

# Château De La Huste 2019

CSPC# 866161

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**Classification**  
**Website**  
**General Info**

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc  
Fronsac  
Grand Vin de Bordeaux

<http://www.chateaudalem.com/ch%c3%a2teau-dalem---eng.html>

Family estate, owned by the Rulliers since 1860. The Château de la Huste's vines are on one of the highest parts of Saillans. In old French, La Huste means the bump. Château Dalem is one of the leading estates in Fronsac, an old appellation near the city of Libourne that is often overlooked by connoisseurs. The vineyard was planted in 1610 and stayed in the same family for over three centuries. The handsome, compact château is about a century younger, but still predates most of the châteaux of the Médoc and nearby Saint-Emilion. It is located in the township of Saillans, just on the outskirts of the city of Libourne, and was purchased in 1955 by Michel Rullier. In 2002 his daughter, Brigitte Rullier-Loussert, took over the estate and began to make a series of improvements that have now catapulted Dalem to the forefront of Fronsac estates.

Nearby, the Rullier's manage a separate property known as Château de la Huste, which is a typical Fronsac in a slightly lighter style than Dalem. Château de la Huste is an eight-hectare property owned by the Rullier family (Château Dalem) overlooking the town of Libourne across the River Isle Valley.

**Winemaker**  
**Vintage**

Brigitte Rullier-Loussert

In 2019, early budding was followed by a sporadically wet and cool April, May, and June. This meant uneven flowering in early June, but from mid-June onwards the weather turned dry and hot, leading to successful fruit set. July was mainly dry but with some storms. This meant the gravel terraces of the Médoc and limestone soils in general had no problems getting the right kind of hydric stress, but more water-logged soils found it tougher.

August and September were hot and dry, so ripening and harvest were successful, except for certain cases of extreme water stress on the driest soils, which saw some bunches shrivel in early September.

June right through to October saw higher temperatures than average.

Rain from 20 September onwards allowed the Merlots to ripen, often with high alcohol, and Cabernet did particularly well because the rains meant their ripening could go on for longer, lowering alcohols and allowing for more 'normal' development after the hot weather.

**Vineyards**

40 hl/ha. Average vine age 40 years. Planting density 5,500 to 6,600 vine stocks depending on the plots. 90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc. Clay and limestone hills and sloping plateau.

**Harvest**

Grapes picked by hand when they are fully ripe and put in baskets. Sorted minutely before and after full destemming

**Vinification/  
Maturation**

The work of the vineyard and winemaking processes are identical to those of Château Dalem with the exception of wine aging, which is half in tanks and half in French oak barrels. Fermentation in concrete tanks with built-in thermoregulation which guarantees better control of the fermentation process. Long vatting period (3 weeks) for a slow and gentle extraction of the phenolic agents. Malolactic fermentation in barrels. 12 to 15 months in new barrels (having matured 1 or 2 batches of wine). 20% of the barrels are replaced every year and toasting levels are selected for optimum enhancement of our wine's fruit flavors.

**Tasting Notes**

On the clay-limestone slopes of the commune of Saillans, De La Huste "La Bosse" is produced from 8 Ha of vines with an average age of 40 years. In this beautifully crafted vintage, this wine gives all the measure of Fronsac. The brilliant garnet color announces aromas of ripe black fruit, aniseed plum jam and blackberries. Lively attack on well-integrated tannins forming a remarkable balance, revealing the flavors of black fruits, chocolate, and tobacco on a long finish. Style and concentration in an exceptional vintage that will give its full potential to those who show a little patience.

**Production**

9,000 cases made



**Cellaring  
Scores/Awards**

Drink now-2032

**91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022  
**91-93 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020  
**92 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022  
**90 points** - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022  
**91 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022  
**89-91 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020  
**91 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022  
**89 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020  
**91 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020  
**92 points** - Vert de Vin - April 2020  
**Silver Medal** - Concours de Bordeaux 2022

**Reviews**

*"Sleek and fresh, with very pure damson plum and cassis notes lined with subtle savory and chalky mineral hints. Understated and sneaky long. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2032. 9,000 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Opaque purple-black colored, the 2019 de la Huste bursts from the glass with gregarious scents of baked black cherries, warm blackberries, and plum preserves plus hints of licorice, melted chocolate, spice cake and cinnamon stick with a waft of potpourri. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is a powerhouse of black fruits and savory flavors, framed by wonderfully ripe, rounded tannins and fantastic freshness, finishing long and perfumed."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"This is a solid Fronsac with crushed-blackberry, stone and dark-chocolate aromas and flavors. It's medium-bodied with a chewy tannin backbone and stony, earthy highlights at the finish. Needs time to soften. Try after 2023."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Round, lush, blackberry, plum and chocolate wine that is all about its richness and sweet, ripe, fresh fruits. Earthy, and elegant, medium/full-bodied and loaded with chocolate covered cherries, plums, licorice, and espresso, this is going to easy to imbibe on release."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Dark in color, with black and blue fruit, lush, plush, round textures and layers of licorice and chocolate-covered cherries in a forward, ready-to-drink style, that sells for a song. What's not to like? 89-91 Pts."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The 2019 Château De La Huste is terrific and certainly worth the effort to track down. Classic, medium-bodied, concentrated, and balanced, it has ripe red, black, and blue fruits as well as background chocolate and tobacco notes. Nicely textured, it has plenty of mid-palate depth, ripe yet present tannins, and the balance and class to evolve for a decade. Best after 2022."*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Strong ruby garnet, violet reflections, broader ocher edge brightening. Tender nougat and black cherries, candied orange zest, inviting bouquet. Medium body, fine fruit sweetness, red berry touch, well integrated tannins, balanced, already drinkable, versatile. Great value for money."*  
- Falstaff Magazine

*"The nose is fruity and offers gourmandise, a fine richness / unctuousity as well as a very fine power. It reveals notes of fleshy blackberry, crushed cassis and small notes of crushed raspberry associated with small touches of crushed small blue fruits as well as hints of liquorice, chocolate as well as very fine hints of toasted hazelnut / almond. The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers juiciness, freshness, minerality, a good definition, suavity, a fine acidulous frame as well as precision. In the mouth this wine expresses notes of pulpy / juicy cassis, pulpy / juicy raspberry and small notes of pulpy / juicy blueberry associated with touches of pulpy / juicy strawberry as well as fine hints of violets, chocolate, toasted almond, and subtle hints of sweet spices."*  
- Vert de Vin

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