

## Château Talbot 2005

CSPC# 744976

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Julien
<b>General Info</b>	4th Cru Classé in 1855. Legend relates that the name of this imposing estate originates with Connétable Talbot, a famous English warrior, defeated at the battle of Castillon in 1453. Talbot is one of the Medoc's oldest estates, its glory never tainted. Through the years it has been fortunate enough to remain in good hands. The owners are Nancy Bignon-Cordier and her family. They are the fourth generation of Cordiers to manage this Saint-Julien fourth classified growth.
<b>Vineyards</b>	The vineyards of Château Talbot dominate St Julien, in terms of size at least, as they account for an impressive 107 hectares; in an appellation that amounts to little more than 900 hectares, that is a big vineyard! All the other <i>châteaux</i> , from the great second growths such as Ducru-Beaucaillou, Léoville-Las-Cases and Gruaud-Larose, down to the humble <i>cru bourgeois</i> properties (of which there are few), seem to dance around the periphery (mainly to the east, closer to the Gironde) of the Talbot estate, such is its size. The soils underfoot are, as is typical here, ancient quaternary gravels offering excellent drainage. Of the vineyard area, 102 hectares are planted to red varieties, mostly Cabernet Sauvignon (66%), followed by Merlot (26%), Cabernet Franc (5%) and Petit Verdot (3%); there are also 5 hectares of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. The vines are planted at a density of 7700 vines per hectare, mostly on 3309 rootstock although there are also some on 101.14 and Riparia. They are Guyot trained, the norm in Bordeaux, average 42 years of age, and are harvested by hand with a final yield in the order of 45 hl/ha.
<b>Maturation</b>	The oak used for the <i>élevage</i> comes from eight different coopers, with 50% new wood each year for the <i>grand vin</i> which is bottled as Château Talbot. This accounts for between 50-60% of the estate's production in a typical vintage, amounting to approximately 30000 cases per annum.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Lots of spice and tons of fruit. Elegant, but fine mouthful of wine. Very nice. Round crushed raspberries and silky cherry fruit is thick and lush. It carries on throughout the lovely finish.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2011-2030
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<b>91 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008 <b>92-94 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2006 <b>90 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008 <b>88-90 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007 <b>88-90 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006 <b>90 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012 <b>92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2009 <b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2006 <b>93 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2008 <b>93-95 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 20, 2006 <b>88-91 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2006 <b>16.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com <b>16.5 points</b> - Decanter.com - November 17, 2008 <b>16.5 points</b> - Decanter.com - April 10, 2006 <b>89 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) <b>91 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 8, 2013 <b>88 points</b> - Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine (no review) <b>17.5 points</b> - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants <b>94 points</b> - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - October 29, 2001



**Scores/Awards** **16.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)

**15.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

**2 stars** - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2009

**Reviews** *"Sweet tobacco, berry and currant aromas follow through to a full body, with soft, silky tannins and a fresh, racy aftertaste of currant and mineral. The texture of the tannins is very beautiful. Best after 2016."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Very rich and ripe on the nose, with currants, light raisins and violets. Full-bodied, with big, juicy tannins and a long finish. Almost 95-100. The best Talbot in years. Score range: 92-94."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"A strong effort for Talbot, the 2005 is more showy and forward than most wines of this vintage. While there is plenty of tannin, it is sweet and well-concealed behind an intriguing bouquet of sweet herbs, licorice, smoked game, black currants, and cherries. This fleshy, medium to full-bodied St.-Julien exhibits a silky sweetness to its texture and tannins. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2020+."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Talbot is performing better than it did last year, although various samples tasted seemed to evolve differently in the glass. Nevertheless, it appears to be the finest wine this estate has produced in many years. A deep ruby/plum/purple hue precedes a bouquet of black raspberries, blueberries, licorice, sweet herbs, and a hint of gaminess. It is a fleshy, medium to full-bodied St.-Julien with moderate tannin, and attractive sweetness as well as silkiness. Enjoy it during its first two decades of life."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"A deep ruby/blue/purple hue and an earthy, spicy, sweet currant, and leather-scented bouquet are present in this pretty effort. Although somewhat light in the context of the vintage, it possesses good freshness and the potential to be excellent, possibly outstanding if it fleshes out. It will be one 2005 to enjoy early in life. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2018."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted at BBR's 2005/2009 tasting in London. Showing a little more advancement on the rim. The Talbot 2005 has a leafy nose that is lacking a little vigour. The palate is medium bodied with dry tannins, a little savoury fruit, chestnut, sage and sandalwood with a dry, slightly conservative finish. Tasted July 2011."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted single blind at Southwold. One of the best Chateau Talbot in recent years with a striking nose of Doris plum and damson, smoke developing with aeration and then ripe blueberry scents. Perhaps it is a bit heavy handed with the oak. The palate has good extraction, sappy black fruit, nice acidity with touches of iodine. It is surprisingly lush and expressive on the finish. This is a Talbot that should motor along nicely for two decades, maybe more. Drink 2011-2030. Tasted January 2009..."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"A sweet ripe nose of blackberry, a touch of raisin and plum that overall lacks a little definition. The palate is tannic and full-bodied with moderate rather than high acidity. Thick chewy texture, very concentrated though perhaps a little conservative and blowsy on the savory-tinged finish. A good Talbot in the context of previous vintages. Tasted April 2006."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"With its big fruit, and hearty tannins, this is a powerful, ripe wine, having great sweet blackberry flavors, a touch of smoke and a black fruit core. Round and opulent, this is a generous wine already"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"93-95 Barrel sample. Huge black currant flavors, very ripe fruit, but also a great sense of balance, of proportion that give this wine both charm and impressiveness. It's going to age seriously, and well."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

**Reviews** *“Full medium ruby. Very primary nose of cassis, licorice, earth and leather, complicated by an almost exotic note of chocolate. Then suave, broad and dry, with a fine-grained texture and very good palate coverage. Doesn't currently show the lift or intensity of the best Medoc wines of the vintage, but offers a fleshy, solid impression and finishes with fairly sweet tannins for this property.”*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

*“Muted nose and very sweet palate entry. Inky tannins and a reasonable amount of energy. Still very youthful.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Complex notes of fruit, herbs and spice. Restrained yet alluring. A beautifully pitched palate weight, delivering the ripe balance of the vintage in a sleek style.”*  
- Decanter.com

*“Fine concentrated colour, solid cassis, intense, rounded and good length for the future. Drink 2010-20.”*  
- Decanter.com

*“Tannic, tight and still a touch okay, this is soft and approachable at a young age for Talbot. Licorice, earth, cassis, blackberry, smoke and coffee aromas lead to a fresh, round, dark berry filled finish. Another 5 years will add a lot of complexity to this wine.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“This is very hedonistic, with bags of lush upfront fruit and easy charm. An attractive perfumed nose is followed by a silky textured palate, with good tannins and concentration. It is utterly delicious but is very atypical St Julien - if anything it is more reminiscent of a Pomerol! A real vin de plaisir and the best Talbot we can remember.”*  
- SS, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

*“Ripe, aromatic dark fruits nose. The palate is dense with lovely sweetness to the fruit. Very approachable but structured with it. Nice. 94/100”*  
- JG, Wineanorak.com

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