

# Château Haut Batailley 2015

CSPC# 801692

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot

**Appellation**

Pauillac

**Classification**

5<sup>th</sup> Grand Cru Classe in 1855

**Website**

<http://www.chateau-haut-batailley.com/en/#/en/>

**General Info**

The Cazes family, which heads Château Lynch-Bages, are the proud new owners of Château Haut-Batailley (since March 2017), an 1855 Grand Cru Classé in Pauillac owned previously by the Des Brest-Borie family. Both families have had strong roots in the Pauillac and Médoc landscape for generations.

Château Haut-Batailley, acquired by the Brest-Borie family in the 1930s, was until now managed by François-Xavier Borie. "We are delighted that Château Haut-Batailley has been accepted into the fold of the Cazes family, who are committed to continuing the work undertaken at the estate. We're confident that they will maintain the identity and character of the property," said François-Xavier Borie. Château Haut-Batailley today comprises some 40 hectares, 22 hectares of which are already planted. In terms of grape variety, the property has 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. Its vines are on average 35 years old. The property also has its own technical facilities, in perfect working order.

**Vintage**

With 2015 Pauillac, the wines were shaped by the terroir and the harvest dates each estate chose. The harvest dates were imperative with 2015 Pauillac, due to some of the weather extremes experienced during the growing season. The terroir that worked to produce the best 2015 Pauillac was the deep gravelly soils which helped retain the much-needed moisture during the dry season, (and much of the vintage was dry), especially the warm, sunny and even hot temperatures coupled with drought conditions that took place between mid-June until late July. To ameliorate that dry period, much of August was very rainy. The Left Bank, like everywhere else in Bordeaux consists of several different appellations and a diverse array of soils, with varying capabilities to handle the moisture that dumped on Bordeaux in August. Plus, it is important to note that the rain was strongest in the north of the Medoc, tapering off the further south you travel. So you had much more rain in St. Estèphe and in parts of Pauillac than you did in Margaux.

**Vineyards**

At 22 ha it is a relatively small property in Medoc terms and combines a fine blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (65%) Merlot (25%) and Cabernet Franc (5%) to create a wine which has fully deserved reputation for expressing the power and punch of the very finest Pauillac's with a degree of sweetness, freshness and subtlety. In recent years the estate has been beautifully managed by Francois's Grandson Francois-Xavier Borie, whose style and philosophy has been very much the same as the one he has at his own property Ch Grand Puy-Lacoste, to allow the vineyard to express itself to a maximum, little interference and let nature take its course to allow each year to express its own personality. The 2015 vintage is as fine example of this as one can find, an exceptional vintage with great aging potential.

**Harvest**

Accordingly, Château Haut-Batailley practices a managed approach in the vineyard based on the greatest respect for the environment and the grapes. An initial "green harvest" is made in July to keep yields at moderate levels. Because Château Haut-Batailley's three grape varieties reach maturity at different times, precise tracking of ripeness allows perfect berries to be picked. Each year the harvest date is determined with great care to obtain fruit of the finest quality. The grapes are completely hand-picked and placed in small crates to keep the berries intact on their trip to the vat house.

**Maturation**

The vatting period lasts around three weeks. Alcoholic fermentation occurs during eight to ten days, with temperatures held around 28°C (depending on the quality of



<b>Maturation</b>	the vintage). A soft extraction is achieved by daily pumping-over of the juice which aids fermentation and the gradual development of phenolic components in the wine. Maceration continues for around ten days. During this time, each vat's temperature is strictly controlled and adjusted according to its grapes' potential. This is followed by the malolactic fermentation which stabilizes the wine and reduces its acidity, enhancing its round and supple character. 16-20 months in barrels of which 30-50% are new each vintage
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	With a strong, determined Cabernet core this wine is more purposeful than some of the softer releases and it reaffirms its intentions to be considered among the top wines of the commune. The colour is a majestic purple and the black cherry and graphite nose is spellbinding. The palate is fairly slim and long with sleek lines and no trace of graininess or traction in the tannins as they are unbelievably fit. This is a wine that will require a few years to gather itself together, but I would bet my house on it unravelling stunningly in five-eight years' time. A wine to buy and treasure without breaking the bank and as far as classic Pauillac is concerned this wine is made to an age-old design and I adore it because it doesn't get carried away with its own grandeur.
<b>Production</b>	10,000 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2024-2040
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p><b>89-92 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"A light savory note lead off, with gently mulled cherry, plum and black currant fruit catching up quickly. Singed vanilla, black tea and tobacco notes chime through the finish, which has a perfumy, singed wood echo that imparts a twinge of old-school character. Best from 2021 through 2031. 10,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This has a rather streamlined feel, with notes of red currant preserves, violet and iron all in lock step from start to finish. Shows nice purity. Score range: 89-92"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Haut Batailley is matured in 60% new oak. It was picked between 21 September until 2 October. It is a level up from the 2015 Lacoste Borie with much more fruit intensity: blackberry, boysenberry, tobacco and cedar aromas. It gathers momentum in the glass and develops a subtle mint accent. The palate is medium bodied with supple, lithe tannin, very well balanced with just a slight tininess that will disappear by the time in bottle. I love the pencil shaving sprinkled over the aftertaste here. With very good substance and impressive length, this is a classic Pauillac that I suspect will offer 25 or 30 years of pleasure."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"There's immediate appeal to the nose and palate. Both are bathed in blackberries and dark plums. The tannins are superbly cut and very long and fresh. The oak chimes in with spicy flavors and bolsters plush grape tannins in a harmonious finish. Try from 2022."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *"Racy and balanced red with black currant, plum and berry aromas and flavors. Full body, soft and silky tannins, Elegant."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Bright limpid crimson. Quite tense and exciting spiciness on the nose. Rich and ripe. Quite forward but good savoury undertow. Lots of energy. Dry but not drying end. A good effort! Nothing forced."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Good depth of Cabernet fruit with lots of finesse and proper grip. As always, a beautifully textured wine that will open up very well and also last."*  
- SS, Decanter.com
- "Christel Spinner, the talented oenologist at Grand-Puy-Lacoste, applies her special touch to this wine, too. Sourced from sandier soils, it's often a little lighter in style, but that's not the case here. The wine has good grip and structure with stylish, toasty oak for support.  
Drink: 2020-28"*  
- TA, timatkin.com
- "Dark, red fruits, thyme and floral notes in the perfume lead to a fresh, medium-bodied, cassis-dominated wine with fine tannins, finesse and a bright, peppered, stylized finish. Blending 72% Cabernet Sauvignon and 28% Merlot, this wine reached 13.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.7."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Mid depth; attractive colour and freshness at the edge; healthy; lovely joyful Pauillac; pretty fruit but with some texture; really attractive; lovely blackcurrant tones; ripe and fresh; nice texture on the palate; fresh and medium bodied; nice and round and harmonious; nice spice and blackcurrant tones; nice elegant finish. Nice acidity. Good length. Refreshing. [72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot 49hl/ha]. Drink 2024-2032. Tasted 7/4/16 at Grand-Puy-Lacoste. 90-92+"*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Somewhat overshadowed by the same owner's Grand Puy Lacoste, this property always produces classic Pauillac at a reasonable price. The 22 hectares of vines are planted with 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. Medium purple in colour, with a nose of nutmeg, clove and coriander seed. The palate is spicy with some sweet red plums and cherries and silky, creamy tannins that give a flattering texture to the wine. This approachably smooth and supple style will make for stylish and yet classic early drinking."*  
- Farr Vintners
- "Fleshy richness the fruit is sweet the nose has depth the palate the richness of ripe fruit. Supple in the middle velvety and smooth the sweet fruit underpinned by fine tannins. There is a fleshy richness at the back but enough underlying freshness to brighten the finish."*  
- Derek Smedley MW
- "Elegant, restrained subtle red with layers of cassis, earth and savory spices. Lovely wine with nice balanced and good intensity."*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- "A wine of class, pedigree and nuance, the 2015 Haut-Batailley is superb. Beams of supporting tannin give the dark purplish flavors striking energy and cut. Graphite, smoke, violet, mint, dark cherry and plum notes continue to open up in the glass. Haut-Batailley is a Pauillac with distinct Saint-Julien leanings, and that is exactly what comes across here. It is also one of the overachievers of the year. The 2015 was impressive each and every time I saw it. Tasted five times."*  
- AG, Vinous
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