
Le Petit Smith Haut Lafitte 2016

CSPC# 881229

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot
Appellation	Pessac-Léognan
Classification	2 nd wine (also referred to as Le Petit Haut Lafitte)
Website	https://www.smith-haut-lafitte.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Le-Petit-Haut-Lafitte-Red-2016-Technical-Sheet.pdf
Sustainability	The great particularity of Château Smith Haut Lafitte, beyond its fabulous wines, lies in its commitment to the preservation of our ecosystem and the biodiversity of the vineyard. Thus, in addition to state-of-the-art and environmentally friendly growing and winemaking techniques (organic homemade compost, implantation of hedges, forest, beehives, horse vine work, drones, or the Normalized Difference Vegetative Index (NDVI) which allows the detection of row heterogeneities...), Château Smith Haut Lafitte works according to the circular economy model. This new economic, ecological, local, and societal model, on the fringe of the breathtaking “extract-manufacture-consumer-dispose” linear system, is practiced with the aim of producing an exceptional wine. The property limits the consumption and waste of raw materials and non-renewable energy resources, transforms waste into recycled raw materials, and reflects on the eco-design of its products. The stealthy wine storehouse is a perfect example of this. This new investment is completely blind to environmental radars and must produce its own energy, without emitting CO2.
General Info	The history of Château Smith Haut Lafitte goes back to 1365, when the noble house of Bosq chose this terroir to run a vineyard. Then in the 18th century the Scotsman George Smith bought the estate, gave it his name, built the Chartreuse and exported the already famous barrels to England on his ships. In 1842, Mr. Duffour-Dubergier, mayor of Bordeaux but also a passionate winegrower, inherited Château Smith Haut Lafitte from his mother and turned it into a Grand Cru. At the beginning of the century the House of Louis Eschenauer realized the exceptional quality of this wine and ensured its distribution, finally buying the property in 1958. Since that time, major investments have been made, including the construction of a superb underground cellar that can raise more than 1,000 barrels at the same time. In 1990, Daniel Cathiard fell in love with the vineyard and joined the prestigious line of owners with the firm intention of continuing to enhance the value of this noble cru: his constant search for excellence led him to harmoniously handle the most modern winemaking techniques with traditional methods: living soil, organic compost, a return to small oak vats, ageing on lees in barrels... Without a doubt, the exemplary elegance of the red wines of Smith Haut Lafitte deserves this daily care.
Winemakers	Technical Director: Fabien Teigen
Vintage	It could have been a difficult year, between early bud break, frost warnings in the second half of April, hot, humid weather and widespread mildew in May and June and a very dry summer. But nature had something else in store for the estate, sparing it from frost and allowing its terroirs to accumulate enough water for the vineyard’s oldest vines. A precise mastery of organic techniques allowed the team to control mildew, and water stress benefited tannin development in the estate’s red wines. Finally, superb weather in the fall created ideal ripening conditions for the development of complex aromas. Harvest took place over 4 weeks (from 9/29 to 10/6 for the Merlot, on 10/6 for the Petit Verdot, on 10/12 for the Cabernet Franc, and from 10/10 to 10/19 for the Cabernet Sauvignon). Never overripe, grapes were harvested at the height of their phenolic maturity. What a delight it was to harvest perfectly ripened and balanced grapes under beautiful, sunny skies! Despite our expertise and the cutting-edge tools at our disposal, it was only with time that we fully grasped the immense quality of the 2016 vintage. Mother Nature continues to surprise us...
Vineyards	The terroir of Château Smith Haut Lafitte is located on a hilltop, 67 hectares of which are planted with vines and covered with “Gunziennes” graves which offers two astonishing particularities: a natural drainage of the soil which forces the roots of the vines to fetch water and mineral salts at a depth of several meters, and a “mirror

Vineyards	effect” of the sun, which, by reflecting on the pebbles composing the graves, helps the grapes to ripen and blossom. The average age of the vines for the Le Petit is 11 years. Selection Massale: grafted on our own mother rootstock grown at the estate.
Harvest	Yield: 35 hl/ha. The harvest is done by hand. Harvest took place over 4 weeks (from 9/29 to 10/6 for the Merlot, on 10/6 for the Petit Verdot, on 10/12 for the Cab Franc, and from 10/10 to 10/19 for the Cab Sauvignon).
Vinification/ Maturation	Grapes are sorted twice, before and after destemming, and are not pressed before undergoing fermentation in vats. Tannins and color are extracted by punching down and/or pumping over. Maceration takes place at 26-28°C; tasting determines the length of maceration for each vat (from 4 to 6 weeks). Blended at the same time as Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte, Le Petit Haut Lafitte is crafted and aged in our energy-plus facilities with the same care as the estate’s Grand Vin. From the vineyard to the cellar, the entire winemaking process is exactly the same. Aged for 14 months in barrels (20% new barrels) produced in our in-house cooperage.
Tasting Notes	Le Petit Haut Lafitte 2016 is a deep, dark, intense red. Still somewhat discreet, the nose reveals notes of black fruit and dried grass. Upon aeration it becomes much more expressive and complex, with notes of blackberry, blackcurrant, cigar leaves, dried jalapenos, and cold smoke. On the palate the 2016 is concentrated with the firm tannic structure of Cabernet Sauvignon. Thanks to the Merlot, it is also full, smooth, and ample. Le Petit Haut Lafitte delivers lovely structure, volume, and smoothness with a very long, fresh finish that recalls the same aromatic palette as the nose, with notes of blackberry, blackcurrant, tobacco leaves, star anise and flint. Refined and elegant, Le Petit Haut Lafitte 2016 expresses the characteristics of Cabernet grapes planted on gravelly soils.
Serve with	The red wines from Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte are best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	6,667 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2030
Scores/Awards	90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2019 91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - April 2017 92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019 93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2017 17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017 92 points - Panel Tasting, Decanter.com - January 2022 91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017 93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - January 2017 92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - December 2018 94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019 91 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019 90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019 90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - April 2017 90-91 points - Vert de Vin - March 2017 16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021
Reviews	<i>“Fresh and ripe, with a forward core of raspberry and red currant preserve flavors, laced with violet and red licorice notes. A lightly tarry hint gives the finish energy.”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator <i>“The 2016 Le Petit Haut Lafitte is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot matured in 20% new oak. It has a well-defined bouquet with mulberry, cranberry, pressed flowers, and a touch of undergrowth; it is neatly defined though not powerful, but it does demonstrate commendable precision. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp and firm tannin, quite tensile and energetic (more so than the Les Hauts de Smith) with impressive structure and length on the almost Pauillac-like, graphite infused finish. Do not ignore this little gem from Château Smith Haut-Lafitte, because it always punches above its weight.”</i> - NM, Wine Advocate <i>“The freshness and the currant aromas are very enticing. Blackberries, too. Full-bodied, very linear, and crisp. Fine tannins.”</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews *“93–95. Barrel Sample. The wine, a majority of young Cabernet Sauvignon with Merlot, is structured and firm with solid tannins and layers of black currant. This will be ready to be drink after 2025.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Very dark and lustrous purple. What a lovely texture! Maybe not the densest fruit but reasonably fresh fruit. Delicate hand on the hand brake. Not too much. Just lovely juice. I wonder whether the move to organic is responsible for this delightful wine? Pure pleasure almost already. 17/20 points.”

“Restrained scents of subtle black cherry, pencil lead, violets, and toasted wood. Very attractive wine. Concentration yet remains elegant despite the weight.”

- Panel Tasting, Decanter.com

“Earthy, smoky, wet forest, licorice, and dark plums, with good density, supple, textures and a tannic finish, with a bit of dryness in the end note. The second wine of Smith Haut Lafitte is produced for export from Les Hauts de Smith, as it is dominated by 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and paired with 40% Merlot. Earthy scents coupled with tobacco, coffee, black raspberry, and plums reveal freshness in the fruit, softness in the tannins and a spicy, dark, red fruit finish.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2016 Le Petit Haut Lafitte has a lovely bouquet of brambly black fruit, cedar and touches of black olive that gain intensity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied and tight on the entry, displaying succulent, ripe tannin, and firm grip. There is a light earthiness to this Le Petit Haut Lafitte, and the Cabernet Sauvignon is very expressive on the tobacco-tinged finish. Excellent.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Le Petit Haut Lafitte is a fabulous second wine from Smith Haut Lafitte. Inky blue/purplish berry fruit, lavender, menthol, licorice, and cloves give the Petit Haut Lafitte its striking aromatic complexity. Deep, resonant, and exquisitely layered, the 2016 is a real joy to taste.”

- AG, Vinous

“There are two second wines of the estate, one based on Cabernet Sauvignon, and one based on Merlot. The 2016 Le Petit Haut Lafitte is the Cabernet-dominated release and is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot brought up in 20% new oak. This medium to full-bodied, elegant, finesse-driven effort offers classic notes of tobacco leaf, cigar, graphite, and assorted dark fruits as well as a touch of minerality.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The nose is fruity, fresh, and relatively powerful. It reveals notes of cassis and small wild fruits associated with slight hints of coffee, spices, and woody hints. The palate is fruity, juicy, well-balanced, relatively ample and offers a beautiful minerality, freshness, tension, roundness as well as precision. In the mouth this wine expresses notes of juicy red fruits and blueberry/cassis associated with notes of toasted/caramelized oak as well as very slight notes of mocha/cacao on the finish. Tannins are fine and a bit more firm than on Les Hauts de Smith.”

- Vert de Vin