

Château Haut-Marbuzet 2018

CSPC# 869809

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot
Appellation Saint Estèphe
Classification Cru Bourgeois
Website <https://larobefendue.com/>

General Info

Chateau Haut Marbuzet was founded in the 18th century, taking its name from Marbuzet, the sector where the property resides. Chateau Haut Marbuzet was established by Alexander de Segur, who owned a myriad of Bordeaux properties including another, much better-known St. Estèphe vineyard, Calon Segur.

At his death, the land was divided and sold. In fact, a portion of the vineyards became a part of Le Crock. In 1825, the land was purchased by the MacCarthy family, who officially established what became Haut Marbuzet.

The interesting Duboscq family owns Chateau Haut Marbuzet today. Herve Duboscq may have been illiterate until he was at least nine years old. But he was shrewd. He built the vineyards of Chateau Haut Marbuzet from 7 hectares up to 58 hectares over time! In 1962 Herve Duboscq was joined by his son Henri Duboscq, who now manages Haut Marbuzet today with his two sons. It was said that the elder Herve Duboscq at times described Bordeaux wines by comparing them to different female body parts. He was quite the character!

Chateau Haut-Marbuzet produces one of the most hedonistic and voluptuous wines in the Médoc today. The high percentage of Merlot accentuates the fleshy, supple side of the wine and this is further accentuated by harvesting as late as possible and by maturing the wine in 100% new oak barrels for 18 months. Haut-Marbuzet wines are rich and lush to drink young with plenty of concentrated fruit and plummy, exotic aromas, yet also age superbly.

Winemakers

Herve, Hugues and Bruno Duboscq

Vintage

The north of the Médoc experienced a generally rainy and mild winter, then becoming cold from mid-March, leading to a late but homogeneous budburst, followed by a strong vegetative growth. The hot and dry summer accelerated the ripening of the grapes, the alternation of cool nights and hot days developed their richness while maintaining their freshness. This 2018 vintage offers a ripe, very expressive fruit and a powerful and particularly velvety tannic structure. Elegant and opulent, it combines the power and classicism of a great vintage to age with the delicacy of solar vintages.

Vineyards

The 65 hectare Left Bank vineyard of Haut Marbuzet is planted to 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, and 5% Cabernet Franc. This shows a marked increase of Cabernet Sauvignon planted, along with a decrease in the amount of Merlot in the vineyards.

The terroir is gravel, clay, and limestone soils. Parts of the vineyard are of very good quality with views of the Gironde, not that far from Chateau Montrose. On average, the vines are close to 30 years of age. The vineyard of Chateau Haut Marbuzet is planted to a vine density of 9,000 vines per hectare.

Harvest

The grapes are harvested at high maturity, by hand. This step precedes a precise vinification where tradition occupies a place of choice.

Vinification/ Maturation

To produce the wine of Chateau Haut Marbuzet, vinification takes place in large oak vats. Malolactic fermentation takes place in vat. The wine is then aged in 100% new, French oak barrels for close to 18 months before bottling. On average, the estate produces about 30,000 cases of Haut Marbuzet per year.

Tasting Notes

Château Haut-Marbuzet 2018 has a magnificent dark purple colour and a refined bouquet of small red and black jammy fruits. On the palate, it is powerful and full-bodied. The aromatic range is spread out in layers, with plums, blackcurrants, or



Tasting Notes	blackberries, supported by warm oriental spicy notes that evolve in the mouth until they blend into a long finish of several seconds. "Voluble, exuberant, and caressing", it is with these words that Henri Duboscq describes himself. These are also the most appropriate qualifiers to describe the wines of Château Haut-Marbuzet!
Serve with	Chateau Haut Marbuzet is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Haut Marbuzet is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	360,000 bottles made.
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2038
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2021</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only) - April 2019</p> <p>91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019</p> <p>93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>93 points - Vert de Vin - April 2019</p> <p>92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2019</p> <p>17.5 (95) points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p>17-18 (94-96) points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - April 2019</p> <p>17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"The 2018 Haut-Marbuzet has a medium to deep garnet-purple color and open-knit notes of mocha, black olives, wild sage, and tree bark over a core of stewed black plums and cassis, plus a waft of cracked black pepper. The medium to full-bodied palate has nice ripe, grainy tannins and bold freshness backing up the muscular black fruit flavors, finishing long and savory. Give it another year or two in bottle and drink it over the next 15+ years."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2018 Haut-Marbuzet is deep garnet-purple colored, giving up spices, florals and chocolate with baked berries, plum preserves, and cassis. The palate is full-bodied, firm, rich and spicy, finishing long."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Crushed strawberries, currants, and blackberries on the nose with hints of spice, vanilla, and flowers. Full body with firm, polished tannins that really develop on the palate. Silky texture with pleasant acidity, leading to a bright and fruity finish with super length. A fantastic Haut-Marbuzet. The best for years. Try after 2025."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"A great Haut-Marbuzet with fantastic concentration, yet firm and framed with polished tannins. Harmonious and driven. One to watch."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"92–94. Barrel Sample. Ripe, spicy and with a firm structure to sustain it, this wine is packed with acidity and bright black currant flavor. This well-made wine will certainly age well."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"This is a little more old-school than some, as is often the case with this estate. It doesn't give too many nods to the prevailing winds and has loyal supporters because of it. What this translates into in 2018 is an austere wine with black fruits and pretty firm tannins that hang around on the finish, making it a little tough to push through but pretty clear that it will age well. It reflects the intensity and concentration that was possible in the vintage but maintains a nice level of freshness too. Good quality. Drinking Window 2026 - 2040 (JA)"</i> - JA, Decanter.com</p>

Reviews *“Flowers, espresso, smoke, tobacco leaf, barbecue and black cherries create the aromatic qualities. The wine is rich, round, supple and fruity, with hints of vanilla overtones that ride along perfectly with all the ripe, red berries. This is the best vintage of Haut Marbuzet I have tasted in years.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Dark in color, the wine shows espresso, smoke, earth, thyme, smoke, and black cherry with leafy aromatic qualities. This is a super vintage for Haut Marbuzet. The wine is medium bodied with round, juicy, sweet, deep red fruits, and a forward style.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“One of the hidden jewels of the vintage, the 2018 Haut-Marbuzet is absolutely gorgeous. Pliant and deep in the glass, with terrific persistence, the 2018 has so much to offer. Sweet red cherry, blood orange, dried flowers and mint add layers of nuance, but it is the wine's balance that is most impressive. In 2018 Haut-Marbuzet has an extra kick of flavor intensity, not to mention tremendous character, with none of the quirky edges that have at times characterized this wine in the past. (AG)”

- AG, *Vinous*

“Deep dark ruby, violet tints, delicate bright rim. Fresh dark berry fruit, vivid oak savouriness, tobacco, ripe cherries in the background. Tight, closely meshed, clearly marked by the wood texture, some nougat, seems a little bit over-extracted, dark chocolate on the finish.”

- *Falstaff Magazine*

“The nose is fruity, elegant and offers a fine richness, a small power as well as a fine intensity. It reveals notes of bright strawberry, creamy blackberry and small notes of pulpy cassis associated with touches of violet, liquorice as well as a cherry blossom, cardamom, a discreet hint of chocolate, saffron and a very discreet hint of tea. The palate is fruity, fresh, mineral and offers a good definition, a good freshness, gourmandize, finesse of the grain as well as elegance and a mineral frame. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/fresh blackberry, cassis and small notes of bright/fresh cherry associated with a touch of small red berries as well as fine hints of tonka bean, toasted, roasted hazelnut and a hint of vanilla. Good length. Tannins are well-built and racy.”

- *Vert de Vin*
