

Château Haut Batailley 2016

CSPC# 881223

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	5 th Grand Cru Classe in 1855
Website	http://www.chateau-haut-batailley.com/en/#/en/
General Info	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Winemaker	<p>Cellar Master: M. Philippe Gouze Vineyard Manager: M. Antonio Flores Consultant Œnologist: M. Eric Boissenot</p>
Vintage	The early budding of the vineyard, despite a mild and rainy winter, was slowed down by the coolness and humidity recorded between April and May. A hot and dry end of spring preceded unstable weather conditions until June 25th which gave way to a summer with little rainfall thus favouring the gradual and optimal ripening of the grapes.
Vineyards	<p>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.</p> <p>The property also has its own technical facilities, in perfect working order. At 22 ha it is a relatively small property in Medoc terms and combines a fine blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc 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.</p>
Harvest	The harvest went from October 3 to October 10. This is one of the latest harvests in the history of the property.
Vinification/ Maturation	The vatting period lasts around 3 wks. Alcoholic fermentation occurs during eight to ten days, with temperatures held around 28°C (depending on the quality of 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. Aged in 60% new French oak for 16 months.
Tasting Notes	Showcasing a beautiful deep colour, this Pauillac wine reveals fruity aromas (black fruits) as well as utterly elegant tannins. The alluring finish is persistent and smooth.
Serve with	Chateau Haut Batailley is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Haut Batailley is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	Approx. 9,500 cases annually
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2033



Scores/Awards **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021
92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019
92+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - November 2018
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - April 2017
96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019
95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2020
17+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017
93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018
93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017
93 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - September 2019
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017
94 points - Farr Vintners - April 2017
90-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017
93+ points - Neal Martin, Vinous - August 2020
94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - August 2020
90+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019
89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020
16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2020

Reviews *"Juicy, fresh, and nicely compact, with sleek iron along the edges of a core of steeped plum and cassis fruit flavors. Subtle tugs of savory, tobacco, and cedar through the finish, with a last, lingering perfumed whiff of dark tea. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2024 through 2038."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Fresh and driven, opening with a piercing iron note that is quickly met by a core of racy cassis and damson plum flavors. Everything extends nicely through the pure finish. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Score Range: 92-95"
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2016 Haut Batailley has a deep garnet-purple color and aromas of baked redcurrants, red plums and cassis with asphalt, fried herbs, and earth. The palate is medium-bodied, firm, and chewy with an earthy finish."
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 Batailley is a blend of 12% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 85% Cabernet Sauvignon cropped at 50h hectoliters per hectare. Matured in 60% new oak. It has an intense graphite infused bouquet with fine delineation, some freshly picked Pauillac mint coming through with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin that grip the mouth insistently; with graphite and tobacco-infused black fruit dominating, this a classically styled Batailley in the vein of previous vintages with the elegance coming through towards the finish. This is one of those wines that grows on you, perhaps not as easy or as charming to taste as other Pauillac 2016s at this stage, but knowing this property well, I know how it can blossom when it matters, which is when you and I drink it. Drink 2022 - 2050."
 - NM, Wine Advocate

"Shows beautiful, ripe cabernet aromas with currants, plums, meat, and smoke. Flowers, too. Full body, deep and ripe fruit, and exquisite, ripe tannins. Flavorful finish. Tight right now but shows excellent potential. Best ever. Try after 2024."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"I thought the 2015 defined the new Batailley, but this is fantastic. Full-bodied and so tannic and powerful. Flavors of chocolate, coffee, and spices. Excellent finish. Very muscular. Tight and precise."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Tasted blind. Sweet and toasty nose. Charming but perhaps not the earthiest/funkiest. Very much a well-groomed wine. Some vitality but not a lot of concentration. Drink 2025 – 2040"
 - JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews *“Lifted, sweet and very Pauillac on the nose. Thick and sweet on the palate though – rather different from the nose. Pretty sharp on the palate with some overtones of the right bank even though the nose is pure Pauillac. Quite a dramatic play, this wine! Drama in spades. Drink 2025-2043.”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Upfront and confident on the attack, this shows a rich sweetness with cedar, damson, and blackberry. It's big and weighty and goes for impact - the oak is a little more evident than in some others. The acidity feels high at first, but it settles into itself. It's well-knitted with extremely impressive tannins - this needs time.

Drink 2025 – 2038.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“A tunnel of tannins takes you right through the palate, but it is not fully walled in as with 2010, rather the tannins are pliable, and the overall feeling is of well controlled fruit that deepens as you go along. The blend is 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, with 12% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, and a pH of 3.6. Wonderfully deep fruit flavours of blackberry and crushed cassis reside against black chocolate and well contained tannins. A lovely vintage that has power but is just the right side of big extraction. Good persistency with a coffee-scented finish. This is a buy, for sure.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“If you like and coax the glass just a but you can find cigar box, tobacco, truffle, smoke, and blackberries. The wine is medium/full bodied with round tannins and a crispy bite of cassis in the almost creamy finish. Give the wine 7-10 years in the cellar for the Pauillac firmness to subside and enjoy it over the following 2 decades or more. The wine was made from a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Classic in nature, the cassis has a crispness to its that character you can bite into. Full-bodied, with sweetness to the fruits, freshness, you can easily find nuances of tobacco, cigar wrapper, cedarwood and hints of black pepper. The tannins are ripe, and the structure is here for long-term aging potential.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Cassis and blackberries, creamy tannins, juicy, fresh berries, medium/full bodied with a blast of sweet, black currants in the finish, the wine has freshness, fruit and length and could be the best vintage in the history of the estate. Made from a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, this wine reached 13.5% alcohol. The Grand Vin represents 70% of the harvest. The picking took place from October 3 to October 10. This is one of the latest harvests in the history of the property.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“A well-situated vineyard in Pauillac that can be relied upon to produce a consistent wine of classic Medoc style and breed. Quality has been extremely good in recent vintages whilst prices remain reasonable. The Chateau is now producing a second wine - Lions de Batailley - which will further increase the quality of the grand vin and reduce the quantity by around 30-40%. Picked between the 3rd and 10th October, the blend this year is 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. Juicy and plump with black cherry and plum, the palate is silky in tannin texture, which frames great black fruit purity and meaty, smoky toast from the oak. Very approachable and well-balanced between fruit and acidity, there is a long finish that indicates this will have a long drinking window.”

- Farr Vintners

“Brooding richness both nose and palate have concentrated black fruits. Rich fruit in the middle the tannins are firm but ripe the back palate has depth and sweetness but there is enough acidity to balance the finish is quite restrained. 2026-43”

- Derek Smedley MW

Reviews *“The 2016 Batailley has an attractive, meaty bouquet with more red fruit than black, unlike many of its peers. With aeration it appears to gain more floral notes and lift. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannins, linear and focused, offering pencil lead, cedar and light spicy notes toward the conservative, controlled finish. A mocha-tinged aftertaste emanates from the oak. Good potential, but it needs time. Tasted blind at the Southwold tasting. Drink 2022 - 2050*
- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Haut-Batailley was tasted from two bottles, the first showing a touch of TCA. The second has an airy and well-defined bouquet of blackberry, graphite, and subtle floral aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-boned tannins and very classic in style, displaying impressive grip. I appreciate the substance toward the finish, and the pencil lead lingering on the aftertaste. This is an outstanding Haut-Batailley. Tasted blind at the Southwold tasting.”
- AG, Vinous

“Slightly difficult to read, with a tight, closed style on the palate, the 2016 Château Batailley offers enjoyable dark fruits, leafy tobacco, new leather, and charred oak aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied, nicely balanced, and fresh, it needs to be forgotten for 3-4 years, at which point I suspect it will come closer to matching the barrel review and drink nicely for 10-15 years or more. 2022 - 2037.”
- Jeb Dunnuck
