

Château Talbot 2018

CSPC# 790552

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Saint Julien

Classification

Fourth Growth. Quatrieme Grand Cru Classé in 1855

Website

<http://chateau-talbot.com/>

Sustainability

Ch Talbot is committed to sustainable viticulture practices, employing environmentally friendly methods to preserve the vineyards and minimize the use of chemicals. The winery focuses on maintaining the natural balance of the ecosystem, nurturing healthy soils, and preserving biodiversity.

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

Jean-Michel Laporte. Stéphane Derenoncourt and Julien Lavenu consult.

Vintage

2018 Saint Julien should win an award for the most consistent appellation of the 2018 Bordeaux vintage. From top to bottom, every wine was very good.

The 2018 vintage was perfect for St. Julien, once the rains ceased by late June. The winter and spring drenched the region. But picture-perfect weather, warm sunny and dry hit the region in July and with a few minor showers, which helped promote maturity to the vines, beautiful conditions continued through to the harvest, allowing growers to pick, when they found their desired level of maturity.

Being a small appellation, at only 910 hectares, much of the gravel terroir was able to work its magic, alleviating the excess water while retaining the right amount of moisture to nourish the vines when needed during the dry summer months.

The warm, sunny, days, dry conditions and cool nights were perfect for the region, allowing much of the harvest to reach the desired level of maturity that each estate wanted to achieve.

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 *châteaux*, from the great second growths such as Ducru-Beaucaillou, Léoville-Las-Cases and Gruaud-Larose, down to the humble *cru bourgeois* 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

From September 19th to October 10th

Maturation

16 months in oak barrels (60% new)

Tasting Notes

Undeniably, Talbot is one of the most famous Médoc wines. Having been in the same family for more than a century, this estate with more than one hundred hectares of vines produces wine that is recognized for the consistent quality of its vintages. 'For many, Talbot embodies the ideal Saint Julien, a generous bouquet, extremely stable and dependable during aging,' emphasize Bettane and Desseauve in their Guide to French Wines. It's true, Talbot is a champion of longevity; even young Talbot is pleasant and rounded, always characterized by silky, mild and very civilized tannins. Talbot possesses an expansive character. It's never withdrawn into itself and has the courtesy of being in a good mood every day. It's a racy wine, with complex marks of Havana tobacco and licorice, classically delicious without ever the slightest hint of austerity.



Serve with	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Production	21,665 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2036
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021</p> <p>93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>91+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019</p> <p>16.5+ points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p>16.5 points - Tom Parker, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>16 points - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p>92+ points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019</p> <p>93+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p>17.5 points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This is densely packed with ripe macerated fig, blackberry and plum fruit flavors supported by tar and bramble notes that meld steadily through the finish. Notes of applewood and anise flash throughout. For the cellar. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2023 through 2036. 21,665 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Shows range, with cassis, blueberry and plum fruit and a nice snap of licorice throughout. Fleshy, but with latent drive on the finish. A concentrated, solid wine. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. 21,665 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Talbot features notions of baked blackcurrants, stewed plums and bouquet garni with hints of tilled soil, tobacco leaf and pencil lead. The medium-bodied palate is softly textured with bags of juicy black fruits supported by chewy tannins and just enough freshness, finishing savory."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2018 Talbot is just a little reduced to begin, opening out to reveal notions of warm red and black currants, baked plums and mulberries with touches of sautéed herbs, tilled soil, fallen leaves and unsmoked cigars. Medium to full-bodied, it has commendably ripe, fine-grained tannins and restrained, earthy layers on offer in the mouth with an herbal lift on the finish."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Rich aromas of blackcurrant, blackberry, chocolate, tobacco and licorice. Oyster shell, too. It's full-bodied with firm, well integrated tannins. Polished, silky layers with a long finish. Gorgeous ripe and bright fruit in the center palate. Best in a long time. Try from 2025."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *"Very attractive core of pretty fruit and polished yet chewy tannins. Medium to full body, integrated tannins, and a driven finish. One of the best Talbots in a long time."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "The special bottle celebrates 100 years of ownership by the Cordier family, one of the top Bordeaux wine families. This wine shows concentration and intense black fruits. Rich dark chocolate and a luscious texture are allied to the firm base of tannins. The wine is set for aging. Drink from 2027."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "This balanced, stylish wine is full of a dark berry flavor and juicy acidity. The dry core of tannins is integrated and cushioned by the fruity nature. The wine is already showing its fine future."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot; 60% new oak. Now made by Jean-Michel Laporte. Barrel sample. Deepest black-cherry colour. Sweet cassis and blueberry fruit. Smooth and juicy on the palate, much more apparently approachable than many but there's a deep core of ripe tannin hiding behind the juicy fruit. Thickly textured on the finish yet promising. (JH)"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. Deep ruby colour. Pure black fruit on the nose, the hints of cured meat from oak are already well integrated. The palate is softer, rounder, and fuller than in recent vintages from this estate. It is still compact and medium weight, but there is added generosity and succulence in the mid-palate. Fine and vibrant through to the finish. (TP)"*
- TP, JancisRobinson.com
- "Clear depth right off the first nose is evident, with swirling black cherry and blackberry fruits and grilled cedar. Caramel creaminess here also, with black chocolate edging. This is excellent-quality, with bristling tannins that are just at the beginning of their life. 60% new oak. Drinking Window 2026 – 2040."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "A great St-Julien that reflects the estate more than the vintage - a definite compliment to the winemaking team as well as those 50-year-old (on average) vines that are less swayed by climatic changes. This is full of blackberry and bilberry, with a touch of tobacco on the nose. There's good sweetness to the fruit, and although it's not quite as punchy, deep or concentrated as some, this means that it has a beautifully balanced appellation signature. 45hl/ha yield. 60% new oak"*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Smoke, espresso, tobacco leaf, cedar, currants and spice create a beautiful nose. On the palate the wine is round, juicy, fruity, and packed with sweet currants, herbs, and oak. Give this at least 8 years of cellaring to develop more nuances and for the oak to better integrate."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Elegant and refined, this wine offers intriguing depth on the mid-palate. Medium-bodied, sweet, fresh, and round, there is a nice touch of licorice, black fruits, earth, and spice that carries through from start to finish. The wine is made from 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, reaching 14% alcohol. This is the first vintage at Talbot with Jean-Michel Laporte in charge."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep ruby colour, with a rich nose of black cherry and cassis, and subtle undertones of creamy vanilla and toasty oak. The palate is plush, richer, and bolder than previous vintages, with ripe black fruit framed by cedary, chalky tannins. There is a smoky note throughout that is integrated and subtle, adding a savoury complexity without dominating the fruit. Waves of acidity keep the freshness, and there is still a hint of dried herbs, but this is a riper and fuller Talbot, and all the better for it."*
- Farr Vintners

Reviews

“Not only is the 2018 Talbot the first vintage in which Jean-Michel Laporte was fully in charge, but it comes in a uniquely designed bottle to celebrate the centennial of ownership by the Cordier family. Fortunately, its contents make the grade. This Talbot is well defined and focused on the nose, offering blackberry, bilberry and cedar scents and an attractive floral component that becomes more evident with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied and cohesive, with supple tannins, a fine bead of acidity and good depth. Layers of blackberry and cranberry fruit intertwine with cedar and touches of graphite on the finish, completing an excellent Talbot that may improve further with bottle age. 2023 - 2045 “

- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 Talbot is Jean-Marc Laporte’s first vintage in charge, although he mentioned that he has not changed a great deal. It has an intense bouquet with blackberry, blueberry, and violets aromas with much more vivacity than recent vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannins and clearly more mid-palate. There is just more body and presence to this Talbot compared to previous vintages, more tension and grip on the graphite-tinged finish. This is very promising not only for this vintage, but for the future of Talbot.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 Talbot is super-refined and nuanced from start to finish. Powerful yet also impeccably refined. Talbot is a wine of real character and glass. Savory Cabernet Sauvignon inflections of grilled herbs, cedar, tobacco, menthol, licorice, and coffee all add shades of nuance. At times, Talbot can be a bit light. Not in 2018. Simply put, the 2018 Talbot is stellar. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“Released in an all-black bottle celebrating 100 years in the Cordier family, the 2018 Château Talbot is a beautiful, classic Saint-Julien that leads with its pure cassis and currant fruit as well as notes of tobacco leaf, violets, chocolate, damp earth, and new leather. These all carry to a medium to full-bodied, elegant 2018 with remarkable purity of fruit, a lively spine of acidity, ripe, polished tannin's, and a great finish. It doesn't have quite the level of concentration I thought from barrel, but it's nevertheless a beautiful wine that shines for its finesse and purity, and if it picks up weight in bottle, it will certainly merit an even higher rating. Give bottles 3-5 years and enjoy over the following 15-20+. The blend is 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot, brought up in 50% new French oak.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“This estate is on a roll and the 2018 Château Talbot might just be the best yet. A deep purple/blue color is followed by a mammoth-sized bouquet of crème de cassis, dark chocolate, tobacco, and lead pencil. Rich, full-bodied, and powerful, it nevertheless stays pure, balanced, and elegant, with a beautiful finish. Its tannins are ripe and integrated, it has balancing acidity, and this is unquestionably another beautiful vintage for this estate.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“(66 Cabernet Sauvignon, 29 Merlot, 5 Petit Verdot) | 60% new oak | 14% alc. The black cherry theme here is very attractive and the richness and silkiness on the palate certainly signals a successful wine. Smooth and round, the acid and tannin are both neatly tucked under the fruit and the result is a balanced Talbot which will soften and relax in no time at all. I like this vintage a lot at Talbot as it has harnessed a little more ripeness than usual, and this serves to bolster their style.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
