

Château Talbot 2016

CSPC# 790552

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint Julien
Classification	Fourth Growth. Quatrieme Grand Cru Classé in 1855
Website	http://chateau-talbot.com/
General Info	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.
Winemaker	Stéphane Derenoncourt and Julien Lavenu are the consultant winemakers.
Vintage	The year 2016 started off with the water tables full, thanks to the heavy rainfall from January to March. Three difficult months for the vineyard workers but which saved the day for this vintage! The mild temperatures in March ensured an early budburst but the colder, rainy mornings in April slowed down the growth cycle. From mid-June to mid-October, rainfall was well below the seasonal average. During the first two weeks of August, the colour change was short and even on each of the properties. The grapes developed in radiant, dry weather conditions. Light showers appeared in mid-September to re-boost the ripening process on the terroirs offering less water retention, thus perfecting the maturation of the tannins. The absolutely perfect weather conditions during harvest time allowed us to pick grapes boasting remarkable quality.
Vineyards	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 rootstocks 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.
Harvest	Harvesting is performed by hand, with no fewer than 180 cutters. This step, crucial in the making of a great wine, is subject to numerous selective sortings. Initial grape selection is performed on the plant, the second when the grapes arrive at the vat house; eight to ten persons on either side of a seven-meter sorting table eliminate grapes not meeting optimal maturity standards. This precision work conserves the grapes' and the terroir's most intense expression.
Maturation	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.
Tasting Notes	A dark purple color already shows the depth of this vintage. Refined and floral aromas on the nose with red fruits combined with a delicate and precise oak. Dense, silky and fleshy on the palate with a great elegance of fine tannins. A deep length finishing with black fruits.



Serve with Chateau Talbot is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Talbot is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, stewed and grilled dishes. Talbot is also good when served with Asian dishes, hearty seafood or richly textured fish like tuna, mushrooms, pasta and cheese.

Production 29,833 cases made.

Cellaring Drink 2020-2036

Scores/Awards **95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019
93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017
92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018
90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017
93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017
94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017
15.5+ points - Farr Vintner - February 2017
89-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017
92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019
94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019
92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017
93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019

Reviews *"Rock 'em, sock 'em St.-Julien, with mouthcoating ganache and tar notes backed by commensurate cassis, blueberry paste and blackberry reduction flavors. The long finish rumbles through, with buried brambly grip providing the support for the dense fruit and toast to meld. Best from 2025 through 2040. 29,833 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Pure, with a core of cassis and blueberry fruit streaming through, carried by ample yet embedded graphite-edged grip. Keeps a fresh feel through the finish. Lovely. Score range: 93-96"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2016 Talbot is medium garnet-purple colored and opens with pretty floral notes of roses and lavender with a core of cassis, blackberry preserves and kirsch plus wafts of cigar box and spearmint. Medium-bodied with a lovely intensity of black and red fruit flavors, it has a ripe, grainy texture and compelling freshness, finishing savory."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 Talbot has a conservative bouquet with slightly leafy black fruit, a subtle earthiness that percolates through with time. At first, the aromatics seem standoffish, but you gradually warm to its charms. The palate is medium bodied with crisp and tensile tannin. There is an edginess to this Talbot, and it does not quite possess the harmony and charm of other Saint Julien 2016's. But there is personality here—a bit curmudgeonly and yet you keep going back to take another sip. One to watch."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"This is already a beautiful St.-Julien that's ripe and elegant with not a jot too much oak or tannin, but a very fresh and lively finish that keeps on going. However, there are some serious reserves in this wine that need time to be released. Already very harmonious, but better from 2021."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A full-bodied red that stays in check with a firm and lightly chewy tannin backbone. Full body and an intense finish. Shows excellent potential."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *“The smooth texture of this wine is deceptive. Behind its ripe black fruits and acidity, the wine has a strong sense of structure to give shape and potential to the freshness and fruit. The wine will age, not perhaps for the really long term but certainly it is worth waiting until 2025.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “This is a juicy wine, already bursting with fruit and well-integrated tannins. It is a wine with a medium-term future, best enjoyed around 2026. (RV)”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Very dark crimson. Nicely balanced and not exaggerated. Sweet and only slightly simple. Supple tannins. Definitely not one of the most concentrated but ticks the boxes. Good for fairly early consumption.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Very dark and shiny. Not that intense but very well mannered. Sweet, almost thick, start. Very flattering. If I had to choose one wine to represent the vintage in typical style, I might well choose this one – though the hint of heat on the end is a little worrying. Should be rewarding in the end. Great harmony. “*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Lovely deep damson colour with violet edging that suggests a healthy pH. Great balance of fruit and acidity, this is one of the fresher wines of the appellation. The fruit is cleanly extracted, fresh and well-paced, with a lovely layer of complexity driven by smoke-edged mineral notes. Aged in 50% new oak. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050”*
- SS, Decanter.com
- “This is the best young Talbot I’ve had for a while, underlining recent improvements at the chateau. Dense, chewy and made to last, with serious tannic structure, waves of damson and blueberry fruit, well-handled oak and bright acidity. 2026-34”*
- TA, timatkin.com
- “The smoke, licorice, espresso and ripe dark, spicy fruits all shine with ease here. Round in texture and a touch oaky, the wine leaves you with sweet, dark red fruits, espresso and licorice, with a nice cedar note.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Medium bodied with sweet black plums and a licorice, espresso personality, this one is already approachable with round textures and an oaky, juicy, dark fruit finish. The wine was made from a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “A very well-known Chateau throughout the world. En Primeur prices are usually reasonable and the popularity of the name ensures strong demand and increased prices when it is ready to drink. Not normally a wine to win blind tastings as it is relatively early maturing, but always popular. The big, 105-hectare, vineyard is planted with 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot. Stephane Derenoncourt now consults here. maturation is in 50% new oak. 40% Merlot, 5% Pettit Verdot, and 55% Cabernet Sauvignon. This is a high percentage of Merlot for the Chateau. This has translated to a riper-fruited nose of red and black cherries. The palate too is more round and supple, with silky tannins and middle plumpness that offers a polished structure and superb approachability. Fine and smooth on the finish, there are no hard edges to this juicy and forward offering from Talbot.”*
- “The nose appears quite closed fresh but the fruit on the palate is sweet and ripe. Rich in the middle depth of flavour concentrated black fruits supported by fine tannins. Rich fruit at the back the finish has depth of flavour. 2025-40”*
- Derek Smedley MW

Reviews *“The 2016 Talbot takes a little coaxing from the glass. The almost Margaux-like nose features pure blackberry and black cherries, and violets come through with time. You just want it to give you more. The medium-bodied palate is a little gravelly and saline, with fine tannin and a structured finish that needs more finesse and complexity. This is a fine classic Talbot, though not in the same league as the appellation's front-runners. Drink 2022-2045 “*

- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Talbot is aromatically quite expressive, but less available on the palate, where it is quite closed down. Time in the glass brings out a host of sweet tobacco, smoke, leather, cedar, mint, licorice and red-toned fruit. In two tastings, Talbot gave the impression it is going to need at least a few years to fully come into its own. Even so there is plenty to look forward to once the tannins start to melt away a bit. Consultants Stéphane Derenoncourt and Julien Lavenu have done quite a bit to raise the bar here, but I get a sense more is possible. Tasted two times. Drink 2026-2056.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2016 Talbot is shaping up to be a jewel of a wine. Black cherry, plum, gravel, smoke, lavender and mint all flesh out in this decidedly imposing, vertical Saint-Julien. Concentrated and forbiddingly tannic at this stage, the 2016 is going to need at least a few years to start coming into its own. It should age gracefully for decades. The blend is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot. Stéphane Derenoncourt and Julien Lavenu consult. Tasted three times. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“Brought up in 50% new oak, the 2016 Château Talbot is a winner and certainly over-delivers. Powerful notes of crème de cassis, tobacco leaf, lead pencil, and leafy herbs all give way to a silky, seamless Saint-Julien that has remarkable purity of fruit and building, fine tannins. It's the texture as well as the purity that set this apart, and readers looking for a great value should purchase a case of this beauty.”

- Jeb Dunnuck
