

Château Talbot 2015

CSPC# 790552

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint Julien
Classification	Fourth Growth. Quatrieme Grand Cru Classé in 1855
Website	http://chateau-talbot.com/
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.
Winemaker	Stéphane Derenoncourt and Julien Lavenu are the consultant winemakers.
Vintage	The hot and sunny weather of April set off a rapid budburst. Then all the key stages proceeded in ideal conditions: quick flowering, very even colour change for each of the grape varieties. An incredibly beautiful weather stayed with us during all the growth cycle. We observed a perfect hydric stress early July, very beneficial for the synthesis of the polyphenol precursors. The ripening process continued through a mild and quite dry month of September, ensuring the grapes maintained a great concentration and a wonderful aromatic freshness.
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 rootstocks although there are also some on 101.14 and Riparia. They are Guyot trained, the norm in Bordeaux, average 50 years of age, and are harvested by hand with a final yield in the order of 51 hl/ha.
Harvest	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. From September 21st to October 8th
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. Aged 15 months.
Tasting Notes	A dark purple color already shows the depth of this vintage. Refined and floral aromas on the nose with red fruits combined with a delicate and precise oak. Dense, silky, and fleshy on the palate with a great elegance of fine tannins. A deep length finishing with black fruits. This racy Talbot is very promising!
Serve with	Chateau Talbot is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Talbot is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, stewed, and grilled dishes. Talbot is also good when served with Asian dishes, hearty seafood or richly textured fish like tuna, mushrooms, pasta, and cheese.
Production	34,558 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2018-2028



Scores/Awards **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2018
90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017
88 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018
88-90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2016
94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 2017
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2019
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - November 2017
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018
91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
86-89 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - July 2019
90 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2018
92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
91 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017
17.5 points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016
90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2018
94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - May 2016
89 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - March 2019
93-94 points - Vert de Vin - March 2019
17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2018
17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France - January 2019
17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - June 2018

Reviews *"Alluring, with plum and fruitcake notes that are lushly textured, picking up mesquite, black tea and melted licorice flavors along the way. Keeps the warm, enveloping feel going through the finish, with the fruit dripping steadily. Best from 2020 through 2038. 34,558 cases made."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"This distinctive wine puts a slightly chewy and austere note of warm stone alongside the vintage's more typical lush tannins, giving this interesting contrast. The core sports solid currant and blackberry fruit, with ample length. Score Range: 90-93."
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Scented of crushed black raspberries, black cherries and currants with touches of herbs, garrigue and aniseed, the medium garnet-purple colored 2015 Talbot is medium-bodied and taut with firm, chewy tannins and an earthy finish."
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Talbot has a very typical nose for this Saint Julien estate: unapologetically classic in style, reserved even, with very subtle blackberry and briary scents tinged with pencil shavings. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, moderate weight in the mouth, but it feels very linear and conservative towards the finish. Talbot rarely shows well out of barrel and can improve in bottle, so I will be a little more optimistic in my score and hope that it gains matière during élevage. Drink: 2022 - 2040."
 - NM, Wine Advocate

"A big, rich wine for St. Julien with plenty of power and concentration, which enables it to carry plenty of spicy and toasty oak. The tannins need some time to soften, but the elegant finish says that from 2020 this should really impress."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A refined yet chewy young red with lots of blackberry and blueberry aromas and flavors. Full body, ripe tannins, and a fresh and clean finish."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *"This wine seems to be all about structure and tannins. The fruit comes through slowly and has a way to go in its development. But black currants are there, ripe and promising well for the future. Just don't drink before 2025."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Tasted blind. Blackish crimson. Leafily aromatic. Light tannins. Very easy and charming but not one of the most ambitious, though there are ripe tannins on the very end. Drink 2023-2038."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Dark crimson. Lots of sweet fruit but a slight lack of focus. Solid box-ticking wine but without real excitement. Drink 2024-2040."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "A Stéphane Derenoncourt wine. Mid crimson. Fragrant. Not concentrated but fresh and vital on the nose. Absolutely classic claret for early drinking. Or airlines! Drink 2017-2024."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "This is an estate that has been riding high in recent vintages, and it is once again showing the success of its investment in the vineyard and cellar. Although not quite at the heights of its 2016, the fruit is well handled and carefully extracted, delivering a menthol and pencil-lead combination to back up cassis notes. 50% new oak."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Forward, floral and comparatively easy to drink, even from barrel, this is light, pure and attractive, all red fruits and tobacco leaf with textured tannins and well-handled oak. Not profound, but appealing stuff. Drink: 2020-28."*
- TA, timatkin.com
- "A well-made charmer. The wine opens with a smoke and espresso filled nose that adds black cherry, licorice and cassis as the wine takes in air. Soft, refined, forward and open, a few years will add more to the round textured, polished finish."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Espresso, smoke, licorice, cassis, and black cherry create the nose. Forward in style with round-textures and an earthy, blackberry and cassis finish."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Firm on the nose the start of the palate is tight bright and herbaceous. Richer in the middle the mix of cassis and black cherry is sweet but at the back firm tannins tend to hold back fruit expression and shorten the finish."*
- Derek Smedley MW
- "The 2015 Talbot shows much better now than just a year ago. Here it has a much more intense bouquet than Gruaud Larose and Lagrange. Upfront blackberry and bilberry scents, cedar and subtle mint aromas lend complexity with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannin on the entry, a fine bead of acidity with layers of graphite-infused black fruit. I love the precision on the finish here and the persistence is superb. Impressive. Tasted blind at the Southwold 2015 Bordeaux tasting."*
- NM, Vinous
- "The 2015 Talbot has a clean and refined bouquet with blackberry, cedar and cigar box scents that gradually unfurl in classic Saint-Julien/Talbot fashion. The cedar element becomes heightened with aeration while it develops more delineation and complexity. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin. This has gained body and substance since I tasted it in barrel, the sample at the UGC in London a little simplistic on the finish although the bottle at the château demonstrated much more sophistication and terroir expression. Delicate and elegant. Anticipated maturity: 2021 - 2045."*
- NM, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2015 Talbot is endowed with serious power and density, much of which it appears to have acquired during aging. Dark plum, lavender, new leather, spice, and grilled herbs run through this decidedly potent Saint-Julien. Readers will have to give the 2015 at least a few years to shed some of its formidable tannins. In two tastings, Talbot showed more nuance, complexity, and overall pedigree than it did as a barrel sample. (AG).”*
- AG, Vinous

“Notes of black cherries, underbrush, tobacco, and smoked herbs all emerge from the 2015 Château Talbot and it’s an old-school, classic, concentrated 2015 that does everything right. With medium-bodied richness, good concentration, and solid overall balance, it’s already approachable, as are most in the vintage, yet will benefit from short-term cellaring and deep for 10-15 years. 2018 – 2033.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“There is a lot more fruit on Talbot this year and the oak retreats into the background which is a blessing. The red fruit tones manage to push any darker notes aside and this is not a bad thing because it creates a pristine and sonorous flavour. This is not a classic Talbot, but it is a very well-made wine which will soften into a consummate charmer within the decade.”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, subtle lightening of the edges, balsamic touch, some tobacco, ripe plums, veggie nuances. Medium-bodied, leafy texture, present, somewhat brittle tannins, greenish notes on the finish, appears rather immature overall. Peter Moser”
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is elegant, fine, and aromatic. It reveals notes of roasting, oak, and fine notes of ripe fruit (blueberry, raspberry, blackberry...) combined with a touch of chocolate and hazelnut. The palate is fruity, gourmand, elegant, mineral, racy, relatively fat and offers a nice silky matter. On the palate this wine expresses notes of blackberry and black berries associated with touches of raspberry candy, a hint of cherry, slight notes of licorice as well as a discreet touches of toasted oak and a fine hint of tobacco. Tannins are fine and elegant. Good length and persistence. There are slight notes of saline minerality / racy minerality.”
- VertdeVin
