

# Château Haut Bages Libéral 2000

CSPC# 742344

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot

## Appellation

Pauillac

## Classification

5<sup>TH</sup> Grand Cru Classe 1855

## Website

<http://www.hautbagesliberal.com/>

## General Info

Haut-Bages Libéral, a great growth Pauillac, takes its name from the Bages plateau where part of its wines is located, and also from its first known owners, the Libéral family. The vines are planted on a truly excellent vineyard site which has been consolidated since the early 18th century from among the finest land in Pauillac. Haut-Bages Libéral's largest vineyard plot borders on Château Latour; the rest adjoins Château Pichon Baron Longueville, among other illustrious neighbours. The estate was acquired by the Cruse family in 1960, and then by the Villars family in 1983. The winemaking facilities were entirely renovated and modernised, and the replanted vines have since reached maturity. Haut-Bages Libéral is a full-bodied wine, both elegant and powerful. It has become quite famous for its fine balance and concentration. Second wine: La Chapelle de Bages.

## Vintage

2000 vintage will remain in the memories as a long-lasting harvest period with very healthy grapes and an unrivaled concentration of phenolic compounds. The important rains of Spring allowed to secure the water reserves of the soil. The heat of Summer slowed down the vegetation and eased the accumulation of sugars and phenolic compounds. In final the high concentration of sugar, of phenolic compounds and extractability would characterize the harvest of 2000. It took place under good weather conditions and when each plot reached its optimal maturity. 2000 is a success with a very dense color and both tannic and full mouth. It is perfectly balanced without excessive harshness and with a very nice fruity freshness. The vintage is one of the great vintages of the late twentieth century.

## Vineyards

Chateau Haut-Bages Libéral has 30 hectares of vines overlooking the Gironde river. Half of this area, located right next to Chateau Latour, features gravel on limestone, and the other part, on the plateau of Bages, has deep gravel soil. 80% cabernet sauvignon, 20% merlot

## Harvest

Hand harvested.

## Maturation

The property is run by Claire Villars Lurton who modernised the winemaking facilities and introduced new, environmentally friendly methods. Traditional vinification in stainless and concrete vats, whose volumes are proportional to the plots. Fermentation on skins for 18 to 26 days Wines are aged for 16 months in 40% new oak barrels.

## Tasting Notes

The wine is shiny and clear. The nose is complex with notes of leather, tobacco, pepper and a hint of licorice. On the palate, the tannins begin to soften and are very elegant. Lingering aroma in the mouth and roundness. The wine has a large volume with power and finesse.

## Production

10,833 cases made

## Cellaring

Drink now - 2020

## Scores/Awards

**92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016

**92 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003

**91-94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001

**89 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 22, 2003

**Review Only** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - December 31, 1999

**90 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2003

**16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 4, 2001



- Scores/Awards** **Review Only** - RB Decanter.com - February 2003  
**87 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**91+ points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2012  
**90 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - January 2010  
**14.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**88 points** - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)  
**16.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**15.5 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)  
**3 stars** - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2004
- Reviews** *"This is grippy and old-school in style, with a core of warmed fig and black currant paste flavors framed by ample charcoal and baker's chocolate notes, but this is well-integrated, and everything cruises nicely through a sanguine-accented finish. —2000 Bordeaux blind retrospective (December 2015). Drink now through 2023. 10,833 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator
- "Lots of currant and berry aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, with compacted fruit and a silky tannin structure. Best of Haut-Bages-Libéral ever. Best after 2009. 10,000 cases made."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator
- "Shows very attractive floral and berry character. Full-bodied and very chewy, with super polished tannins and a long finish. Almost classic. Best HBL ever. Score range: 92-94"*  
- JS, Wine Spectator
- "One of the best examples I have recently tasted from this estate, the saturated blue/purple Haut-Bages Liberal offers up notes of incense, licorice, pepper, and cassis. In the mouth, it is fat, juicy, with a certain succulence, low acidity, and ripe tannin. This may be the best wine produced by this estate in many a year. In spite of its precocious showing in my tastings, the wine actually needs 2-3 years of cellaring. Anticipated maturity: 2005-2018."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate
- "Lacks depth on the nose. Some nice pencil-lead notes on an austere palate but there is an unwelcome greenness here. Jury stays out on this wine. Tasted April 2001."*  
- NM, Wine Journal
- "This fifth growth is punching above its class under the control of Claire Villars-Lurton (whose family also runs Chasse-Spleen and La Gurgue). The wine is foursquare, rich and solid, filled with firm tannins. Blackcurrant fruit flavors, herbs and acidity complete a serious style of wine. (RV)"*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Lively aromatic nose and notably rich palate entry. Only just enough acidity to keep the wine balanced. Tannins slightly too intrusive. Not the weight of Grand Puy Ducasse but - just- in balance."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Lovely blackcurrant fruit, creamy oak in background, very fine. Tremendous purity of flavours, grainy tannins, lovely balance, well proportioned. Drink 10+ years (RB)"*  
- RB, Decanter.com
- "Dense core, red at edge; lovely, textbook Pauillac nose – cedar, blackcurrants, freshness, this is now perfectly mature cru classe with a wonderful balance between freshness, fruit and complexity on the nose; mid weight on the palate with a certain acidity that works very well with food; tannins are fine but present and lots of blackcurrant fruit here; a slightly higher-toned style cf Lynch-Bages and say Pichon Baron, but this is an extremely appetizing glass of Pauillac 91+ Mar '12 [Earlier note]"*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- Dark black red; blackcurrant and leaf on the nose; lifted; some pencil shavings – more intensity than Duhart and more fruit driven; full of blackcurrant fruit and ripe full tannins. Well-made Pauillac. Enjoyable. 90/100 Jan '10"*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
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