

Château Haut Bergey 2000

CSPC# 785921

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot

Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

Classification

Grand Vin de Bordeaux

Website

http://composis.aropixel.com/vignobles_garcin/chateau-haut-bergey-index-eng.html

General Info

In the 15th century the “Seigneur de la Louvière” and the “Seigneur d’Olivier” got to work on the reparcelling of agricultural land and so was born “La maison noble de Pontey” today named Chateau Haut-Bergey. In 1700 Sir Jean-François de Cresse, a member of parliament of Bordeaux, took it over and used it as his permanent residence.

By 1772 the estate stretched over 100 hectares of vineyard. A hundred years later, though the vineyard was abandoned and in 1850 a splendid castle was reconstructed becoming a leisure residence. It was in the middle of the last century the castle returned to the wine growing roots of the past.

In March 1991 Sylviane Garcin-Cathiard acquired Chateau Haut-Bergey.

Granddaughter of a wine merchant and a successful businesswoman, her approach has always been that of a connoisseur appreciating great wine.

It was love at first sight and the promising charm of Chateau Haut-Bergey encouraged her into a large renovation project whilst respecting the former traditions.

Commitment to quality is her main principle.

Vintage

Winter was mild and the spring less than perfect, with warm and damp conditions that kept growers fighting to prevent mildew from rampaging through the vineyards. Flowering was late, and June swung between a brief hot spell and cold and damp periods without much sun that continued into the first part of July. As the summer got underway, a great vintage seemed far from a likely outcome. But once the middle of July arrived, beautiful weather settled in and it was dry and sunny almost without break for the rest of the summer.

Vineyards

The 28.5 hectares are located in the heart of the village of Leognan, a leading area of Graves region. At the end of the Tertiary era and during the Quaternary the changing meanderings of the Garonne left a large variety of gravel, pebbles and other stones that constitute the complexity of this exceptional ground. In springtime, the temperature of soil rises constantly. During summertime and especially in September the gravel reflects the absorbed heat onto the bunches of grapes, thus improving the process of ripening.

The vineyard of Haut-Bergey is well exposed to the south and south-west on slightly sloping grounds, so ensuring natural drainage. The subsoil is composed of clay and chalk streaked with iron-bearing parts that also contribute to the uniqueness and personality of the wines of HAUT-BERGEY. The vineyard of Chateau Haut-Bergey Comprises 26.5 hectares of red grapes and 2 hectares of white grapes. 54% Cabernet Sauvignon / 46% Merlot

Harvest

The grapes are transported in small boxes of 20 kg in order to avoid them being squeezed or oxidation.

Vinification/

Maturation

Stainless steel tanks of 80 to 120 hl. New french oak barrels: 50% for 16-18 months
The preparation of the wine is done in a traditional way: every parcel of vines is separately prepared in small vats of stainless steel or wood with integrated hot and cold regulation. The wine is aged in oak barrels for between 16 to 18 months according to the vintage.

Tasting Notes

Fully mature, with a smoke, coffee, vanilla, earth, tobacco and black cherry scented nose, the wine is soft, round and open for business. The only drawback is, the amount of oak, some tasters will not like that, and the finish is a tad short. On the other hand, the texture and ripe fruit more than offset those other issues. This is probably



Tasting Notes drinking about as well as it's going to get, as it does not seem to have moved over the past few years. There is no hurry to drink it. It should remain at this level for at least another decade.

Serve with Chateau Haut Bergey is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Young vintages can be decanted for 1-2 hours. This allows the wine to soften and open its perfume. The wine will also gently warm in the glass, releasing its aromatics. Older vintages might also need decanting, for both aerating and to remove the sediment. The red wine of Chateau Haut Bergey 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 Bergey is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese. The white wine of Chateau Haut Bergey is a perfect wine to serve with shellfish, sashimi, sushi, all types of seafood, chicken, veal and cheese.

Production 3,925 cases made

Cellaring Drink 2010-2025

Scores/Awards **86 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003
89-91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001
94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #189 - June 28, 2010
94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 22, 2003
93-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 27, 2002
92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 22, 2001
78-82 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2001
90 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - June 2003
14 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2002
90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - November 29, 2012
90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 14, 2011
87 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 8, 2010
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 5, 2010
88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
14 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
1 star - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2004

Reviews *"Slightly rustic, but impressive concentration. Very ripe fruit aromas of raisin and dried fruits. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and a long finish. Best after 2007. 3,925 cases made."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Slightly rustic, but with impressive concentration. Very ripe fruit aromas of raisins and other dried fruits. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and a long finish. Score range: 89-91"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"I bought this wine for myself because I thought it was a sleeper of the vintage, and I couldn't be happier. My score in two tastings was identical to what it was seven years ago. Chocolatey espresso notes jump from the glass of this dark ruby/purple-colored wine. Full-bodied, with a silky texture, loads of concentration and density, this is a beautiful wine that is both hedonistically and intellectually pleasing. The wine seems to have reached full maturity, where it should stay for another 10-15 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"A stunning achievement from this unheralded vineyard, the saturated ruby/purple-colored 2000 displays a striking perfume of cigar smoke, scorched earth, roasted espresso, and intense black cherry/currant fruit. It possesses luxurious richness, medium to full body, sweet tannin, and a seamless, silky-textured finish that lasts for nearly 45 seconds. This brilliant achievement satisfies both the hedonistic and intellectual senses. Moreover, it is a good value, and surprisingly accessible in spite of its density. A bottle kept open for 5 days never revealed any oxidation ... always a good barometer of a wine's aging potential. Anticipated maturity: 2007-2020. P.S. This achievement owes much to the Cathiard-Garcin family who has done so much to resurrect the once moribund Pomerol estate of Clos l'Eglise."

- RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews

"This is a remarkable sleeper of the vintage. A stunning achievement from this unheralded vineyard, the saturated ruby/purple-colored 2000 displays a striking perfume of cigar smoke, scorched earth, roasted espresso, and black cherry/currant fruit. It possesses luxurious richness, medium to full body, sweet tannin, and a seamless, silky-textured finish that lasts for nearly 45 seconds. This brilliant achievement satisfies both the hedonistic and intellectual senses. Moreover, it is a good value, and surprisingly accessible in spite of its density. Anticipated maturity: 2005-2020."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"This is a profound sleeper of the vintage. Haut-Bergey's new owner, the Cathiard-Garcin family, had the foresight to bring in both Michel Rolland and Jean-Luc Thunevin to provide consultation. Given the undeniable talent of this brain trust, there is no doubt this property has, in one vintage, emerged as a star of Pessac-Leognan. One of the most complex wines of the vintage, at least aromatically, it boasts a soaring bouquet of smoke, scorched earth, coffee, black fruits, and tobacco. The palate is also compelling. It is a wine of considerable finesse rather than power, with its hallmark gorgeous layers of fruit that cascade over the taste buds without any sense of weight. This ripe, long, silky-textured, complex 2000 is a textbook Graves, satisfying both the hedonistic and intellectual senses. Not to be missed! Anticipated maturity: now-2015."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"A pleasant if slightly lean, mineral nose. Palate is a rather unbalanced and lacks structure, whilst the new oak is not terribly well integrated. Below par. Tasted April 2001."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Good ruby-red. Complex nose melds minerals, game, mocha, animal fur and truffle. Sweet and broad in the mouth, with very ripe notes of game and animal fur. Very rich, velvety wine, even if it is currently showing more texture than flavor. Tannins are sweet and pliant, though, and the finish is silky and very long. (ST)"

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Deep blackish purple. All upfront with a loose, soft hit on the palate which falls away to minimal finish."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Fully mature, with a smoke, coffee, vanilla, earth, tobacco and black cherry scented nose, the wine is soft, round and open for business. The only drawback is, the amount of oak, some tasters will not like that, and the finish is a tad short. On the other hand, the texture and ripe fruit more than offset those other issues. This is probably drinking about as well as it's going to get, as it does not seem to have moved over the past few years. There is no hurry to drink it. It should remain at this level for at least another decade."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Chocolate, cherry pipe tobacco, smoke, leaves, herbs, fennel and a light kiss of oak pair with a medium bodied Pessac Leognan wine that ends in a black cherry, bitter chocolate and tart strawberry finish. This is probably as good as this wine is going to get."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"This is a Jekyll and Hyde wine. The problem is, there is no way to tell who is going to show up, the good doctor, or his alter ego Mr. Hyde. The perfume shows oak, licorice, smoke, coffee, black fruit and hints of vanilla. Full bodied and round in the mouth, with good concentration. The wine ends with some oak and sweet dark cherries. At 10 years of age, this is showing too much oak. Other bottles have displayed less oak while delivering more fruit and freshness. But last night, Dr. Jekyll stayed home, while Mr. Hyde came to dinner and watched the Lakers take down the Celtics!"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Black raspberry, oak, jammy blackberry and dark raspberry scents make up the perfume. Soft in texture, this ripe, fruit filled, already open wine is very expressive."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com