

Château Haut Batailley 2000

CSPC# 785888

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pauillac

Classification

5th Grand Cru Classe in 1855

Website

<http://www.chateau-haut-batailley.com/en/#/en/>

General Info

Château Haut-Batailley is owned by Mme. des Brest-Borie and, this 54-ha property, produces on average 8,200 cases per year.

Located in the very south of the Pauillac appellation, the property shares a similar climate to that enjoyed by the Médoc: maritime, with the Gironde estuary and the Bay of Biscay combining to act as a climate regulator and the coastal pine forests sheltering the vines from the westerly and north-westerly winds.

A curious name, Batailley! According to local history, the land belonging to this Bordeaux Great Growth was a battle site for the English and French armies during the Hundred Years' War.

The great vineyard of Batailley was acquired in the 30's by the Borie Family and was split in the 40's as follow: Chateau Batailley and Chateau Haut-Batailley. Both of these vineyards in Pauillac were included in the 1855 Medoc Classification.

The particularity of its Terroir is from its location in the south of Pauillac, bordering the Saint Julien Appellation. We can feel the influence of this neighborhood, which gives grace, charm, and delicacy, synonymous of femininity unusual in Pauillac wines. This harmonious complexity gives a beautiful character and lot of personality to the wine.

Today, in order to improve the quality of the vinification and ageing of the wine, the Borie Family got involved in a large program of investment with the construction of a new cellar, a new vat room and a general renovation of the old buildings. These achievements enable to improve the techniques for producing great wines, in the same way as the other ones managed by François-Xavier Borie.

Vineyards

The vineyards are located close to the border of St Julien and neighbour Château Latour's Petit Batailley plot that goes into their *grand vin*, along with Les Forts de Latour vineyard. Over the fence is Château Talbot in St Julien. Envable terroir indeed! Vineyard planted with 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, and lie on deep gravel beds over limestone.

Harvest

Accordingly, Château Haut-Batailley practices a managed approach in the vineyard based on the greatest respect for the environment and the grapes. An initial "green harvest" is made in July to keep yields at moderate levels. Because Château Haut-Batailley's three grape varieties reach maturity at different times, precise tracking of ripeness allows perfect berries to be picked. Each year the harvest date is determined with great care to obtain fruit of the finest quality. The grapes are completely hand-picked and placed in small crates to keep the berries intact on their trip to the vat house.

Maturation

The vatting period lasts around three weeks. Alcoholic fermentation occurs during eight to ten days, with temperatures held around 28°C (depending on the quality of the vintage). A soft extraction is achieved by daily pumping-over of the juice which aids fermentation and the gradual development of phenolic components in the wine. Maceration continues for around ten days. During this time, each vat's temperature is strictly controlled and adjusted according to its grapes' potential. This is followed by the malolactic fermentation which stabilizes the wine and reduces its acidity, enhancing its round and supple character.

16-20 months in barrels of which 30-50% are new each vintage

Tasting Notes

Medium-deep color. Aromas of blackcurrant, licorice and exotic spices. Dense, sweet and creamy, with notes of dark chocolate and jammy berries. Lively acids give this lovely vinosity. Finishes with lush tannins, sweet oak notes and very good length.



Production 9,580 cases made (300,000 bottles)
Cellaring Drink 2008-2018
Scores/Awards **92 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003
89-92 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001
90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 22, 2003
90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 27, 2002
88-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 22, 2001
90 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May 2003
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 4, 2001
87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - November 4, 2011
92 points - Campbell Mattison, The Wine Front (score only)
90 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)
16 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France 2003 (score only)
15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine 2002 (score only)
2 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2004

Reviews *"Attractive chocolate, berry and currant aromas follow through to a medium- to full-bodied palate, with medium fine tannins and a pretty berry, chocolate aftertaste. Seriously good value. Best wine from this estate in decades. Best after 2009. 9,580 cases made."*
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Subtle aromas of currants, berries and minerals. Full-bodied, with firm tannins and a silky, slightly austere finish. Racy. Score range: 89-91."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"One of the finest Haut-Batailleys ever made (it certainly rivals the 1996), this deep ruby/purple-colored wine is a beauty. Notes of raspberries, liquified minerals, cassis, and tobacco jump from the glass of this attractive, velvety-textured wine. Some tannin is there, but it is abundantly fruity, low in acidity, and is a quintessentially elegant style of Bordeaux. Anticipated maturity: 2005-2015."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"This Pauillac, which tends to behave like a hypothetical blend of St.-Julien and Pauillac, has turned out what may be the finest Haut-Batailleys ever made. The deep ruby/purple-colored 2000 offers sweet aromas of cassis, cedar, tobacco, and spice box. Dense, fat, chewy, and seductive, with low acidity, ripe tannin, and abundant fruit, this sexy effort will drink well for 12-15 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Proprietor Xavier Borie is attempting to upgrade the quality of this wine. The 2000 displays considerable charm, finesse, and sweetness in its soft, fleshy, medium-bodied personality. There are copious quantities of black fruits with dried herbs in the background, and a touch of toasty oak, as well as moderate, sweet tannin. Anticipated maturity: 2002-2015."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Medium-deep color. Aromas of blackcurrant, licorice and exotic spices. Dense, sweet and creamy, with notes of dark chocolate and jammy berries. Lively acids give this lovely vinosity. Finishes with lush tannins, sweet oak notes and very good length."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Almost black. Very floral aromatic nose. Easy supple texture with lively chewy tannins and lots of acidity. Sappy wine with appetising lift and considerable ripeness. Likely to be good value."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"With soft, round textures and no hard edges, this charming, medium/bodied Bordeaux wine offers tobacco, red and black fruit, forest floor and earthy notes. This is close to fully mature and displays good Pauillac character in the spice and cassis and plum filled finish. I'd drink this fairly priced wine over the next decade."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
