

Château Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc 2023

CSPC# 855512

6x750ml

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sauvignon Gris, 5% Sémillon.
Appellation	Pessac-Léognan
Classification	Grand Vin de Graves
Website	https://www.smith-haut-lafitte.com
Analysis	pH: 3.20
Sustainability	Certified Organic since 2019.
General Info	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Winemaker	Fabien Teitgen
Vintage	<p>The 2023 vintage for Château Smith Haut Lafitte Blanc was shaped by a very wet, challenging growing season, ranking as the 4th wettest in 25 years. However, a dry July and August allowed the grapes to mature properly, resulting in a fresh, aromatic, and balanced white wine with high acidity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Wet Spring/Early Summer: High precipitation required intense vineyard management to manage disease pressure.▪ Dry Summer Rescue: Hot and dry conditions in July and August stopped mildew and allowed for proper ripening.▪ Harvest & Yield: Harvest occurred between August 23 and September 9.▪ 2023 White Wine Character: The resulting wine is noted for being "crisp and fresh", with a "creamy texture" balanced by high tension and acidity, exhibiting notes of citrus, white peach, and salinity.
Vineyards	<p>11 hectares being planted to white, specifically 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sauvignon Gris and 5% Semillon. The average vine age is 39 years, on the usual 101.14 and 3309 rootstocks, and planting density is between 7500 and 10000 vines per hectare. The soil is typical of the region, mainly Gunzian gravel.</p> <p>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.</p>
Harvest	The harvest took place August 25 - September 7. Yield: 36 hl/ha
Vinification/ Maturation	Manual harvest in small crates. 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 and cold settling. Ageing: 12 months on the lees in barrels (50% new + 50% previously used for one vintage) from our own on-site cooperage.
Winemaker's Notes	A very aromatic notes with a lovely basket of yellow and white fruits, offering a beautiful sensation of freshness. Then, a great complexity unfolds with delicate notes of acacia flower, lime blossom, and charmingly spicy notes. The palate entry is quite surprising with its great freshness combined with a beautiful creaminess. The first impression on the palate is that of freshness, followed by the full expression of maturity, creaminess and richness brought by the perfect ripening of the grapes. The palate is wide, powerful but always supported by a refreshing acidic bone.
Serve with	Asian style salads, Asian-style pork tenderloin with noodles & lime peanut dressing; BBQ lobster; Avocado & papaya salad.
Production	Approx. 2,000 cases made



Cellaring Drink 2026 - 2035
Scores/Awards **95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - May 2026
95 points - Yohan Castaing, Wine Advocate - April 2026
94-96 points - Yohan Castaing, Wine Advocate - April 2024
94-96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2024
98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - December 2025
97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2024
17.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2024
96 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - May 2024
98 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - April 2024
96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2026
94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2024
96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2024
95-97 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2024
95-97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2024
94-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2024
95-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2024
95 points - Jean Marc Quarin - April 2024
97-98 points - Alexandre Ma MW - April 2024
95-97 points - Colin Hay, The Drinks Business - June 2024
98 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - September 2024
