

Château Haut Bailly 2017

CSPC# 831123

750mlx6

13.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot, 4% Cabernet Franc
Appellation Pessac-Léognan
Classification Grand Cru Classé de Graves
Website <http://www.chateau-haut-bailly.com/en/content/2012>

General Info For the past four centuries, Château Haut Bailly has overlooked 28 hectares of vines in a single block. These grow on soil consisting of sand and gravel from the Tertiary period with a fossil stone subsoil. Haut Bailly's reputation as one of the very finest wines of Bordeaux was established in the 19th century. Haut-Bailly was bought by the Sanders family in 1955 and was run by Jean Sanders until 1998 when Robert G. Wilmers, an American banker, purchased it. Robert G. Wilmers continues to emphasize quality in all aspects of production, combining a blend of tradition and modernity with respect for the environment. Château Haut-Bailly's unique terroir produces wines that are outstandingly reliable, and whose prestige is due to an inimitable style marked by finesse and elegance.

Bob Wilmers passed away in December 2017 at age 83. The estate is now managed by Chris Wilmers the son of Bob Wilmers.

Today, the estate is directed by Veronique Sanders, the fourth generation of her family associated with Haut-Bailly.

Winemaker Gabriel Vialard

Vintage After a harsh winter and a mild spring, the 2017 vintage began early with bud break on March 25th. During the nights of the 27th and 28th of April there were frosts of an intensity rarely seen in Bordeaux. This frost caused damage to our lower plots but spared our parcels of old vines.

And then nature took its course, with a warm spring favouring fast growth in the vineyard, further emphasising the early nature of the vintage. Flowering (which took place from the 20th- 25th May) was two weeks ahead of usual. As for the plots affected by the frost, vegetative growth was truly remarkable. The base of the vines showed intense regrowth, which had the effect of limiting the production of fruit and second-generation clusters.

Exceptional rainfall in late June (120 mm in three days) reduced any risk of hydric stress. However, the weather conditions of July and August, with limited rainfall, meant that overall, 2017 will be recorded as one of our driest vintages – along with 2000, 2005 and 2012.

During the summer, the alternation of hot and cool days gave us favourable conditions for ripening. Veraison began early (at the end of July) and was particularly regular throughout the vineyard.

Vineyards The Haut-Bailly estate accounts for 33 hectares of the Médoc, of which 30 hectares are vineyard, largely in a single block on a gravel *croupe*. The soils are a mixture of sand and Tertiary gravel over *Faluns de Léognan*, a subsoil rich in sandstone and ancient fossilised shells. The vines themselves are mainly Cabernet Sauvignon (64%),

Vineyards which are planted on the upper parts of the *croupe* and slopes where the drainage is best, with 30% Merlot, which are planted on those plots where the soils are richer in clay. The remaining 6% is Cabernet Franc, and overall, the planting density is an admirable 10000 vines/ha.

Harvest The precocity of the vintage meant an early harvest, beginning with the Merlots on September 13th. The Cabernets Francs and Petits Verdot's were picked during the beautiful day of September 22nd. The Cabernets Sauvignons were also harvested in ideal conditions, from September 25th to 29th.

Maturation In small oak barriques (55% new) for 16 months and is bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.



Tasting Notes	The Merlots of 2017 are both fruity and balanced. Cabernets offer a pleasant aromatic freshness and savory tannic structure with good density. The overall yield of the vintage is quite low. The 2017 blend of Haut-Bailly is particularly floral and is composed of those parcels spared by Mother Nature – the plots of old vines which make up the historic heart of the vineyard.
Serve with	Chateau Haut Bailly is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. The wine of Chateau Haut Bailly is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Production	4,166 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2038
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020</p> <p>94-96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p>95 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018</p> <p>17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2019</p> <p>17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p>15 points - Farr Vintner - April 2018</p> <p>92-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p>95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p>93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020</p> <p>92-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018</p> <p>18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“A bold tarry note coils around the core of plum, black currant and blackberry fruit, while licorice root and bramble details check in on the finish. Packed and grippy, this is a touch rustic in profile at this early stage but should unwind easily enough with time, as all the pieces are in place. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2023 through 2038. 4,166 cases made”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“The 2017 Haut-Bailly is composed of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot. Very deep garnet-purple colored, it has a wonderfully spicy nose of cinnamon stick, cloves, anise and fenugreek with core of roses, warm blueberries, black forest cake and black raspberries plus hints of underbrush and iron ore. Medium to full-bodied with firm, ripe, grainy tannins, it has oodles of freshness and great finesse, continuing bright and energetic on the long, mineral finish”</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Blackberry, walnut, iodine, and sandalwood aromas follow through to a full body, round and juicy tannins and an intense, flavorful finish. This shows richness with structure. Excellent 2017.”</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>“A firm and silky red with a medium to full body, a solid center palate and a long and integrated finish. Very fine, polished and refined. Creamy tannins. Hints of bitter orange.”</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>“A dry wine firm with dark tannins, this is destined for long aging. Concentration and a solid structure are balanced by the dusty texture and dry core. It will take a while for the potential of the juicy black fruits to come through, so this wine needs to wait until 2024.”</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p>

Reviews *"94–96. Barrel Sample. Bold and dense, this wine is packed with tannins, ripe berry flavors and intense black fruit notes. Impressive, it is showing richness now and a fine future. Rich tannins and a firm dry core will allow the wine to age well."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep crimson. Subtle and lightly peppery dark fruit. Very quietly spoken and nicely herbaceous. On the palate, supple and deliciously dry. The tannins are incredibly fine but perfectly placed to frame the dark, fresh fruit. Extreme purity, freshness and restraint but no lack of fresh fruit. Long, too. (JH) 17.5/20 points"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"50% new oak. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 4% each Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Harvested 13–29 September. pH 3.74 (almost the same as in 2016). Very dark with purple rim. Oozes elegance on the nose, subtle dark fruit, nicely dusty/mineral and a touch of graphite and a slight and attractive herbaceous note. More fragrant with air. Texture is fine like layers of paper; tannins are dry and refined. Lightness of touch but really persistent. Juicy, gentle. Very lovely, the graphite elegance, freshness and fruit go on to the end. (JH)"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"This reminds me of 2001 more than most wines I've tasted, and perhaps it's no surprise that a vintage that required a skillful touch and a belief in the power of elegance should do well at Haut-Bailly. It's hugely pure and restrained, with great aromatics and extremely well-placed bilberry, cassis and mulberry fruits. The tannins are fine and poised, set against cigar box with touches of charcoal and slate. They build through the palate, but remain slightly austere on the finish, with a bounce to them that suggests they are going to age beautifully. They kept the vineyard team for three weeks in July, because the vines kept throwing out green shoots after the June rains. Harvested 13-29 September, the vines were around two weeks ahead all the way through the season. The yield was 28hl/ha overall, but only 2hl/ha on the frosted parts, compared to 40hl/ha for the unaffected areas, 50% of production going into the grand vin. Malo was finished by the end of November, but the vats are still separated and there will be final blend in May 2018 (which is what they always do). (JA)"

- JA, Decanter.com

"A smoky bar around the time of the Third French Republic, alive with the scent of tar, tobacco, the essence of cassis and blackberry aperitifs and other herbal elixirs. Hints of flowers create the complex set of aromatics that bring us to this imaginary Café De La Paix, 1900. On the palate, the wine has polish, softness, energy and a lot of lift. Bright but not flashy, this is a classically styled vintage for the estate which will show well early yet possess the ability to age as well. The wine was made from 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc, reaching 13.2% alcohol with a pH of 3.74. The Grand Vin was produced from 50% of the harvest, which took place from September 13 to September 29. Unfortunately, Haut Bailly lost 30% of the crop due to the spring frost."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Frost has reduced the crop at Haut Bailly by 30% in 2017. Picked from 13-29 September, 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot 4% Cabernet Franc. A medium deep colour with a slight reduction masking the fruit on the nose, which is spicy, peppery, and certainly black-fruited. The palate is very firm, with muscular and unyielding tannins creating a linear, surly mouthfeel at the moment. The fruit intensity is good and should allow time for the tannins to soften, with the oak spice well integrated, offering subtle notes of toasted spices and a little wood smoke. Buyers should be ready to let this wine mature slowly in the bottle, as it will need a decade or more before becoming approachable based on this showing."

- Farr Vintners

"Tasted at the Château Mercers' visit March 2018. The nose has sweet fruit depth of flavour the palate an aromatic freshness at the start. Fresh bilberry in the middle is backed by sweet black plum and cassis supple rich and ripe the tannins are fine and savoury the back palate has depth ripe fruit the finish is lighter elegant and long. Drink 2026 - 2040."

- Derek Smedley MW

Reviews

"The 2017 Haut-Bailly matured in 50% new oak and bottled at the end of April. It has a fragrant bouquet with blackcurrant, wild strawberry, wilted rose petal and light truffle scents emerging with time. This is a less powerful nose than recent vintages, but I appreciate the understated style. The palate is medium bodied with rounded, saturated tannin. There is good acidity here, quite spicy in the mouth with a gentle, if not overly complex finish. It is the kind of Haut-Bailly that will drink comparatively early, though it has the substance to last for 20+ years. (NM)"

- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Haut-Bailly was cropped at 28hl/ha (40hl/ha on non-frozen parcels and 2hl/ha on frosted parcels) and includes co-fermented Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. It is unlikely to contain any vin de presse this year, unlike in 2016, and it is matured in 50% new oak. There is a pH of 3.74 with 13.2° alcohol. It has an attractive and quite opulent bouquet, a mixture of red and black fruit, hints of crushed stone and briary, a light oyster shell influence. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin but there is good backbone here, quite "solid" for Haut-Bailly and it will need to just soften the edges during its élevage. With moderate length and a very attractive graphite aftertaste, this Haut-Bailly will require five or six years in bottle but will repay the patient wine-lover. Drink 2021-2040."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Haut-Bailly is racy and polished to the core, with no hard edges and just exceptional beauty. Dark cherry, plum, chocolate, spice, new leather, incense, and grilled herb overtones infuse the 2017 with striking layers of nuance, but it is the wine's feel that really elevates it into the realm of Pessac-Léognan's best. The 2017 is an elegant and exceptionally understated Haut-Bailly. 2025 - 2042."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2017 Haut-Bailly is an understated beauty. Nothing in particular stands out rather it is the wine's balance that impresses most. All the classic Haut-Bailly signatures come through in a mid-weight, super-finessed wine that hits all the right notes. Dark red and blue stone fruits, graphite, smoke, licorice and incense is all laced into the super-expressive finish. The 2017 emerges from the estate's central, most historic parcels, as those vineyards were not affected by the April frost that took with it 30% of the production."

- AG, Vinous

"A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 4% Cabernet Franc, the 2017 Chateau Haut-Bailly spent 16 months in 50% new French oak. It reveals a medium ruby hue as well as a classic, medium-bodied, elegant yet also ripe style that's common in the vintage. With medium body, ripe, polished tannins, beautiful elegance and purity, and a great finish, it's a terrific wine in the vintage that will drink well for 25-30 years."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"The Grand Vin 2017 Château Haut Bailly is a beauty. This estate benefited from being one of the highest in the Pessac-Léognan region and escaped too much damage from the April frosts. As always, the wine has a more elegant, feminine style in its perfumed floral, cassis, and black raspberry aromas and flavors. With medium to full-bodied richness, a tight, vibrant texture, ripe tannin, and a great finish, it's one of the most ethereal, elegant wines in the vintage. Barrel Sample: 92-95"

- Jeb Dunnuck

"This is one of the calmest and most centered wines of 2017. There is no tension here, just precision and balletic balance. The fruit is focused, deep and proud and the amalgam of the blend is amazing. There are two ages of Petit Verdot vines in the wine and they both add a different aspect to the wine. This spice is integral to this wine's appeal. There is a voluptuousness and also elegance about this wine and it is not bigger than the second wine La Prade, it is just much longer and finer. This is a succulent, Burgundian-shaped wine in its demeanor and yet the tannins and the acidity are going to keep it going for years and years."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
