

# Le Petit Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc 2021

CSPC# 102912

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

80% Sauvignon Blanc, 20% Semillon

**Appellation**

Pessac Leognan

**Classification**

Bordeaux Blanc

**Website**

<https://www.smith-haut-lafitte.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Petit-Smith-Haut-Lafitte-Blanc-2021-EN.pdf>

**Sustainability**

The great particularity of Château Smith Haut Lafitte, beyond its fabulous wines, lies in its commitment to the preservation of our ecosystem and the biodiversity of the vineyard. Thus, in addition to state-of-the-art and environmentally friendly growing and winemaking techniques (organic homemade compost, implantation of hedges, forest, beehives, horse vine work, drones, or the Normalized Difference Vegetative Index (NDVI) which allows the detection of row heterogeneities...), Château Smith Haut Lafitte works according to the circular economy model. This new economic, ecological, local, and societal model, on the fringe of the breathtaking “extract-manufacture-consumer-dispose” linear system, is practiced with the aim of producing an exceptional wine. The property limits the consumption and waste of raw materials and non-renewable energy resources, transforms waste into recycled raw materials, and reflects on the eco-design of its products. The stealthy wine storehouse is a perfect example of this. This new investment is completely blind to environmental radars and must produce its own energy, without emitting CO2.

**General Info**

Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte has a long history in Bordeaux dating back over 800 years. The estate started out life as part of the Du Boscq holdings in the Graves region. It was Du Boscq who first planted vines in 1365 on a gravelly plateau called Lafitte. This is of course where part of the famous chateau took its name from. Jumping ahead a few hundred years, George Smith bought the Graves estate in 1720. Smith added his name to the property, and now you know where the name Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte came from.

Today, Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte is owned and managed by Daniel Cathiard and Florence Cathiard. The Cathiards purchased the estate in 1990. They bought the property from the well-known Bordeaux negociant and importer to America, Louis Eschenauer.

Prior to the arrival of the Cathiard family, Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte was not known for producing high-quality wine. It took a decade of hard work and serious investments before things began turning around here.

Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte also makes two-second wines for their white Bordeaux wine, Les Hauts de Smith Blanc, which is produced from 100% Sauvignon Blanc and Le Petit Haut Lafitte Blanc which is a blended wine Semillon that is made for export.

**Winemakers**

Fabien Teitgen

**Vintage**

The very wet winter gave way to a mild and particularly dry spring, with only 40 mm of precipitation in March-April, compared to 70 mm on average. This month of April was marked by several episodes of frost, causing some damage to the earliest plots. Flowering, at the beginning of June, was particularly uniform. The summer was relatively cool, with the exception of a heat wave at the end of July and mid-August, which led to a slight delay in the veraison.

**Vineyards**

For the white Bordeaux wine of Smith Haut Lafitte, they have 11 hectares planted to 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sauvignon Gris and 5% Semillon. The white wine grapes are planted just behind the chateau and to the north. Here you find more clay and limestone in the soils and slightly cooler temperatures for the white wine grapes. Some of their older Sauvignon Blanc vines are close to 70 years of age. For the white wine grape varieties, the microclimate is a bit cooler. The white wine grapes planted today are quite different than what you found in previous, older vintages. Prior to the purchase of Smith Haut Lafitte by the Cathiard family, the white wines were produced from 100% Sauvignon Blanc.



<b>Harvest</b>	September 2 to 20.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	Le Petit Smith Haut Lafitte is crafted and aged in our energy-plus facilities the Stealth Cellar with the same care as the estate's Grand Vin. From the vineyard to the cellar, the entire winemaking process is exactly the same. Grapes are hand-picked into small crates and pressed in an oxygen-free environment (to preserve the aromatic potential of the berries) and fermentation takes place in French oak barrels (50% new oak) after a cold settling of the juices.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	10 months aging on the lees with bâtonnage in barrels (50% new oak) made at the Chateau onsite cooperage. Petit Smith Haut Lafitte white 2021 is complex with aromas of ripe stone fruit. It has a medium body texture and phenolic. It is a well-controlled wine with a clear minerality.
<b>Serve with</b>	The white wine of Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte is best served with a myriad of different seafood dishes, shellfish, crab, lobster, sushi, sashimi, chicken, pork, and veal, as well as Asian cuisine.
<b>Production</b>	800 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2023-2028
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>89 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2024</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Yohan Castaing, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - May 2022</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - May 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p><b>91-92 points</b> - Vert de Vin - April 2022</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Plump, with up-front apricot and peach flavors backed by a zip of grapefruit peel. Delivers good energy and will drink nicely in the near term. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2025. 800 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A blend of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon that matured in 50% new oak barrels, the 2021 Le Petit Haut Lafitte Blanc exhales a spicy, elegant bouquet with aromas of lime tree leaves, verbena, spring flowers and citrus oil. Medium to full-bodied, round, and satiny, it's fleshier than Les Hauts de Smith with gastronomic bitterness on the finish."</i> - YC, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A terrific wine, the 2021 Le Petit Haut Lafitte Blanc wafts from the glass with aromas of confit citrus, crisp orchard fruit, nectarine, and vanilla pod. Medium to full-bodied, satiny, and textural, it's a racy, concentrated wine that concludes with a long, saline finish. It's a second wine that punches above its weight. Certified organic with the 2019 vintage, the Cathiard family banished herbicides at this address in 1991, radically reducing chemical treatments and suffering the consequences for several years in the form of much diminished yields (today, happily, materiel and techniques are more sophisticated). In addition to organic methods, cover crops have been deployed on the vineyard's central blocks and western band, where soils are less well drained. Hedges have been planted to encourage biodiversity, and ultraviolet treatments are being trialed as an alternative to copper sulfate. In addition to such initiatives, the technical team is adapting to a warmer climate: that means picking a touch earlier, certainly, but more importantly, adapting in the vineyards, with somewhat lower canopies and an end to systematic deleafing to retain fresh, vibrant flavors. Winemaking, too, is a little gentler: reds see cool but protracted macerations, with periodic punch-downs, and whites are whole-cluster pressed with an inerted press. This has brought new structural elegance and energy to the estate's wines. It surely helps that as much as possible is done in-house: since 1995, the Cathiards have their own nursery for their own massal selections, in partnership with Bérillon, and barrels are made in the château's own on-site cooperage too, favoring the forests of Tronçais and Jupilles for reds and Loches (which brings tension) for whites. All this is symptomatic of the attention to detail and seriousness that the Cathiards, and their technical director Fabien Teitgen, have brought to this estate—and it has paid off in the challenging 2021 vintage with a superb set of wines at every level."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p>

**Reviews** *“Both fresh and ripe with pleasing notes of green mangoes, papayas, limes and kiwi. Flint and shells, too. Medium-bodied with excellent tension and a textured finish. 80% sauvignon blanc and 20% semillon. From organically grown grapes.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Crunchy green apple, lime juice and some elderflower with really soft hints of honeyed brioche. Sharp yet soft, this has a good immediate presence of lemony, peach and apricot fruit and a creamy base which is given an energetic push by a lemon zest freshness. Gentle, softly round and driving, this feels refined and delicate, elegant with enough vibrancy and power to give a mouthful of wine with persistence. Very enjoyable.”*  
- GH, Decanter.com

*“Vivid acidity and grip, less immediate joy than the Hauts de Smith, true to the respective character of the wines. Savoury white tea, grapefruit, mandarin, slate. 24hl/h yield, pretty much half the normal yield, as a result of mildew, just as with the reds. Harvest September 2 to 20.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“White peach, flowers, lemon grass, mango and pomelo make the perfume. Bright, crisp, juicy, and packed with the crunch of green apples and sweet yellow citrus, this is already easy to enjoy. The wine is produced from 100% Sauvignon Blanc. Drink from 2023-2028.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2021 Le Petit Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc has a more generous nose than the Les Hauts de Smith Blanc thanks to the contribution of the 20% Sémillon. Yellow plum, dried pineapple, and slithers of white peach feature on the nose. The palate is well balanced, taut, and crisp, yet with real weight and depth. Lemongrass and stem ginger surface toward the finish. This punches well above its weight. A brilliant success and, frankly, within touching distance of the Grand Vin this vintage.”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“The 2021 Le Petit Haut Lafitte Blanc is a stellar wine that very much captures both the style of the year and the house style. Airy and gracious, with striking, understated depth, the 2021 is light on its feet and incredibly sublime. Crushed rocks, white pepper, mint, slate, and citrus peel build into the pure, crystalline finish.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“Mostly Sauvignon yet blended with 20% Semillon, the 2021 Le Petit Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc is a richer, deeper, more serious wine, with beautiful peach, crushed stone, green almond, and white flower-like aromas and flavors. It's medium-bodied, concentrated, and lengthy, and is unquestionably an outstanding white in the making.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Very pale yellow-green, silver tints. Delicate vanilla, fine yellow tropical fruit, baby pineapple, a touch of oak. Medium-bodied, elegant, hints of mango, fine acidity, elegant and balanced; a lively companion at the table.”*  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is fruity, fresh, mineral, racy, chiseled and reveals good definition, fine intensity/power. There are notes of vine peach, zest and, more slightly, sweet grapefruit combined with fine touches of zest, fine hints of fresh sap and a discreet saline touch. The palate is fruity, focused and offers a nice freshness, definition, minerality, tension, accuracy, precision, and a fine stretch. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/pulpy lemon, juicy/acidic green apple and more lightly tangerine combined with hints of zest as well as fine hints of passion fruit, a discreet touch of apricot and toasted, sweet almond.”*  
- Vert de Vin