

Château Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc 2019

CSPC# 855512

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sauvignon Gris, 5% Sémillon

Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

Classification

Grand Vin de Graves

Website

www.smith-haut-lafitte.com

Sustainability

Organic

General Info

Château Smith-Haut-Lafitte has been transformed during the last decade from being a perennial underachiever to being one of the leading estates in the Graves region. For many years, it was owned by the Bordeaux négociant Eschenauer - in 1990 it was bought by former Olympic skiing champion, Daniel Cathiard. He cut down on the amount of chemicals and herbicides used in the vineyards, and fully modernised the winemaking facilities. The proportion of new oak barrels used in the maturation process was increased and a trio of eminent oenologists (including the ubiquitous Michel Rolland) were hired as consultants.

Winemaker

Fabien Teitgen

Vintage

Once again, this year, beautiful weather in September gave winegrowers free rein to choose the harvest dates. We therefore had all the wine batches necessary to produce a fine 2019 white Smith Haut Lafitte. This wine is a lovely pale-yellow colour. The nose is very expressive, revealing very fresh citrus (grapefruit) notes, alongside ripe yellow fruit (peach, apricot, mango), as well as floral and spicy overtones (elderflower, star anise) coming to the fore, enhancing aromatic complexity. Starts out tight on the palate, becoming concentrated, powerful, and rich. The overall impression is a polished wine with wonderful acidity. It has great length, underscored by superb balance between acidity and concentration, and a very soft texture. Yellow fruit and citrus aromas follow through to the palate, underpinned by incredibly complex spices and white flower notes. A beautiful white wine, very emblematic of Smith Haut Lafitte and its terroir.

Vineyards

11 hectares being planted to white, specifically 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sauvignon Gris and 5% Semillon. The average vine age is 38years, on the usual 101.14 and 3309 rootstocks, and planting density is between 7500 and 10000 vines per hectare. The soils are typical of the region, mainly Gunzian gravel.

The Cathiards have invested millions in the estate's vineyard, applying organic winemaking across the 78 hectares (67 planted to red, 11 to white). Technical director Fabien Teitgen's buzzword is "bio-precision," an approach that combines low-intervention, almost entirely biodynamic viticulture with satellite technology that reveals how the grapes have ripened.

Harvest

32 hl/ha, before production was divided into three wines: Château Smith Haut Lafitte, Les Hauts de Smith, and Le Petit Haut Lafitte

Vinification/

Maturation

Manual harvest in small crates. Pressing inert. Fermentation in French oak barrels. The grapes are hand-picked into small crates and pressed in an oxygen-free environment using inert gas to retain the grapes' aromatic potential, followed by fermentation in French oak barrels (50% new oak) and cold settling.

Ageing: 12 months on the lees with bâtonnage (lees stirring) in barrels (50% new + 50% previously used for one vintage) from our own on-site cooperage

Tasting Notes

En primeur, Château Smith Haut Lafitte 2019 white is a balanced wine characteristic of Smith Haut Lafitte and its terroir. The pale-yellow color suggests the youth of the vintage. Expressive, the nose reveals floral and spicy notes in a complex bouquet. On the palate, the attack is tight. The Smith Haut Lafitte white 2019 is chiseled by a beautiful acidity and presents a texture of great sweetness. Magnificent, this very great 2019 vintage of Château Smith Haut Lafitte will seduce with its aromatic expression, its complexity, its balance between acidity and concentration.



Serve with	Asian style salads, Asian-style pork tenderloin with noodles & lime peanut dressing; BBQ lobster; Avocado & papaya salad.
Production	110,000 bottles made.
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2039
Scores/Awards	<p>96-98+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - July 2020</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p>17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only) - April 2020</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>92-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2020 (score only)</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>96 points - Jean Marc Quarin, Quarin.com - June 2020</p> <p>95-97 points - Yves Beck, Yvesbeck.wine.fr - April 2020</p> <p>96 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p>95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p> <p>17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - September 2020 (score only)</p> <p>94 points - La Revue du Vin France - September 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"The blend this year is 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sauvignon Gris and 5% Sémillon, fermented in French oak, 50% new, within which it will age for 12 months on lees with batonnage. The Smith Haut Lafitte 2019 Blanc has a nose that unfolds in stages—offering intense white grapefruit, green mango, yuzu and orange blossoms scents to begin, giving way to hints of coriander seed, turmeric, shaved almonds and cedar chest with wafts of baking bread and beeswax coming through after some coaxing. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is wonderfully opulent with layers of citrus, stone fruit and savory flavors and a seductive oiliness to the texture, finishing very long and fantastically refreshing. Wow-o-WOW, that is good!"</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A full-bodied, layered white with dried apples, pears and cream. Beautiful, very upfront and plush already. Love the richness and precision."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"In a line of great white wines from this estate, here is a superb vintage. It has all the richness of ripe fruit, but that has been channeled into structure, density as well as intense acidity and freshness. All the signs are this wine will age for a long, long time."</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"Subdued on the first nose but opens up to show the rich, citrus and rosemary-filled grown-up glamour that Smith Haut Lafitte's white does so well. Acidity feels lower than in vintages like 2017 but similar to last year, with an emphasis on slate texture that narrows and focuses the tension through the palate and suggests this will age well. Tasted twice three weeks apart and gorgeous both times, perhaps a little more developed in terms of its nuances and depth the 2nd time around, giving plenty of confidence to what will happen over the rest of ageing. If you are planning to drink this soon. I recommend a good few hours in a carafe first."</i></p> <p>- JA, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"The 2019 Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc is creamy and beautifully textured. Orchard fruit, mint, white flowers, lemon confit and white pepper confer briskness to a white that nicely balances the natural richness of the year with freshness that comes from picking on the early side. A dollop of Sémillon adds richness and textural depth."</i></p> <p>- NM, Vinous</p> <p><i>"The 2019 Château Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc showed beautifully, with classic sweet melon, lemon, white flower, and honeyed mineral aromas and flavors. Based on mostly Sauvignon Blanc (there's a splash of Semillon and Sauvignon Gris) brought up in roughly equal parts new and used French oak, it's medium to full-bodied, has beautiful concentration, and a clean, lengthy finish. It's a classic, elegant white from this team."</i></p> <p>- Jeb Dunnuck</p>

Reviews *"A white Château Smith Haut Lafitte 2019 with a light-yellow color. Intense, fine, pure, fruity, subtle, noble, and original nose, accompanied by a finely buttery touch. Ultra-meticulous on the attack, ultra-melting in the mid-palate, very fragrant, with a crystalline touch, a slender body, the wine ends particularly long, complex and magnificent. Well done! Blend: 90% sauvignon Blanc, 5% sauvignon Gris, 5% Sémillon. Degree of alcohol: 14 ° 25 - pH 3.2. 2022 - 2030 My highest rating given to this En Primeur wine, tied with the 2018."*
- JMQ, quarin.com

"Light yellow with green reflections. What plurality and complexity in the bouquet of this wine. It is first of all the mineral notes that beat the measure with nuances of firestone and chalky notes. Quickly fruity scents take hold. relay and the bouquet displays inviting notes of plums, lemons and raspberries. On the palate, the wine reflects the olfactory characteristics well. It is complex thanks to a beautiful symbiosis between the fruity and saline side. I also note a healthy bitterness which Supporting the taste expression well at the end of the mouth and which gives an underlined dimension from an aromatic point of view. Saline, fruity and persistent finish. A Smith Haut Lafite white with character! "
- YvesBeck.wine

"Warm, suave, exotic on the nose and on the palate, broom and coconut water, Smith Blanc 2019 deploys a creamy density of high seduction: the wine remains alert from start to finish. It is a hedonist perfectly in control of its sway."
- La revue du Vin France
