochemical variation in volcanic products all along the arc (Brown
543 et al., 1977; MacDonald et al., 2000). Because of the central position of Martinique, the volcanic
544 rocks record the whole history of the arc and could reflect magmatic processes active not only
545 under the island but also along the entire arc. Overall, islands to the north (Saba to Montserrat)
546 produce low-K basalts whereas those in the south (Grenadines and Grenada) comprise medium-
547 K picrites and ankaramites. The islands from Guadeloupe to Grenada are typically composed
548 of medium-K basalt or basaltic-andesite. Comparatively, the mafic magmas sampled by the
549 eruptions at Montagne Pelée are not very primitive ($Mg\# = 55\text{--}60$, with $Mg\# = Mg/(Mg +$
550 $Fe_{tot})$), so little information is provided on their possible connection with clearly mantle-derived
551 melts. The most primitive, near-primary high MgO-basalts erupt from other volcanic centers of
552 the southern part of the Lesser Antilles arc, such as Soufrière, St. Vincent ($Mg\# \sim 73.5$)
553 (Bouvier et al., 2008, 2010; Pichavant and Macdonald, 2007) or Grenada (White et
554 Dupré, 1986). Over the 25 Ma volcanic activity of Martinique, contamination of the mantle
555 source by subducted sediments controlled the compositions of the volcanic rocks. Mafic
556 magmas are generated by partial melting from a mantle wedge similar to, or slightly enriched
557 in high field strength elements (HFSE) relative to the mid-ocean ridge basalt (MORB) source
558 and metasomatized by addition of a fluid phase from the subducting slab (Heath et al., 1998;
559 Macdonald et al., 2000). For the period from 127 ka up to present, all eruptive products show a
560 clear linear U/Th correlation passing through the origin, indicating a common magmatic source
561 at depth (Fig. 11; Labanieh et al., 2010).

562 The Sr, Nd, Hf and Pb isotopic compositions of Martinique rocks encompass the whole
563 range not only of the entire Lesser Antilles arc but also of all arc lavas, ranging from values
564 close to MORB to almost continental values (Davidson, 1983; 1986; Davidson and Harmon,
565 1989). Consequently the “continental crust-like” signature of Martinique’s magmas which also
566 characterizes also the Lesser Antilles arc, was acquired through contamination of the mantle
567 wedge by subducted sediments, and not by crustal assimilation processes (Labanieh et al.,
568 2010). Martinique is a clear case of the coexistence of both sediment melting and a slab
569 dehydration signature, as a function of the distance from the trench (Labanieh et al., 2012).

570 Halogen (Cl/Br/I) ratios (except those involving F in rhyolitic melts) measured in erupted
571 clasts are conservative during magma differentiation and degassing: they are thus characteristic
572 of pre-eruptive melts and probably indicative of the more primitive magmas (Balcone-Boissard
573 et al., 2010). These ratios vary from one volcano to another in the Lesser Antilles arc, indicating
574 that halogen fractionation occurred by fluid transfer or mantle source heterogeneities, thus the
575 geochemical signature of Martinique’s magmas is inherited from both early mantle
576 contamination and element recycling.

577

578 5.3. *Chemical evolution through time*

579

580 No significant variations in whole rock chemical compositions have occurred since the
581 beginning of Montagne Pelée volcanic activity (Figs. 3, 4, 10, 11). During the first stage, before
582 127 ka, corresponding to the growth of Mont Conil growth, whole rocks were mainly andesites.
583 Le Prêcheur flank collapse had no direct consequence on the subsequent magma compositions
584 emitted between 127 and 36 ka: andesites were dominant, though some basaltic andesites were
585 also present in minor amounts. During the third stage, both andesites and basaltic andesites
586 were present in similar proportions (Figs. 3, 4). The 10 kyrs that immediately followed the last

587 flank collapse were characterized by a major emission of basaltic andesites (referred to as low-
588 silica pumice and “Saint Vincent” episode) with some andesites (referred to as silica-rich
589 pumice), as exemplified also in the U1401 marine core (Fig. 4c). Interestingly, the less
590 differentiated magmas have the same composition as the mafic enclaves identified in the 1929
591 eruptive products. Volcanic activity then evolved towards the emission of mostly andesites,
592 though basaltic andesites were still present. The last two magmatic eruptions of 1902-1905 and
593 1929-1932 only emitted high silica andesites, with subordinate dacites (Figs. 3, 4, 10).

594 Though no mafic magma has been erupted as a lava during the last 25 kyrs, mafic enclaves
595 (51-59 wt % SiO₂; alkali <4.5) are present in some of the 1902 and 1929 products, occurring as
596 ovoidal or spherical enclaves (up to 20 cm in diameter), as mafic droplets (up to 1 cm) in
597 andesites, or as dark components of banded rocks (Gourgaud et al., 1989). The occurrence of
598 such mafic composition as mafic enclaves, mingled/mixed products, or identified through
599 mineralogical tracers (the presence of ubiquitous high-Ca core of plagioclase phenocrysts, high-
600 Ca microlites or Al-rich amphiboles) over the whole eruptive history of the volcano is
601 interpreted as evidence of mafic melt intruding the andesitic reservoir (Bourdier et al., 1985;
602 Fichaut et al., 1989a, 1989b; Gourgaud et al., 1989; Martel et al., 2006; Fig. 12a). In addition,
603 the elevated fO₂ inferred for the Montagne Pelée mafic liquids (NNO) is consistent with the
604 general view that subduction zone primary basalts are oxidized (Martel et al., 2006, Pichavant
605 et al., 2002).

606

607

608 **6. Discussion**

609

610 6.1. *Magma production rate*

611

612 [Wadge \(1984\)](#) proposed a rough estimation of the volume of magma emitted by all the
613 active volcanoes of the Lesser Antilles arc in the last 100 ka: for Montagne Pelée, the estimated
614 volume of magma erupted for the last 10 and 100 ka is roughly the same ($\sim 8 \text{ km}^3$). However,
615 based on the evolution of the paleotopography of Montagne Pelée following a
616 geomorphological model of evolution, an estimated volume for the volcanic edifice built during
617 the first stage (Mont Conil, 550-127 ka) is estimated at 35 km^3 , during the second stage (127-
618 36 ka) at 26.2 km^3 , and the third stage (36 ka-present day) at 10.7 km^3 ([Germa et al., 2015](#)).
619 Over the last 25 kyrs, the number of eruptions identified on-land ([Westerkamp and Traineau,](#)
620 [1983 a, b](#); [Michaud Dubuy, 2019](#)) and in the two marine cores ([Boudon et al., 2013](#), [Solaro et](#)
621 [al., 2020](#)) is 17 Plinian-subPlinian eruptions and of 38 dome-forming eruptions ([Fig 7](#)).
622 Considering that the mean emitted volume during a Plinian eruptions is $\sim 0.5 \text{ km}^3$ DRE and not
623 more than 0.2 km^3 DRE for a dome forming eruption, the volume of emitted magma during the
624 last 25 kyrs is $\sim 16 \text{ km}^3$ DRE, which corresponds to a mean magma production rate of 0.6-0.7
625 $\text{km}^3/1000$ years. Extrapolating this estimate, 54-63 km^3 were emitted during the second stage
626 of activity of Montagne Pelée and 22-25 km^3 during the third stage. During an eruption, a large
627 part of emitted magma is dispersed directly into the sea from the plume for Plinian eruptions
628 and/or by entering into the sea as PDCs. Added to this is the erosion, which is very active during
629 and following an eruption, since the on-land pyroclastic deposits are not indurated and are thus
630 easily remobilised. Based on the works on the most recent Soufrière Hills eruption on
631 Montserrat, more than 50 % of the pyroclastic products were dispersed into the sea during the
632 eruption ([Le Friant et al., 2004](#)). Most of the scoriaceous pyroclastic flows (a few tens of Mm^3)
633 produced by the 1979 explosive eruption of the Soufrière on St. Vincent ([Shepherd et al., 1979](#))
634 were eroded in the year following the eruption ([author's observation](#)). Both observations for
635 these two other volcanic islands of the Lesser Antilles support that on Montagne Pelée, the
636 estimated volume of volcanic edifice built during the second and third stages proposed by

637 Germa et al. (2015), of 26.2 and 10.7 km³ respectively, are consistent with the estimated magma
638 production rate based on chronostratigraphical studies.

639

640 6.2. *Flank collapses: their key role in the architecture and evolution of Montagne Pelée*
641 *and the emitted magmas*

642

643 Flank collapses exert a direct prime control on the volcanic edifice morphology. Montagne
644 Pelée, like the other volcanoes of Martinique (Pitons du Carbet) and of the southern part of the
645 Lesser Antilles arc (Soufrière, St. Lucia or Soufrière, St. Vincent) experienced infrequent but
646 large-volume flank collapses in contrast to volcanoes of the northern part where flank collapses
647 are more frequent but mobilize smaller volumes (Boudon et al., 2007). This particularity is
648 linked to the presence of the back-arc Grenada Basin to the west (Fig. 1a) and the well-marked
649 asymmetry of the eastern and western on-land and submarine flanks: on Montagne Pelée, the
650 slopes are estimated today at 20 % to the west but only 5 % to the east, generating a greater
651 instability of the western flank even though the hydrothermal system is not so developed on
652 this side.

653 The 127 ka flank collapse of Montagne Pelée was followed by the building of a new edifice
654 inside the horseshoe-shaped structure, with a migration of the vents toward the southwest,
655 emphasizing the asymmetry of the whole volcano and thus favoring new instability in this
656 direction. The second 36 ka flank-collapse destroyed a part of this volcanic edifice, generating
657 a new, smaller horseshoe-shaped structure, of lower extent and nested in the first one, in which
658 a new edifice was built (Fig. 2a).

659 Flank collapses also have an indirect control on the composition of the subsequent
660 magmas. Before the 36 ka flank collapse, composition of the erupted magmas was andesitic
661 (58-63 wt% SiO₂, bulk density ~ 2.65 g.cm⁻³), whereas most of the immediate post collapse

662 magmas consist of basaltic andesites (52-57 wt% SiO₂, bulk density ~ 2.85 g.cm⁻³). These less
663 differentiated magmas were emitted by abundant explosive eruptions (Figs. 3, 4, 10). These
664 changes in both composition and eruptive style are explained by the decrease in the threshold
665 effect exerted by the volcanic edifice on the magma plumbing system (Pinel and Jaupart, 2000,
666 2005), allowing less silica-rich and less H₂O-rich and thus denser magmas stored at greater
667 depth to reach the surface (Boudon et al., 2013; Solaro et al., 2020). Though stored within the
668 same transcrustal magma system, the less differentiated magmas would not have been emitted
669 without the flank collapse. These magmas are sometimes associated with more evolved magmas
670 of andesitic composition (Fig. 4c) emitted at the beginning of compositionally zoned eruptions.
671 This is illustrated on-land by two eruptions called Saint Vincent 1 and 2 (SV1 and SV2), dated
672 respectively at ~30 cal ky BP and ~26.8 cal ky BP (Fig 6, 7; Traineau et al., 1983; Bourdier et
673 al., 1985). These eruptions generated abundant on-land low-silica pumice PDCs within and
674 outside the horseshoe-shaped structure in the western valleys for SV1 and the northern valleys
675 for SV2. They began with the emission of andesites (> 60 wt% SiO₂) mixed with less
676 differentiated magmas; however, the proportion of felsic material never exceeded 5% of the
677 total volume emitted during this period. Related offshore deposits were also identified in
678 turbidite deposits directly covering the previous DAD and they share the same geochemical
679 characteristics (Fig. 4c; Solaro et al., 2020).

680 Similar effects of flank collapse on the plumbing system also occurred in Pitons du Carbet
681 (Martinique), on Soufrière (St. Lucia) and at Soufriere Hills volcano (Montserrat). For the two
682 first examples, highly crystallised evolved magmas were able to reach the surface generating
683 steep lava domes (Boudon et al., 2013). At Soufriere Hills volcano, basaltic magmas were
684 emitted over a 20 ka period following a landslide that took place around 130 ka, before volcanic
685 activity returned to intermediate silicic magmas similar to those emitted before the flank-

686 collapse. Such effects have also been demonstrated in marine cores from the IODP Expedition
687 340 (Cassidy et al., 2015).

688

689 6.3. *The plumbing system beneath Montagne Pelée, architecture and dynamics*

690

691 The chemical composition of materials erupted by Montagne Pelée has not changed
692 significantly over the past 127 kyrs, except during the period 36-25 ka (Figs. 3, 4, 10). This lack
693 of variation in the physical and chemical conditions of magma storage has been emphasized by
694 experimental petrology (Martel et al., 1998), based on the comparison of natural product
695 compositions from the last eruptions (P1, 1902-1905, 1929-1932; phenocrysts and glass) with
696 experimental product compositions. The magma storage zone tapped during the past 25 kyrs
697 activity of Montagne Pelée is composed of an andesitic magma (61-62 wt % SiO₂, on average)
698 that contains ~35-58 vol. % of phenocrysts : 29-49 vol. % plagioclase, 4-9 vol. %
699 orthopyroxene, 1-2 vol. % magnetite, minor clinopyroxene, ilmenite and apatite, destabilized
700 amphibole and olivine (Westercamp and Mervoyer, 1976; Gourgaud et al., 1989; Martel et al.,
701 1998) embedded in a rhyolitic matrix glass (74-77 wt % SiO₂; Martel et al., 2000). The pre-
702 eruptive storage conditions proposed for this andesitic reservoir are 875±25°C, 200±50 MPa,
703 an oxygen fugacity (fO₂) between 0.4 and 0.8 log unit above the nickel-nickel oxide buffer
704 (NNO), and melt H₂O contents of 5.3-6.3 wt % (Martel et al., 1998). These conditions are close
705 to but outside the stability field of amphibole. The large mineralogical heterogeneities and
706 disequilibrium frequently displayed in these volcanic rocks demonstrate the complexity of the
707 deep-crust and syn-eruptive processes. The pre-eruptive H₂O content has been studied more
708 precisely as a direct indicator of pressure of magma storage zone at the time of entrapment. All
709 melt inclusions are rhyolitic in composition (~74–81 wt% SiO₂ and alkali 4-7 wt%). No
710 systematic correlation exists with the nature (or composition) of the host crystal. Pre-eruptive

711 volatile contents are not available for all eruptions. Pre-eruptive H₂O concentrations range
712 between 4.3 and 7.1 wt % in the P1 Plinian fallout and between 3.0 and 7.8 wt % in the pumice
713 flow (Martel et al., 1998; Cooper et al., 2016), which are compatible with the mean H₂O content
714 estimated by the by-difference method by EPMA of 5.5 wt% (Balcone-Boissard et al., 2010;
715 Martel et al., 1998). In the P1 D-PDC, glass inclusions have H₂O contents of 0.4–7.1 wt % and
716 2.2–6.9 wt % in the dense pumices, respectively (Martel et al., 1998). For comparison, melt
717 H₂O contents calculated from the plagioclase-melt model of Housh and Luhr (1991) yield
718 values ranging between 1.9 and 5.5 wt % H₂O for the P1 samples (Martel et al., 1998; Balcone-
719 Boissard et al., 2010). Inclusions from the May 8, 1902, 1929 dome, and C-PDC contain low
720 amounts of H₂O (0.9–2.5, <2.6, and <2.0 wt % H₂O, respectively).

721

722 Co-eruption of basaltic andesites embedded in andesitic magmas is ubiquitous at
723 Montagne Pelée, such as during the most recent eruptions (e.g. 1929-1932 and 1902-1905
724 eruptions; Gourgaud et al., 1989) or during the 36-25 kyrs period (Pichavant et al., 2002). The
725 presence of felsic magma at the beginning of these eruptions suggests the existence of
726 differentiated magma within the upper part of a stratified magma reservoir (Pichavant et al.,
727 2002) or in small, shallow batches of more evolved magmas within a “mushy” plumbing system
728 impacted by the ascent of less differentiated magmas stored at depth. All magma compositions
729 thus coexist simultaneously in the plumbing system below Montagne Pelée and may, through
730 various processes, interact either during magma eruption or within crustal reservoirs (Fig. 12a).
731 Crystallization of mafic liquids probably occurs over a substantial pressure range (4–10 kbar,
732 Arculus and Wills, 1980; Pichavant et al., 2002; Cashman and Sparks 2018). Experimental
733 results on a mafic basaltic andesite at 4 kbar demonstrate that the mafic part of the Montagne
734 Pelée chamber is fed by relatively evolved basaltic liquids (Mg # 55–60). They have high
735 temperatures (1050°C), high melt H₂O contents (>5–6 wt %), and high fO₂ (mostly between 1

736 and 2 log units above the NNO buffer). Crystallisation of these liquids yields early Ol + Cpx +
737 Mt, followed at decreasing temperatures by assemblages dominated by Plag + Amph, although
738 there is evidence that amphibole crystallisation may have started early, together with Ol and
739 Cpx. Plag crystallised under these conditions are highly calcic. Cpx are Al and Fe³⁺-rich salites.
740 Amph are pargasitic hornblendes, reproducing the compositions of phenocrysts in mafic lavas
741 and cumulates or mafic enclaves from the third stage. Mafic magmas thus progressively
742 crystallize as a result of the combined effect of (1) elevated magmatic H₂O contents (~5–6 wt
743 %), and (2) heat loss that takes place preferentially through the “head” of the mafic magma
744 column with a funnel-type geometry.

745 The main parameter governing the activity of the superficial reservoir is the flux of mafic
746 magma. The present-day situation, with the majority of eruptions comprising differentiated
747 magmas with only accidental mafic enclaves, is typical of low vertical fluxes of mafic magmas.
748 It is tempting to conclude that mafic magmas may also play a role in the triggering of eruptions
749 ([Sparks et al., 1977](#); [Gourgaud et al., 1989](#); [Pallister et al., 1996](#)). However, there is little sign
750 in recent eruption products of significant effects (either thermal or compositional) caused by
751 the intrusion of mafic magmas. This may indicate that the effect of mafic magmas is dominantly
752 mechanical.

753 Few glass compositions obtained by EPMA have been described ([Bourdier et al., 1985](#),
754 [Fichaut et al., 1989a, 1989b](#); [Martel et al., 1998, 2000](#); [Balcone-Boissard et al., 2010](#); [Balcone-](#)
755 [Boissard et al., in prep.](#)). Matrix glasses (P1, 1902, 1929 eruptions) are all rhyolitic (74.0–76.5
756 wt % SiO₂ and alkali 5-7 wt%), and whatever the eruptive style, they are almost identical to the
757 P1 melt inclusions ([Martel et al., 2000](#); [Balcone-Boissard et al., 2010](#)). Matrix glasses from the
758 1929 products have up to 80 wt % SiO₂, as a result of the high crystallinity of the groundmass
759 in these samples. Less differentiated glasses have been identified but are globally rare and

760 poorly characterized; their occurrence is restricted to the post flank collapse event (Bourdier et
761 al., 1985; Fichaut et al., 1989a, 1989b; Pichavant et al., 2002).

762

763 6.3. *The Plinian - dome-forming eruption duality*

764

765 Montagne Pelée is one of the most famous volcanoes worldwide exhibiting alternating
766 Plinian/subPlinian and dome-forming eruptions, involving mostly andesitic magmas. This
767 activity characterizes the last 25 kyrs (Fig. 7). Most eruptions involve small volumes of magma
768 (a few tenths of km³, similar to dome-forming eruptions), but rarely more, except for a few
769 Plinian eruptions such as P3 (1 km³ DRE). The Plinian eruptions, given the large dispersion of
770 pumice fallout generally covering the flanks of the volcano and even sometimes beyond (eg.
771 P3), produce deposits that can be more often identified and dated on-land, at least in the last 25
772 kyrs, contrary to their effusive counterpart. The same deposits can be recognized as tephra
773 offshore and dated by tephrochronological studies. Lava domes that grow in the summit area
774 of the volcano are likely to be completely destroyed by the following explosive eruptions.
775 Associated PDC deposits such as C-PDCs which are generally channeled along valleys are
776 easily eroded or covered by more recent deposits. This is even truer for D-PDC deposits, which
777 cover a greater extent but are not channeled: they are generally of lower thickness and even
778 more quickly eroded. In marine cores, only the ash-clouds associated with C-PDCs are
779 dispersed at sea, but given their low altitude, their orientation and their small extent, they are
780 not systematically present in the cores. Some eruptions, such as P1, are multi-style eruptions,
781 beginning with a dome-forming phase which produced laterally directed explosions
782 immediately followed by a Plinian phase (Villemant and Boudon, 1998, Carazzo et al., 2012).

783 About 55 eruptions have been recorded for the last 25 kyrs years, (Fig. 7), based on on-
784 land data (Westercamp and Traineau, 1983a, b; Roobol and Smith, 1976; Smith and Roobol,

785 [1990; Michaud-Dubuy, 2019](#)) combined with tephrochronological studies ([Boudon et al, 2013;](#)
786 [Solaro et al., 2020](#)). One third of the eruptions are Plinian/subPlinian eruptions, whereas the
787 majority (2/3) are dome-forming events, some of them generating superficial laterally directed
788 explosions. Considering the preservation of the on-land deposits, we therefore suppose that the
789 number of lava domes eruptions is significantly underestimated when going back in time. The
790 number of eruptions identified in the last 5 kyrs is probably more representative of the current
791 activity of the volcano in the recent period, with an eruptive frequency of 3-4 magmatic
792 eruptions/1000 years and a ratio of one Plinian eruption for every two or three dome-forming
793 events.

794 The recent eruptions of Montagne Pelée provide a unique opportunity to discuss an
795 eruptive regime model during the transition from an explosive (Plinian) to an effusive (dome-
796 forming) eruptive style. Petrological and phase-equilibrium experimental studies on recent
797 silicic andesitic magmas demonstrated comparable pre-eruptive conditions for both types of
798 eruption: the transition between Plinian and dome-forming eruptive styles is thus unrelated to
799 systematic variations of H₂O concentrations in the magma storage region, implying that
800 differences in eruptive style are acquired during magma ascent in the conduit during eruption
801 ([Martel et al., 1998](#)). For explosive eruptions, the behaviour of H₂O (and other volatiles such
802 as halogens) during magma ascent and degassing may be modelled assuming equilibrium
803 closed-system degassing, following the perfect gas and the volatile solubility laws. Conversely,
804 the lava dome-forming eruption occurs out of equilibrium, in an open-system degassing mode;
805 this can be modelled knowing the degassing-induced melt microcrystallisation rate ([Villemant
806 and Boudon, 1998; Balcone-Boissard et al., 2010](#)). Joint geochemical and textural studies
807 suggest that this explosive–effusive transition may be explained by the evolution from a closed-
808 to an open-system degassing regime in the conduit ([Fig.12 b,c](#)). This transition regime is also
809 dependant on the permeability of the conduit wall, as it thought to have been the case for the

810 P1 eruption: during the early lava dome-forming phase, open-system degassing is possible
811 through the permeable conduit walls, but this may change if the walls become impermeable
812 (through silica precipitation for instance).

813 Multi-style eruptions such as P1 are of course very difficult to detect when going back in
814 time, as it is not easy to confirm the contemporaneity of deposits. Some ^{14}C dates for ash- and
815 pumice and C-PDC deposits showing very close ages could correspond to such cases, but it is
816 difficult to confirm them. In addition, models of degassing budgets for the two eruptive styles
817 show that effusive eruptions are far more efficient at degassing magmas than explosive ones
818 ([Balcone-Boissard et al., 2010](#)).

819 Textural and geochemical investigations of erupted clasts, in particular habitus and
820 composition of plagioclase microlites, also highlight significant discrepancies between these
821 two eruptive styles. The chemical composition of the decompression-induced plagioclase
822 microlites cannot discriminate between the two eruptive styles, as the same compositions
823 (An35-55) are displayed, contrary to their textural features (plagioclase area fraction, number
824 density, and morphologies, [Martel and Poussineau, 2007](#)). For instance, pumice clasts emitted
825 during Plinian eruptions are dominantly microlite-free, but sometimes contain very small
826 dendritic microlites characterized by low area fraction but high and variable number density.
827 Conversely, lava dome groundmass textures, though very complex because a pervasive silica
828 phase is present, show large, tabular microlites, with high area fraction and low number density
829 ([Martel et al., 2012](#); [Boudon et al., 2015](#)). To constrain the diversity of lava dome degree of
830 explosivity, such textural investigations are relevant. The whole population of 1929-1932 C-
831 PDC clasts displays very heterogeneous groundmass textures, ranging from nearly microlite-
832 free vesicular clasts to microlite-rich dense clasts, with dominantly low number density and low
833 area fraction of large tabular to skeletal microlites of plagioclase. Conversely, in D-PDC clasts,
834 like those of the 1902 eruption, plagioclase microlites are small, skeletal to dendritic in shape,

835 with high number density and high area fraction (Martel et al., 2000; Martel and Poussineau,
836 2007).

837

838 *6.4. Explosivity of dome-forming eruptions from Montagne Pelée: recurrent exceptions, with*
839 *strong implications for risk mitigation*

840

841 Over the past 25 kyrs, 38 dome-forming eruptions have occurred on Montagne Pelée
842 producing a lava dome which is in general destroyed only by gravitational collapse of unstable
843 parts. Few of them generated a series of superficial laterally directed explosions, like the most
844 famous 1902-1905 eruption (7 explosions in the first four months of the eruption) or the initial
845 dome-forming phase of the P1 eruption (two explosions at the very beginning) (Fig. 9).

846 The origin of these explosions has recently been discussed, based upon a textural and
847 geochemical study (vesicularity, microcrystallinity, cristobalite distribution, residual water
848 content, crystal transit times) of clasts produced by key eruptions (among them May 8,1902 and
849 the second explosion of the P1 eruption) (Boudon et al., 2015). Superficial explosion of a
850 growing lava dome may be promoted through porosity reduction caused by both vesicles
851 flattening due to gas escape and syn-eruptive cristobalite precipitation. Both processes generate
852 an impermeable and rigid carapace creating overpressurisation in the inner parts of the growing
853 lava dome by the rapid ascent of undegassed magma batches. The relative thickness of the
854 cristobalite-rich carapace is an inverse function of the external lava dome surface area. Thus,
855 the probability of a superficial lava dome explosion inversely depends on its size. Explosive
856 activity more likely occurs at the onset of the lava dome extrusion. When the size of the lava
857 dome increases, the lava dome generally grows in a very irregular way, especially with a
858 varying extrusion rate, and extrusion phases pass through cooler and therefore more highly
859 crystallized zones. Discontinuities are created inside the lava dome that favor the circulation of

860 fluids and thus reduce the impermeability of the internal parts of the lava dome. No overpressure
861 can occur and the lava dome is destroyed only by gravitational collapses of unstable segments,
862 generating C-PDCs channeled along valley(s) below the lava dome.

863 Montagne Pelée is able to generate this type of superficial laterally directed explosions
864 frequently. In addition to the 1902 and P1 eruptions, other similar deposits have been identified
865 on the southwestern flank of the volcano as well as on the southern flank, for example the
866 Morne Rouge area (dated at 2750 ± 58 cal BP) and the western flank, where there are two
867 successive D-PDCs (with no erosion between them), undated but stratigraphically located in
868 the post-5000 years period. At least 4 dome-forming eruptions in the recent period, 3 of them
869 in the last 3000 years, have produced laterally directed explosions. While most of the directed
870 explosions affected the southwestern flank of the volcano, some may also affected the southern
871 flank (explosion of August 30, 1902 and of 2750 ± 58 cal BP).

872 Such events have also occurred on other volcanoes, such as during the 1951 eruption of
873 Mount Lamington, though it is not clear if the laterally directed explosion was generated or not
874 by a flank collapse preceding the explosion ([Belousov et al., 2020](#)), the 1915 eruption of Lassen
875 Peak ([Eppler, 1987](#)) and the 8 ka eruption of Puy Chopine in the Chaîne des Puys (France),
876 ([Boudon et al., 2015](#)).

877

878

879 **6. Risk assessment and potential means for the management of a future volcanic crisis**

880

881 Over the last few decades, our increasing knowledge of the eruptive history of Montagne
882 Pelée, the different eruptive styles and the presence of multi-style eruptions raises questions
883 about the risk assessment of this volcano and the management of a future volcanic crisis. The
884 magmas emitted during the recent period of activity were systematically evolved andesitic

885 magmas coming from the storage area located at about 2 kbar. These emitted magmas,
886 particularly those of the dome-forming eruptions, commonly contain mafic enclaves indicating
887 active reinjections from deeper ponding zones containing less evolved magmas. It is likely that
888 these enclaves are also present in pumice fallout and ash and pumice C-PDCs, but are more
889 difficult to identify in these deposits. But the abundance of reverse zonations in the
890 orthopyroxenes of several studied Plinian eruptions (Boudon et al., 2018) confirms a reinjection
891 of a hotter and more mafic magma. We can thus infer that, for most of the eruptions, there is a
892 pre-eruptive reinjection of more mafic magma into the stable andesitic reservoir.

893

894 Current studies of intracrystalline diffusion in orthopyroxenes from the last 5 Plinian
895 eruptions (Boudon et al., 2018) indicate that the timescales between readjustment in the
896 reservoir and the eruptions may accelerate one to two years prior eruption, though active some
897 decades before, but less sustainably and thus less easily recorded by the monitoring network.
898 Such times need to be correlated with geophysical and geochemical precursors, which remain
899 difficult on this volcano as no eruption has occurred for nearly a century now. We can however
900 consider that readjustments, and reinjections into the superficial reservoir, will be associated
901 with geophysical signals (for example seismicity, deformations...) or modifications in the
902 permeability of the superficial part of the volcano inducing geochemical variations (such as T,
903 hydrothermal sources and soil gases...). If this is the case, these observations are of great
904 importance because they will provide during a future eruptive crisis, an estimate of the time
905 that separates the readjustment in the reservoir from the eruption. In addition, the frequency of
906 laterally directed explosions during a dome-forming eruption and their occurrence as soon as
907 the magma arrives at the surface must be seriously considered in the management of a future
908 volcanic crisis. But it is currently difficult to predict an explosive phase during lava-dome

909 forming eruptions, because of the absence of early warning signs occurring early at the
910 beginning of the growth of the lava dome.

911 On the basis of the past eruptions of the last millennia, a series of scenarios can be
912 proposed in the event of reactivation, including no magmatic eruption. In the historical period
913 two phreatic eruptions (1792 and 1851) and two dome-forming eruptions (1902-1905 and 1929-
914 1932) have occurred. In the last two millennia, 7 magmatic eruptions have occurred including
915 the two historical ones: 2 Plinian eruptions (P2 and P3), 4 dome-forming eruptions and a multi-
916 style dome forming-Plinian eruption (P1). Of these 7 eruptions, two dome-forming eruptions
917 (1902 and P1) generated violent D-PDCs at the beginning of the eruption. All the magmatic
918 eruptions of this period were always preceded by a phreatic phase, confirmed by the presence
919 of phreatic ashes at the base of the magmatic deposits. Different scenarios can be proposed (Fig.
920 13):

- 921 • A phreatic eruption (1792, 1851 type)
- 922 • A phreatic phase followed by a dome forming eruption without major explosive events
923 (1929-1932 type)
- 924 • A phreatic phase followed by a dome forming eruption beginning with one or more
925 superficial laterally directed explosions (1902-1905 type)
- 926 • A phreatic phase followed by a sub-Plinian/Plinian eruption generating pumice fallout
927 from a plume and C-PDCs resulting of the collapse of the plume (P2, P3 type)
- 928 • A phreatic phase followed by a dome forming eruption generating violent laterally
929 directed explosions followed by a sub-Plinian/Plinian eruption generating pumice
930 fallout from a plume and C-PDCs resulting from the collapse of the plume (P1 type).

931 The probabilities of occurrence of these different eruptive styles is difficult to establish
932 considering the difficulty of recognizing, in the geological record, deposits from phreatic events

933 which occurred alone and also fine deposits from violent laterally directed explosion from dome
934 forming events given that they are quickly eroded.

935

936

937 **7. Concluding remarks**

938

939 Montagne Pelée, with its deadly activity over the last century, has raised the issue of the
940 explosivity of dome-forming eruptions. A lot of work has been done on this volcano and
941 particularly on the origin of the D-PDCs that caused the destruction of the cities of St. Pierre
942 and Morne Rouge and the death of 30,000 people. Interpretations have evolved over time, but
943 all these works have shed light on this volcano which, as with most subduction volcanoes, has
944 a complex history over its hundreds of thousands of years of activity, punctuated by large flank-
945 collapses leading to major changes in terms of structure and composition of the emitted magma.
946 This has led to better constraints on the dynamics of magma storage beneath this volcano. A
947 large part of the volcanic activity is marked by alternating Plinian and dome-forming eruptions,
948 particularly highlighted over the last 25,000 years, which makes this volcano a reference for
949 this type of activity. The unusual feature of this volcano is that it has generated several violent
950 and destructive events linked to dome-forming eruptions. This feature must be taken into
951 account in the event of reactivation of the volcano, especially as these violent and destructive
952 events occurred early on the magmatic eruption not more than a few days after the arrival of
953 the magma at the surface. Therefore detailed monitoring of the activity is necessary for the
954 management of a potential eruptive crisis

955

956

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972

973

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1315 **Figures :**

1316 **Fig. 1.** (a) The Lesser Antilles arc (modified from [Boudon et al., 2007](#)). Volcanic islands are
1317 in black and subaerial coral reef platforms in dark grey. The 100 m depth submarine
1318 shelf is light grey. The 500 m and every 1000 m isobaths are shown (predicted
1319 bathymetry from Smith and Sandwell, 1997). The dashed lines represent the position of
1320 the active and inner arc (in black) and of the older and external arc (in grey). The black
1321 arrow and the number indicate the direction and the speed of the subduction. Inset:
1322 Martinique SRTM topographic radar map is highlighted (Courtesy of Dr. Ian
1323 C.F.Stewart). (b) Swath bathymetry of the west coast of Martinique with the position of
1324 the bulge, the submarine landslide deposit (SLD) and the uppermost debris avalanche
1325 deposit (DAD). Contour interval is 500 m (modified from [Brunet et al., 2015](#)). (c) View
1326 of Montagne Pelée from the south.

1327

1328 **Fig. 2.** (a) Relief Map of Montagne Pelée (DEM from French National Geographic Institute-
1329 IGN, resolution 50 m) with the location of the main volcanic edifices and the flank-
1330 collapse structures of Montagne Pelée ([modified from Le Friant et al., 2003](#)). In grey, the
1331 debris avalanche deposits located on land. (b) The hydrographic system of Montagne
1332 Pelée. in white ; rivers ; in black : the limit of the flank collapse structure and of the Etang

1333 Sec summit crater ; in grey : on-land debris avalanche deposits with hummocky
1334 morphology (relief map : Litto 3D from IGN).

1335

1336 **Fig. 3. Total alkali-silica (TAS) and AFM diagrams for classification of the Montagne**
1337 **Pelée whole rocks.** (a) $K_2O+Na_2O-SiO_2$ diagram for the whole rocks for the different
1338 periods, following the classification of Le Bas et al. (1986). (b) Details on the post 36 ka
1339 period for whole rocks. (c) AFM diagram (Total iron is expressed as Fe_2O_3 ($FeO +$
1340 Fe_2O_3) synthesizing whole rock data for the 3 stages recognized: blue: Mont Conil, prior
1341 to 127 ka and Le Prêcheur flank collapse; red: the period between 127 ka and 36 ka, the
1342 second flank collapse event; open circles: the period from 36 ka up to the present day.
1343 Black squares: cumulates. Data are calculated on anhydrous basis, with total Fe expressed
1344 as Fe_2O_3 . Data are from [Traineau et al. 1983](#); [Dupuy et al., 1985](#); [Fichaut, 1986](#); [Bourdier](#)
1345 [et al., 1989](#); [Smith and Roobol, 1990](#); [Villemant et al., 1996](#); [Pichavant et al., 2002](#);
1346 [Davidson and Wilson, 2010](#); [Boudon et al., 2013](#) and unpublished data from the authors.

1347

1348 **Fig 4.** K_2O vs. SiO_2 correlation diagram, following the classification of Peccerillo and Taylor
1349 (1976). (a) whole rock for the different time periods described in figure 3. (b) Detail of
1350 whole rocks of the post 36 ka period, as in figure 3. (c) Glass composition of glass shards
1351 from U1401 core (modified from [Solaro et al., 2020](#)), for comparison with the whole rock
1352 domain (blue box). Tephra : circles (low silica pumice in purple; pumice in orange).
1353 Turbidites: diamonds (low silica pumice in pink; pumice in light brown).

1354

1355 **Fig. 5.** Simplified geological map of Montagne Pelée (modified from
1356 [Westercamp and Traineau, 1983a](#)). (1) Deposits from the 2nd stage of building
1357 (127-36 ka). Deposits from the third stage of building: (2) low silica subPlinian-Plinian

1358 eruption (36-25ka); (3) felsic SubPlinian-Plinian eruptions; (4) dome-forming eruptions;
1359 (5) recent lava domes; (6) limit of the flank-collapse structures and of the Etang Sec
1360 Crater; (7) limit of Montagne Pelée volcano (2nd and 3rd stages).

1361

1362 **Fig. 6.** Probability domain of calibrated ages (in cal BC) available for Montagne Pelée deposits.

1363 (a) the recent period, post 1 cal BP (P3 eruption) ; (b) the period 10 ka - 1 cal BP; (c) the
1364 period 40 - 10 ka cal BP. Data are from [Traineau, 1982](#); [Westercamp and Traineau,](#)
1365 [1983a,b](#); [Bourdier et al, 1985](#), [Smith and Roobol, 1990](#); [Michaud-Dubuy, 2019](#); [Carazzo](#)
1366 [et al., 2020](#); [unpublished data](#), The ages obtained were calibrated using the free software
1367 OxCal (OxCal 4.2, [Bronk Ramsey, 2009](#)) with the atmospheric IntCal20 calibration
1368 curve, recommended for the Northern Hemisphere ([Reimer, 2013](#)). OxCal is a software
1369 designed for the analysis of chronological information that we used to calculate the age
1370 probability distribution for each dated sample through radiocarbon calibration and, also
1371 more specifically here, to analyze groups of ages from stratigraphically-related deposits
1372 (i.e., the ages of stratigraphically-constrained samples of the same eruption are validated
1373 using the R_Combine function and the χ^2 test prior to calibration) ([Ward and Wilson,](#)
1374 [1978](#)).

1375

1376 **Fig. 7.** Frieze showing the evolution of Montagne Pelée and the different volcanic events ; (a)

1377 Major events identified throughout the whole evolution of Montagne Pelée; (b) Tephra
1378 recorded in the U1401A core (IODP expedition 340), [modified from Solaro et al., 2020](#);
1379 (c) Tephra recorded in the CAR-MAR4 core (Caraval Cruise), [modified from Boudon al.,](#)
1380 [2013](#); (d) Deposits recognized and dated on land during the last 36 ka ([Traineau, 1982](#);
1381 [Westercamp and Traineau, 1983a,b](#); [Bourdier et al, 1985](#), [Smith and Roobol, 1990](#);
1382 [Michaud-Dubuy, 2019](#); [Carazzo et al., 2020](#).; [unpublished data](#)) (e) Synthesis of offshore

1383 and on-land data for the last 36 ka; in red, subPlinian and Plinian eruptions, in blue dome-
1384 forming eruptions, in green: low-silica pumice-rich eruptions from the period 36-25 ka;
1385 events marked by a star, eruptions beginning with a violent laterally directed explosive
1386 phase (blue star: dome-forming eruption; red star: Plinian eruption).

1387

1388 **Fig. 8.** Deposits from different eruptive styles occurring during the recent activity of Montagne
1389 Pelée. (a) Succession of Plinian fallout deposits from two recent eruptions (P3 and P1);
1390 (b) D-PDCs from the laterally directed explosions occurring during the first dome-
1391 forming phase of the P1 eruption. The two D-PDCs cover ochre ash from the phreatic and
1392 phreatomagmatic phase and are covered by the pumice fallout from the Plinian phase; (c)
1393 pumice fallout from the P1 eruption (1300 years AD); (d) proximal thick pumice fallout
1394 deposits from the P1 Plinian eruption; (e) D-PDCs from the laterally directed explosions
1395 occurring during the first phase of the 1902- 1905 dome-forming eruption in the Fort
1396 Cemetery in the northern part of St Pierre. Three D-PDCs are present: From base to top :
1397 May 8 (grey deposit), May 20 (ochre deposit) and June 6 (summit deposit). Black bars in
1398 the scale are 5 cm long; (f) Deposits of the May 8 and 20, 1902 D-PDC in a habitation in
1399 the city of St Pierre. Black bars in the scale are 5 cm long; (g) The town of St. Pierre after
1400 the 1902-1905 eruption. In the background Montagne Pelée and the spine at the top of the
1401 lava dome (from [Lacroix 1904](#)); (h) View of the summit area of Montagne Pelée with the
1402 two lava domes built during the last eruptions of 1902-1905 (in the background) and
1403 1929- 1932 (in the foreground), located inside the Etang Sec caldera. (i) View, from the
1404 summit of Montagne Pelée, of the Rivière Blanche valley filled by the 1902-1905 and
1405 1929-1932 C-PDC deposits. (j) Large spine that grew at the top of the lava dome during
1406 the 1902-1905 eruption (from [Lacroix 1904](#)); (k) C-PDCs from the 1929-1932 dome-

1407 forming eruption; (l) megablocks transported in the C-PDC from the 1929-1932 dome-
1408 forming eruption.

1409

1410 **Fig. 9.** Comparative maps showing the distribution of the P1 (a) and May 8, 1902 (b) D-PDC
1411 deposits from the laterally directed explosions at the base of the growing lava domes
1412 which occurred in the first phase of the eruptions.

1413

1414 **Fig. 10.** Harker diagrams for Al_2O_3 (a, b), MgO (c,d) and CaO (e,f). Symbols as in figure 3.

1415

1416 **Fig. 11 :** Trace element correlation diagram. (a) U vs. Th ; (b) Sr vs. SiO_2 ; (c) Ba vs. SiO_2 ; (d)
1417 Zr vs. SiO_2 ; (e) Ce vs La. Symbols as in figure 3.

1418

1419 **Fig. 12.** The plumbing system beneath Montagne Pelée. (a) schematic view of the plumbing
1420 system beneath Montagne Pelée. In blue: mafic magmas; in green basaltic andesitic
1421 magmas; in red: andesitic magmas. (b, c) schematic view of the conduits in the upper part
1422 of the volcano: in b, permeable walls of the conduits induces volatile loss from the
1423 ascending magma to the surrounding crust generating dome-forming eruptions, in c,
1424 impermeable walls of the conduits allow the conservation of gases in the magma and
1425 generate subPlinian and Plinian eruptions.

1426

1427 **Fig. 13.** Possible scenarios for a future eruption on Montagne Pelée. The activity always begins
1428 with a phreatic eruption. After the phreatic phase: (a) the activity stops and no magmatic
1429 eruption occurs; (b) a dome-forming eruption occurs without violent explosions; (c) a
1430 dome-forming eruption occurs and produces violent laterally directed explosions in the
1431 first phase of lava dome growth; after this explosive phase, the lava dome grows without

1432 violent explosions; (d) a sub-Plinian - Plinian eruption occurs (e) a dome-forming
1433 eruption occurs and produces violent laterally directed explosions in the first phase of
1434 lava dome growth; the depressurization of the conduits involved a sub-Plinian – Plinian
1435 eruption.

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