

Château Talbot 2009

CSPC# 744976

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint Julien
General Info	4th Cru Classé in 1855. Legend relates that the name of this imposing estate originates with Connétable Talbot, a famous English warrior, defeated at the battle of Castillon in 1453. Talbot is one of the Medoc's oldest estates, its glory never tainted. Through the years it has been fortunate enough to remain in good hands. The owners are Nancy Bignon-Cordier and her family. They are the fourth generation of Cordiers to manage this Saint-Julien fourth classified growth.
Vintage	Described by the great Bordeaux buffs of the past as 'quintessential claret', Saint-Julien manages to live up to its reputation in vintage after vintage. In 2009 the extra concentration from low-yielding ripe Cabernet Sauvignon has added richness and depth for long ageing, while fragrance, harmony and balance remain the hallmarks. Thanks to the perfect conditions at vintage time, picking dates were consistent throughout the appellation. The châteaux are very true to their soil and style, with a vigor and energy not found in lesser vintages. The best will improve over three decades, perhaps more.
Vineyards	The vineyards of Château Talbot dominate St Julien, in terms of size at least, as they account for an impressive 107 hectares; in an appellation that amounts to little more than 900 hectares, that is a big vineyard! All the other <i>châteaux</i> , from the great second growths such as Ducru-Beaucaillou, Léoville-Las-Cases and Gruaud-Larose, down to the humble <i>cru bourgeois</i> properties (of which there are few), seem to dance around the periphery (mainly to the east, closer to the Gironde) of the Talbot estate, such is its size. The soils underfoot are, as is typical here, ancient quaternary gravels offering excellent drainage. Of the vineyard area, 102 hectares are planted to red varieties, mostly Cabernet Sauvignon (66%), followed by Merlot (26%), Cabernet Franc (5%) and Petit Verdot (3%); there are also 5 hectares of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. The vines are planted at a density of 7700 vines per hectare, mostly on 3309 rootstock although there are also some on 101.14 and Riparia. They are Guyot trained, the norm in Bordeaux, average 42 years of age, and are harvested by hand with a final yield in the order of 45 hl/ha.
Harvest	Wednesday, September 29 - Friday, October 13. Harvesting is performed by hand, with no fewer than 180 cutters. This step, crucial in the making of a great wine, is subject to numerous selective sortings. Initial grape selection is performed on the plant, the second when the grapes arrive at the vat house; eight to ten persons on either side of a seven-meter sorting table eliminate grapes not meeting optimal maturity standards. This precision work conserves the grapes' and the terroir's most intense expression.
Maturation	The oak used for the <i>élevage</i> comes from eight different coopers, with 50% new wood each year for the <i>grand vin</i> which is bottled as Château Talbot. This accounts for between 50-60% of the estate's production in a typical vintage, amounting to approximately 30000 cases per annum.
Tasting Notes	This beautiful wine reveals a dense purple red color. In the nose appear scents of graphite, licorice and sweet black cherries. On the palate, it is medium-bodied and shows a very smooth texture, mature tannins as well as a nice acidity. The finish combines perfectly the darkness of the vintage and the freshness of a great Cabernet.
Cellaring	Drink 2013-2028



Scores/Awards **91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012
92-95 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012
92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010
88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012
90-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010
93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010
88-91 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010
17-18 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2011
15.5-16.5 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010
17 points/4 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010

Reviews *"Dark plum and blueberry compote notes lead the way, followed by dark cocoa and tobacco. A fleshy feel runs throughout, with a stony edge adding length and balance on the finish. Best from 2013 through 2021."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"A red with a solid core of blueberry and currant aromas, with spices too. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and a balanced finish. Very pretty. Score range: 92-95"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Extremely sexy, soft, supple and opulent, with notes of cedar, herbs, incense and black currant fruit, this is a full-bodied, generously endowed but silky Talbot to drink now and over the next 20+ years. By any standard of measurement, this is irresistible."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"This is the most impressive Talbot since the 1982 and 1986. It reveals an opaque plum/garnet/purple color as well as knock-out aromas of black fruits, cedar, incense, licorice, and a Provencal garrigue-like character. Substantial, sexy, and seductive, it is almost slutty in its exuberance and ostentatiousness. It was a thrill to drink this loaded St.-Julien. It should offer irresistible drinking over the next 20-25 years. (Tasted two times.)"
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London. The Talbot 2009 has a well defined, quite earthy nose with blackberry and a touch of sous-bois. It could do with more fruit intensity. The palate is medium bodied with dry tannins, missing a little cohesion on the mid-palate with a rather austere finish. Tasted October 2011."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the chateau and the UGC. A sample taken 22nd March, a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon (a little higher than usual), 31% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot, picked from 26th September with the Merlot, the Cabernet picked from 2nd October until 14th October. It was the first time they stopped picking to achieve full ripeness. The nose is just a little subdued at the moment, broody blackberry, raspberry, a touch of savoury fruit just in the background, perhaps from the Petit Verdot. The palate is medium-bodied, slightly rustic tannins on the entry, but nice depth on the mid-palate, fanning out nicely towards the supple finish. Notes of blackberry, tobacco, a touch of coca and a touch of pepper. A little rusticity compared to others although it displays admirable delineation. Off-dry finish. Fine, but it needs to pep up a bit by bottling. Tasted March 2010."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Initially generous, the wine then becomes much more solid and dense. The structure is all there along with the ripest fruit. It is delicious and darkly tannic at the same time."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"93-95 Barrel sample. A firm, complex wine, solidly based on ripe tannins, dark flavors. There is some spice and juiciness to fit with the dense tannins."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *“Ruby red with inky highlights. Floral and perfumed on the nose, displaying delicate red berry and red cherry aromas. Then muscular and a little monolithic on the palate, with flavors of red cherry, bell pepper and cedar that are currently a bit camouflaged by sweet oak. Finishes youthfully tight but pure and long, with plenty of tongue-dusting tannins and pretty black pepper and mineral elements.”*

- ID, International Wine Cellar

“Some development at the rim. Light, graphite nose not without its attractions... Very sweet start but lifted and easy and utterly relaxed. Slightly dry tannins on the end. But very solid effort. Nice neat persistence. Date tasted 1st April 2010. Drink 2018-2030.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“The blend here is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 15% Petit Verdot. Rather an alluring suggestion on the nose, with tinges of tobacco and smoke (from the Petit Verdot, says the régisseur), with notes of floral spice, I find this exciting and seductive. It has the trademark 2009 texture right from the outset, all velvet and cream, silky and integrated. The tannins are buried deep, but they are there, and this is a typical finding for the vintage. In the finish it feels very long and tannic. Overall, very convincing. More convincing than my primeur assessment, and it seems to show a more exciting structure than some of the 2009s tasted in London recently. Tasted during a visit to the château. 17-18/20 (October 2011)”

- CK, The Wine Doctor

“This wine has a dark core and a cherry pink rim. On the nose it is dark and slightly gamey, although with some good bright edges. The palate has some appeal, although it carries gamey fruit here also, with some roasted cherry stones. A good upright tannic backbone, rather moderate acidity. Great character but it feels a little soft for me, although it does show a bright acidity in the finish. I suspect this will be a must-buy for Talbot-lovers. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 15.5-16.5+/20 (March 2010)”

- CK, The Wine Doctor

“Dense purple red, good earthy blackcurrant fruit, quite spicy, broad and open, very smooth texture and enough weight for the future. Drink 2014-22.”

- SS, Decanter.com

“Further evidence of the quality of the 2009 vintage in St Julien, this is an exceptionally aromatic Talbot, with good structure, smoky oak, currant-like fruit, a hint of fresh tobacco and perfumed, cedar wood oak. Poised and elegant on the palate, with harmonious balance and a fresh, refined finish. Another wine for drinkers, rather than speculators. 15+ years.”

- TA, timatkin.com
