

Château Talbot 2019

CSPC# 790552

750mlx12

14.1% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 5% 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	Jean-Max Drouilhet, cellar master. Jean-Michel Laporte, winemaker. Stéphane Derenoncourt and Julien Lavenu consult.
Vintage	The growing season began slow with the spring months seeing little in the way of sun and a bit too much in the way of rain. April also saw severe threats of frost come and go as temperatures dipped to icy lows. As a result, producers had to be on the ball but, fortunately, their fears rarely materialized. The cool spring delayed the growing season, making vines slow to get into gear, affecting both budburst and flowering. June also remained stubbornly cool, and patches of rain came and went, however, by the end of the month conditions fortunately began to turn around. Summer came bringing warm, dry days at last and the sunshine helped push the grapes to phenolic ripeness, while cool nights retained the essential acidity and aromatics in the grapes. Late July saw some light rains, which proved a welcome relief to dehydrated vines, revitalizing the fruit just before the harvest. Picking went smoothly and the grapes were the picture of health, which unsurprisingly resulted in superb wine. Although, generally less full-on than their 2018 counterparts, the final wines tended to be more medium-bodied and elegant with delicate, perfumed aromatics and smooth tannins.
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 42 years of age, and are harvested by hand with a final yield in the order of 45 hl/ha.
Harvest	From September 19th to October 8th
Maturation	15 months in oak barrels (60% new)
Tasting Notes	This vintage marks the 100th year of the Cordier family at Talbot and Jean-Michel Laporte (formerly winemaker at La Conseillante) has made a beautiful, creamy, sensual wine full of the Saint Julien blackcurrant and graphite flavours. His efforts show: the wine is more precise and fresh than in the past. On the palate rich and well-structured with ripe tannins, great Cabernet Sauvignon flavour (the highest percentage ever used at Talbot) fine acidity, juicy mulberry fruit and above all a lithe, virile body with power and elegance. A great Talbot.



Serve with	Chateau Talbot is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. 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	23,333 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2040
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>93 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p>16.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - December 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>92-94 points - Farr Vintner - May 2020</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>93+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>93 points - Thomas Parker MW - March 2022</p> <p>93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p>17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p>17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“Well-built and rather refined for the vintage, with a deep well of red and black currant paste and plum reduction flavors supported by a deeply inlaid iron note, all of which run the length of the wine. Offers subtle savory, tobacco and singed cedar notes that add range, with a savory echo that leaves a mouthwatering feel in the end. Built to cellar. Best from 2025 through 2040. 23,333 cases made.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“The 2019 Talbot is performing well, opening in the glass with aromas of earthy cassis, plums, burning embers and pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, fleshy, and succulent, with powdery tannins, lively acids, and a savory finish, it's Jean-Michel Laporte's second vintage at this sleeping giant of Saint-Julien. This will be an estate to watch closely going forward. drink 2027-2055</i></p> <p><i>Of this estate's 110 hectares, occupying one large block, 94 are planted to red varieties. The grand vin consistently derives from the plateau's higher-altitude gravel soils, but other parcels make a contribution in some vintages (Talbot also own a solitary one-hectare block within the heart of Gruaud Larose that they are reluctant to part with). Historically, the density of plantation at Talbot was always rather low—because it was ploughed by oxen rather than by horse, Jean-Michel Laporte speculates—but new plantings these days are at 8,000 vines per hectare, with Merlot being replaced by Cabernet Sauvignon in the deep gravels. In 2006, modernization began, with lower yields, a later harvest and war on Brettanomyces (almost a house signature in the past). Laporte, formerly winemaker of Pomerol's La Conseillante, has continued his predecessor's work and seeks to bring a bit more mid-palate volume to the wine, increasing somewhat the percentage of new oak to 60%. 2019 is his second vintage at Talbot, and it's certainly impressive. Anyone who has tasted wines such as the 1945, 1982 and 1986 knows what Talbot can achieve, so this is clearly an estate to watch.”</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Casting a deep garnet-purple color, the 2019 Talbot leaps from the glass with vibrant notions of crushed blackberries, boysenberries, and ripe blackcurrants plus hints of pencil shavings, cardamom, incense and Ceylon tea. Medium-bodied, the palate is refreshing and nicely balanced, featuring a good core of crunchy black fruit</i></p>

Reviews *and soft, approachable tannins, finishing with earthy restraint. 2023 – 2040.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“Ripe redcurrants and plums with violet and other flowers on the nose. Full-bodied with firm, polished tannins that are ripe yet firm. Pure fruit here. Pretty center-palate. Chewy finish. Give this at least five or six years to come around. Best after 2026.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“A juicy, fruity wine with lots of blue fruit, blackberries, and dark chocolate. Pretty depth and structure to this. Polished and structured at the same time.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“A rich, spicy and smoky wine, this has generous tannins to balance the blackberry fruit flavors. The structure is already impressive, showing ripeness as well as density, which is promising for plenty of aging.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. Scented, concentrated, really rather intense. Everything is here in a savoury, dry way for a glorious future. Fine and fresh. And less aggressively dry on the end than the Langoa. 14%. Drink 2028 – 2046.”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. Barrel sample. Overt spice and cassis nose. Palate juicy and invigorating. Perhaps a little leaner than some. Firm, grainy tannins provide the structure and finish.”
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

“St Julien's largest property at 110ha (up there with Lagrange if you're keeping track), this has lovely plump black fruits on the nose. Takes hold right from the start, with clear tannic build and a silky character to the tannins. This continues the run of good vintages that Talbot has been producing since 2016. Well balanced, with plenty of St Julien character. Tasted twice two weeks apart. Highest ever level of Cabernet Sauvignon at the estate. Harvest 19 September to 8 October. 60% new oak. Drinking Window 2026 – 2040.”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Dark chocolate shavings and espresso aromatics on the nose, this has great depth of expression and plenty to grab hold of. Well worked tannins that are powerful and muscular but also flushed with juice. This will age well, has improved from En Primeur and this is an up score. Highest ever level of Cabernet Sauvignon, harvest 19 September to 8 October. 60% new oak.”
- JA, Inside Bordeaux

“Medium-bodied with an olive and savory on the palate, the wine opens with juicy, fresh, bright currants and spice. Tannic, crisp and fresh, the vibrant palate offers a nice, chewy, crunch to the fruit on the palate and in the finish, which ends with a tangy hint of sweet cranberry, spice and herbs. Drink from 2030-2055.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Refined, elegant, silky tannins, medium-bodied and fresh, the fruit focuses on its purity, length and persistence. The juicy black currants with a tangy hint of sweet cranberry on the palate are perfectly in synch with the tobacco leaf, cigar wrapper, spice, and smoky cherry nose. This is going to be just great with 7-9 years of aging. Things continue improving here under the direction of Jean-Michel Laporte.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2019 is a blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, which represents the highest proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon in recent years. There was a move to more extraction earlier in the fermentation, with the aim to increase roundness and power in the mid-palate. The yield is 46hl/ha, which is similar to 2018. The wine will spend 16 months in 60% new French oak. Deep ruby in colour, with cassis and liquorice on the nose. The palate is fresher, with fresh blackcurrant forming the base of a lithe and vibrant fruit core. The tannins are chalky but well integrated, allowing the fruit to shine. A well-proportioned and harmonious

Reviews *Talbot that focuses on balance over concentration. Long and savoury on the finish. Jean-Michel Laporte's influence is starting to take effect in the glass with this excellent effort."*

- Farr Vintners

"The 2019 Talbot was one of the best recent vintages that I had tasted when a sample was sent to me last year, in no small part thanks to the appointment of Jean-Michel Laporte. The 2019 has a large proportion (69%) of Cabernet Sauvignon, higher than previous vintages. Bottled in May 2021, it retains that delineated, focused bouquet of blackberry scents and touches of pencil lead, hints of raspberry and cedar. Just classic Saint-Julien. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannins and a superb line of acidity. Much more cohesive with more substance than prior vintages. There is a touch of spiciness toward the lingering finish, which reveals tobacco and gravel-like notes. Talbot made a great wine in 2019 and it will age with style. 14.1% alcohol 2026 – 2055."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Talbot has a very cohesive bouquet, "streamlined" being the operative word, before opening gradually to reveal a Pauillac-inspired aromatics, pencil shaving scents permeating the black fruit. Yet it is still unmistakably Talbot. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannins, creamy in texture with more depth in the middle than previous vintages (a shortcoming that, estate director Jean-Michel Laporte told me in the past he wants to address.) The great aspect of this Talbot is that it doesn't take its foot off the pedal on the finish, exerting impressive grip with that pencil lead lingering in the mouth. Superb."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Talbot is a powerful, earthy Saint-Julien. The tannins have never softened, though. Ultimately, Talbot feels a bit heavy, four-square, and forbidding. Tasted two times."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2019 Talbot is a big, powerful wine. Black cherry, plum, licorice, menthol, spice, lavender, and earthy notes give the 2019 a distinct impression of savouriness. The tannins are a bit burly, as they often are with Talbot, and yet the 2019 appears to have enough fruit depth to balance things out."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2019 Château Talbot is straight-up impressive, sporting a dense purple hue as well as a powerful nose of cassis, scorched earth, smoked tobacco, and spicy wood. Rich, black-fruited, medium to full-bodied, and structured, it's a rock-solid, balanced Saint-Julien that will benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age and age for 15-20 years."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2019 Château Talbot is another beautiful vintage for this château, offering pure Cabernet notes of cassis, tobacco leaf, graphite, and lead pencil. With medium to full body, a pure, balanced, focused texture, and building tannins, it's well worth a case purchase and is a classic, elegant yet concentrated Talbot to enjoy over the coming 20 years or more"

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Dark ruby garnet, purple reflections, discreet brightening on the rim. Somewhat restrained bouquet, fresh cherry and plum notes and a hint of nougat. Juicy and elegant, sweet fruit, ripe tannins, pleasant freshness and a chocolaty touch on the finish. Substantial and very long."

- Falstaff Magazine

"The 2019 is a blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 26% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, which represents the highest proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon in recent years. Talbot is often a little reticent at such a young stage and so it proved at this tasting, but there is excellent underlying quality here for those looking to lay down wines for ageing. Deep purple colour, slightly closed on the nose but with hints of pure black fruit slowly revealing themselves in the glass. There is an array of spice bursting to get out but for now the aromas are tight. It is on the palate this wine shows its class. A tightly wound ball of fruit reveals pure, unforced, and elegant blackcurrant, dark cherry and plum. The tannins envelop everything for now, but they are fine, ripe, and well managed. This is a wine of great potential, with savoury depth and a very long finish. Give this time and patience will be rewarded."

- Tom Parker MW
