

# Château Haut Batailley 2018

CSPC# 864280

750mlx6

14.3% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot

## Appellation

Pauillac

## Classification

5<sup>th</sup> Grand Cru Classe in 1855

## Website

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

## General Info

The Cazes family, which heads Château Lynch-Bages, are the proud new owners of Château Haut-Batailley (since March 2017), an 1855 Grand Cru Classé in Pauillac owned previously by the Des Brest-Borie family. Both families have had strong roots in the Pauillac and Médoc landscape for generations.

Château Haut-Batailley, acquired by the Brest-Borie family in the 1930s, was until now managed by François-Xavier Borie. "We are delighted that Château Haut-Batailley has been accepted into the fold of the Cazes family, who are committed to continuing the work undertaken at the estate. We're confident that they will maintain the identity and character of the property," said François-Xavier Borie.

## Vintage

A vintage of severe climatic contrasts, 2018 took place in two phases. After a particularly mild and wet spring, summer settled in July, bringing plenty of sunshine that lasted until October. The beautiful climatic conditions of summer thus ended any mildew pressure to which the vineyard was subjected during the spring season. "The early start of the season was nerve-racking because of the mildew pressure," Jean-Charles Cazes said. "We had to monitor the vines constantly and react. But we were equally worried about the dry period. We were concerned about getting vine blockage, like in 2003, but it didn't happen. The rains we had in the spring really helped the vines sail through and reach full maturity. Our harvest dates are pretty much on average, a little early for Lynch Bages, but again not like 2003. Sorting wasn't really a problem, everything was sanitary. The vintage reminds me of 2010, but more forward, like 2016. I asked Cazes about their biggest challenge this year. "The challenge was not to overdo extraction," he said. "That was the biggest challenge in the cellar. We had smaller berries, so the ratio of skin to juice was high. This is also why there is so much richness." - LPB

## Vineyards

Château Haut-Batailley today comprises some 40 hectares, 22 hectares of which are already planted. In terms of grape variety, the property has 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. Its vines are on average 35 years old.

The property also has its own technical facilities, in perfect working order. At 22 ha it is a relatively small property in Medoc terms and combines a fine blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc to create a wine which has fully deserved reputation for expressing the power and punch of the very finest Pauillac's with a degree of sweetness, freshness, and subtlety. In recent years the estate has been beautifully managed by Francois's Grandson Francois-Xavier Borie, whose style and philosophy has been very much the same as the one he has at his own property Ch Grand Puy-Lacoste, to allow the vineyard to express itself to a maximum, little interference and let nature take its course to allow each year to express its own personality.

## Harvest

The grape harvest began on September 21<sup>st</sup> and ended on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Maturation

The vatting period lasts around 3 wks. 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. Aged in 60% new French oak.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The blend of the 2018 vintage includes a higher proportion of Merlot than what has been used in previous vintages. The wines display great concentration and intensity alongside high alcohol. On the finish, seductive velvety elegance and freshness overlays an attractive weave of fine tannins.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Haut Batailley is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Haut Batailley is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2024-2040
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>94 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - January 2021</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Tom Parker MW, Farr Vintners - January 2022</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2021</p> <p><b>89-92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2021</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine - February 2021</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Vertdevin.com - April 2019</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Juicy, fresh and nicely compact, with sleek iron along the edges of a core of steeped plum and cassis fruit flavors. Subtle tugs of savory, tobacco, and cedar through the finish, with a last, lingering perfumed whiff of dark tea. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2024 through 2038."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Fresh and driven, opening with a piercing iron note that is quickly met by a core of racy cassis and damson plum flavors. Everything extends nicely through the pure finish. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Drink now."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2018 Haut Batailley is very deep purple-black in color and takes some coaxing to reveal profound notes of dark chocolate, crème de cassis, blueberry pie and anise with waves of raspberry pie, lavender and Indian spices. Full, very tightly wound and jam-packed with layers of crunchy black and blue fruits, it has a firm line of ripe, grainy tannins and compelling freshness, finishing long with a mineral hint coming through."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"I can't remember a Haut-Batailley this tannic, yet the tannins are savory and very ripe with beauty and purity. Full-bodied, chewy tannins and a long and intense finish."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is an open style that displays a black fruit flavor and soft tannins. Its berry flavors and ripe fruitiness are full integrated with the spice tone and bright acidity. Look for this wine to age well over the next 10 years."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"Dark and pure on the nose just a touch stony/smoky to add finesse to the fruit. Oak is quite evident on the palate but there's fruit to fill it out. Less aromatic than the second wine (new name: Verso) but there's still a restraint and subtlety in a powerful vintage. Long on the finish yet the persistence is gentle. Fine-grained tannin texture."</i> - JH, JancisRobinson.com</p>

**Reviews** *“A big-shouldered and muscular wine. This shows a classic Pauillac signature with the full gamut of pencil lead, cigar box, curls of woodsmoke and floral edges. Very good-quality, sappy and juicy also, and will age. Has bedded in nicely over ageing. Drinking Window 2026 – 2038”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“This is a lovely wine from the second vintage under Lynch Bages’ ownership, full of power and poise and controlled precision. It has a slightly unusual blend owing to a greater proportion of Merlot than has been used in previous vintages, but it doesn't suffer in terms of concentration due to the thick skins and structure of the Merlots in 2018, and what you get instead is a creamy, velvety texture through the mid palate. It has lots of tannins, but they have the enrobed quality that comes from the higher than usual alcohols and are extremely seductive. It's more lightly framed than the Lynch Bages, as it was in 2017, and is enjoyable. 3.61pH. 81IPT.Drinking Window 2024 – 2036.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“Dark, big and bold, with layers of crisp Cabernet Sauvignon character, you also find bitter chocolate, espresso, cigar wrapper and herbs. Full-bodied, tannic, and concentrated, the wine is rich, juicy, chewy, and long. The finish serves up ample waves of sweet and tart red berries, cocoa, peppery spice, and herbs. The wine was made from blending 59% Cabernet Sauvignon and 41% Merlot, 14.3% ABV.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Dark garnet and almost opaque in color, from the initial sniff and sip, you know this is not your grandfather's Haut Batailley. The wine is deep, titillating, and fresh. There is density, weight, and lift with soft, luxurious, almost cultured tannins. The full-bodied finish combines olives, tobacco leaf and earthy, dark red fruits. The wine was made from blending 59% Cabernet Sauvignon and 41% Merlot, reaching 14.3% alcohol.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Deep purple in colour. This vintage showcases the changes since the Cazes family took over the property. Bold cassis, iron, and cedar tones on the nose - you can feel the solar nature of the vintage in the power of fruit. This follows on the palate, which is chock full of cassis, damsons, and sweet dark cherry fruit. The spice comes in waves of cedar, vanilla bean, and aniseed. Full bodied but never out of balance, the rich structure of tannin adds a real savoury edge and tightens the finish. Long, bold and age worthy.”*  
- TP, Farr Vintners

*“The 2018 Haut-Batailley has a sweet, opulent bouquet of macerated black cherries, blueberry, hints of fresh fig and pressed violets. The palate is quite full-bodied, exerting a gentle grip on the entry, and the layers of black fruit are framed by supple tannins. The acidity is nicely judged here (pH 3.61), and it fans out nicely toward the finish. This is an outgoing Haut-Batailley, a sophomore vintage that wants to make an impression, and a step up from the 2017, even if I think the Cazes family will make better in the future. (NM)”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“The 2018 Haut-Batailley has come together well. Plump and juicy in feel the 2018 possesses quite a bit of creaminess in its inky dark fruit chocolate spice and leather. The new oak is prominent at this stage. Even so this is nicely done and promising. (Drink between 2024-2038)”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The 2018 Haut-Batailley is a powerful, virile Pauillac. Black cherry, lavender, spice, menthol, licorice, and chocolate are pushed forward, with tons of Cabernet Sauvignon character in both the wine's flavor and structural profile. This is a decidedly unctuous, powerful style, and the elements still need time to fully come together, especially the oak. The blend is 59% Cabernet Sauvignon and 41% Merlot.”*  
- AG, Vinous

**Reviews** *“The flagship 2018 Château Haut-Batailley checks in 59% Cabernet Sauvignon and 41% Merlot that was brought up in 60% new French oak. It’s another deeply hued, classic Pauillac in the vintage that has wonderful purity as well as loads of ripe blackberry and currant fruits, medium to full-bodied richness, beautiful aromas and flavors of graphite, cedarwood, and tobacco, building yet polished tannins, background oak, and a great finish. This pure, classic Pauillac needs 7-8 years of bottle age (it will certainly offer pleasure earlier) and will drink fabulously well for over two decades.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The grand vin 2018 Château Haut-Batailley is a beauty and is comprised of 59% Cabernet Sauvignon and 41% Merlot brought up in 60% new French oak. It’s an attractive, elegantly styled wine that has lots of juicy Merlot notes of black cherries, graphite, scorched earth, and spice. Rich, medium to full-bodied, beautifully balanced, and with terrific purity on the palate, this brilliant Pauillac is going to be approachable in just a few years and will evolve gracefully. This wine hit 14.3% alcohol with 3.61 pH and an IPT of 81. My money is on it being one of the best to date from this estate. 93-95+”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate rim lightening. Attractive dark berry fruit, delicately reminiscent of cassis and blackberries, underscored by a hint of tangerine zest, subtle spicy oak in the background. Juicy, elegant, fine extract sweetness, ripe heart cherries, integrated fresh and persistent tannins, a balanced food accompaniment with a promising future. (2020 - 2045)”*  
- Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is elegant, fresh, beautifully racy and offers a certain intensity. It reveals notes of bright black cherry, bright blackberry and small notes of blueberry associated with touches of raspberry as well as hints of mild tobacco, liquorice, small blue fruits, fine hints of Badiane and a very discreet hint of pepper. The palate is fruity, mineral, beautifully balanced, full of elegance and offers freshness, a beautiful definition, finesse, and an almost aerial side in the approach. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy/juicy blackberry, pulpy cassis and small notes of small blue fruits associated with touches of raspberry, pulpy plum, violet as well as hints of tobacco, nutmeg, a subtle hint of cardamom, iode and a very discreet hint of pepper. Tannins are elegant and well-built. Good length. A very discreet hint of caramelization on the finish/persistence.”*  
- Vert de Vin

---