

Château Haut Bailly 2011

CSPC# 864612

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Pessac-Léognan
Classification	Grand Cru Classé de Graves
Website	https://www.haut-bailly.com/assets/technical-sheets/chateau-haut-bailly/2011.pdf
General Info	<p>For the past four centuries, Château Haut Bailly has overlooked 28 hectares of vines in a single block. These grow on soil consisting of sand and gravel from the Tertiary period with a fossil stone subsoil. Haut Bailly's reputation as one of the very finest wines of Bordeaux was established in the 19th century. Haut-Bailly was bought by the Sanders family in 1955 and was run by Jean Sanders until 1998 when Robert G. Wilmers, an American banker, purchased it. Robert G. Wilmers continued to emphasise quality in all aspects of production, combining a blend of tradition and modernity with respect for the environment. Château Haut-Bailly's unique terroir produces wines that are outstandingly reliable, and whose prestige is due to an inimitable style marked by finesse and elegance.</p> <p>Robert G. Wilmers passed away in 2018.</p>
Vintage	<p>Following a very wet Autumn, the Winter of 2010 and Spring 2011 were marked by drought. In Europe, Spring 2011 was the hottest and driest in 50 years, with only 78 millimeters of rain falling between March and June, compared to the average precipitation of 298 millimeters for the same period. The drought triggered early flowering and fruit formation in May. There was a heat wave on the 26th and 27th of June. Fortunately, this unusually warm Spring was balanced by a cool and rather wet Summer, which allowed the physiological development of the wines to start again. Finally, an Indian Summer in September guaranteed a perfectly ripe harvest.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The Haut-Bailly estate accounts for 33 hectares of the Médoc, of which 30 hectares are vineyard, largely in a single block on a gravel <i>croupe</i>. The soils are a mixture of sand and Tertiary gravel over <i>Faluns de Léognan</i>, a subsoil rich in sandstone and ancient fossilised shells. The vines themselves are mainly Cabernet Sauvignon (64%), which are planted on the upper parts of the <i>croupe</i> and slopes where the drainage is best, with 30% Merlot, which are planted on those plots where the soils are richer in clay. The remaining 6% is Cabernet Franc, and overall, the planting density is an admirable 10000 vines/ha.</p>
Harvest	<p>By the beginning of September, thanks to a certain amount of thinning out, enabling the air to circulate around the bunches, the grapes were perfectly ripe and healthy with dense aromas and excellent structure. The harvest started on the 9th September with the young Merlot plots. The harvest lasted three weeks (Sep 9-19 for the Merlot and Sep 19-29 for the Cabernets) under dry and sunny weather – perfect conditions for harvesting. Rather low yields of Cabernet Sauvignon were balanced by a more generous production of Merlots. The grapes were thoroughly sorted in the vineyard as well as in the cellars, where a brand new de-stemming machine precisely and gently separates the stems from the grapes. The alcoholic fermentation was kept at 26°C in order to protect the fruit from too much extraction.</p>
Maturation	<p>In small oak barriques (55% new) for 16 months and is bottled unfinned and unfiltered.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>2011 is a great tribute to the Haut-Bailly terroir, expressed fully through the characteristics of this vintage. It is a classic nose of soft fresh fruits supported by a strong fine until tannic structure. This is a wine of real precision stamped with the seal of Haut-Bailly. It is a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and 2% Cabernet franc.</p>
Serve with	<p>Chateau Haut Bailly is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. The wine of Chateau Haut Bailly is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.</p>



**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2016-2028

- 92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2014
- 94+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014
- 91-93 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012
- 91-93 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2012
- 95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015
- 92-93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012
- 92-94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - November 2012
- 17 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - February 2015
- 17 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012
- 94 points** - Decanter.com - April 2012
- 17.5 points/4 stars** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012
- 95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017
- 93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2015
- 92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2015
- 92-94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2012
- 93 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012
- 92 points** - Farr Vintners - March 2012
- 90-95 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012
- 93 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2018
- 90 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - June 2015
- 91-92 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
- 93 points** - Falstaff Magazine - May 2012
- 16.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2016
- 16.5 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2012
- 17 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2012

Reviews

"Shows a grippy feel, with lots of briar, pastis and plum sauce notes rolled together and driving through the sappy finish. Well-embedded acidity pushes everything along, while a pure echo of fruit hangs through the finish. Should blossom with cellaring. Best from 2016 through 2028."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The saturated ruby/purple-hued 2011 Haut-Bailly exhibits a glorious, subtle, noble set of aromatics consisting of red and black currants, sweet cherries, graphite, truffles and a faint hint of wood spice. The wine hits the palate with the profound elegance and purity that have become so much a characteristic under Wilmers and Sanders. Still youthful, with good acidity and freshness, this brilliant, medium-bodied 2011 needs another 4-5 years of bottle age and should evolve effortlessly for 20-25 years.

Ever since the acquisition of Haut-Bailly by American banker Robert Wilmers, he and his winemaker Veronique Sanders have dramatically led this estate to the top of the qualitative pyramid."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"While the elegant, stylish 2011 Haut-Bailly does not possess the density and concentration of the three vintages that preceded it, this is still outstanding wine as well as a tribute to the impeccable work done by proprietor Robert Wilmers and his manager, Veronique Sanders. Classic red and black currant aromas interspersed with notions of wet stones/crushed rocks, tobacco leaf and spice box are followed by a medium-bodied, well-balanced, impressively pure wine built on finesse and understatement. This beauty is capable of drinking well young or over the next 15+ years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The Chateau Haut-Bailly is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, which is close to 2000. Picking was from 9th September until the end of the month, around three weeks with 11-12 days of work. They thought they would end up picking in August as the season was so advanced! The bouquet is crisp and displays fine purity with blackberry, a touch of cassis, crushed stone, and a touch of oyster shell. It has impressive delineation and focus. The palate is very well balanced and silky smooth in the mouth. It is tensile and animated, very composed and refined on the finish, perhaps more so than in the 2009 and 2010. It has lower alcohol than 2010 (13.0 degrees compared to 14.2). This is the style of Haut Bailly that I appreciate. Tasted April 2012.

- NM, Wine Journal

- Reviews** *"Wow. Wonderfully aromatic nose of currants, blackberries, and lilacs. Full body but refined and beautiful. The quality of the tannins is exception. So fine. Lovely austerity and tension on the finish. Better in 2016."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Intense aromas of stones in the sun and dark fruits with hints of orange peel. Full to medium body, with ultra-fine and long tannins. A lovely line to this. Winery says it's a baby 2000. 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Barrel Sample: 92-93 Points."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "92-94. Barrel sample. Packed with dense tannins and firm fruit, this is a big, powerful wine. It is initially austere, but with time it becomes more rounded, with layers of wood tannins and rich fruit."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Deep black cherry but some brick at the rim. Dark spicy fruit and dark chocolate. Firm grip but there is fruit in the middle of that tannic structure, just constrained at the moment. Very tightly gripping tannins and just enough freshness to balance."*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Dark cherry crimson. Toasty but the oak doesn't cover the bright cassis and minerally freshness. Dense, pretty dry but very fine tannins and ones that suggest they will not overwhelm the fruit as it ages. Refined and more to come. Drink 2018-2030"*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "As with the 2007, this 2011 is bursting with pleasure right now. Carefully controlled and elegant while still being juicy, allowing the tannins to tiptoe across the palate in that way Haut-Bailly does so well. Fine tannins, well-expressed cassis, and blackberry fruits, with a curl of pencil lead and cool ash on the finish. The Spring of 2011 was the hottest and driest in 50 years, with only 78mm of rain falling between March and June, balanced out by a cool and rather wet July and August, and then a warm September allowing good ripening window but keeping this rather elegant savoury fruit frame. The harvest lasted from September 9 to 29."*
- Decanter.com
- "Concentrated, slightly spicy and earthy black fruits, fine ripeness and great vineyard expression, tannins are still a bit raw, but the rich middle fruit will dominate. Drink 2017-2035."*
- SS, Decanter.com
- "The age of the vines was the key to coping with the drought in 2011, according to technical director, Gabriel Vialard. Whatever the reason, he has made a very good wine, with rich, concentrated tannins and plenty of sweet coffee bean oak underpinned by serious, flavoursome black fruits, a touch of mint and refreshing acidity. 10+ years."*
- TA, timatkin.com
- "Forward, accessible styled wine, with loads of upfront, earthy, smoky fruit and gentle, soft, textured tannins."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Accessible truffle, smoke, tar, black cherry and tobacco notes are found with no effort. Medium bodied, elegant, soft, polished, and filled with fresh, sweet, ripe cherries in the finish. This is showing much better than it did just a few months ago."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "It's easy to make great wine in vintages like 2009 and 2010. The success enjoyed by Veronique Sanders with the 2011 Haut Bailly is equally applaudable. Lots of smoke, fresh, clean, black cherries, blackberry, truffle, and earth create the aromatics. Soft, forward, cherry, and plum fruits make up the finish. This should be fun to drink with just a few years of age."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“2011 Haut Bailly From a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13% alcohol and will be aged in 55% new oak. Yields were about the same as that of 2010 at 38 hectoliters per hectare. Smoke, truffle, scorched earth, cassis, coffee and blackberry scents prepare you for the fresh crème de cassis and polished blackberry finish.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“This year Haut Bailly was made from 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 47% Merlot with a touch of Cabernet Franc. Veronique Sanders says that the blend is the same as that of the 2000 vintage. Only 50% of the crop has made the first wine. Very fine and focused. There is big volume here with a velvety mouthfeel. Structured, classy, yet good depth.”

- Farr Vintners

“Cassis fills out the nose lovely and sweet lots of power. The mix of cassis and black cherry on the palate are backed by liquorice and dark chocolate rich and serious. The richness of the fruit is underpinned by tannins which although firm feel ripe with the layers of flavour giving complexity.”

- Derek Smedley MW

“A charming wine with nice density and depth, supple firm tannins and a fairly long finish. This is a classic Haut Bailly that is meant to age and evolve — right now the generous tannins overshadow the flavours lingering in the background. However, the length and depth of flavours show it will evolve and age beautifully for a decade or more.”

- JCL, asianpalate.com

“Dark berries with a delicate nutty underlay, fine nougat, hints of spice. Compact, dense, fresh blackberry confit, present, carrying tannins, fresh acidity, dark mineral notes, has length, has potential for development.”

- Falstaff Magazine
