

## Château Haut Bailly 2021

CSPC# 102696

750mlx3

14.3% alc./vol.

CSPC# 813883

750mlx6

14.3% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety** 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc  
**Appellation** Pessac-Léognan  
**Classification** Grand Cru Classé de Graves  
**Website** <https://www.haut-bailly.com/en/wines.html>  
**Sustainability** They take a traditional approach in the vineyard, avoiding chemical herbicides and using sustainable pest and disease control. As testament to their commitment, they are involved with the local university in several research projects with a goal of improving quality while reducing impact on the environment. The crop is harvested by hand to ensure gentle handling and the grapes are hand sorted three times before entering the winery.

**General Info** For the past four centuries, Château Haut Bailly has overlooked 28 hectares of vines in a single block. These grow on soil consisting of sand and gravel from the Tertiary period with a fossil stone subsoil. Haut Bailly's reputation as one of the very finest wines of Bordeaux was established in the 19th century. Haut-Bailly was bought by the Sanders family in 1955 and was run by Jean Sanders until 1998 when Robert G. Wilmers, an American banker, purchased it. Robert G. Wilmers continues to emphasize quality in all aspects of production, combining a blend of tradition and modernity with respect for the environment. Château Haut-Bailly's unique terroir produces wines that are outstandingly reliable, and whose prestige is due to an inimitable style marked by finesse and elegance. Bob Wilmers passed away in December 2017 at age 83. The estate is now managed by Chris Wilmers, the son of Bob Wilmers. Today, the estate is directed by Veronique Sanders, the fourth generation of her family associated with Haut-Bailly.

**Winemaker** Gabriel Vialard. Axel Marhal consultant

**Vintage** Although a mild, wet winter favoured early budburst, the vineyard was affected by the frosts that occurred in early April. Flowering benefited from hot, dry conditions during a spring with heavy rainfall, which caused coulure and millerandage, particularly on the Merlot, as well as strong mildew pressure. The weather conditions were particularly mild from mid-August until the harvest.

**Vineyards** The Haut-Bailly estate accounts for 33 hectares of the Médoc, of which 30 hectares are vineyards, largely in a single block on a gravel *croupe*. The soils are a mixture of sand and Tertiary gravel over *Faluns de Léognan*, a subsoil rich in sandstone and ancient fossilised shells. The vines themselves are mainly Cabernet Sauvignon (64%), which are planted on the upper parts of the *croupe* and slopes where the drainage is best, with 30% Merlot, which are planted on those plots where the soils are richer in clay. The remaining 6% is Cabernet Franc, and overall, the planting density is an admirable 10000 vines/ha.

**Harvest** Harvesting from September 27th to October 11th. Yields reduced by 60% this year.

**Winemaking** This 2021 vintage is the first to be vinified in its entirety in the property's new cellar. Initiated in 2017 by Robert Wilmers shortly before his death, the construction of this majestic, state-of-the-art winery was launched in 2018 by his son, Chris Wilmers, Chairman of the Estate's Supervisory Board. Designed by architect Daniel Romeo, the elegant infrastructure perfectly blends into its surrounding environment. The vinification took place at 24°C in order to preserve the perfect freshness and elegance despite the high degrees in alcohol. In small oak barriques (55% new) for 16 months and is bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

**Tasting Notes** Strong ruby colour. The nose is deep and cool, a fantastic scent, floral notes, cassis, blackberries, subtle wood from barrel aging. The palate is spicy, fresh, clear and pure like a mountain stream, the wine has a very good structure, shows a lot of Cabernet character, that is once again pure precision, the tannins are striking, super finely woven, the acidity is perfectly dosed. The finish has a very nice length, ends with red fruit and delicate spice. Whatever they do on Haut-Bailly is once again excellent.



**Serve with** Chateau Haut Bailly is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. The wine of Chateau Haut Bailly is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.

**Cellaring** Drink 2024-2040

**Scores/Awards** **94 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024  
**94-95+ points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022  
**92-94+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022  
**94 points** - Yohan Castaing, JamesSuckling.com - February 2024  
**95-96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022  
**95-97 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2022  
**16.5+ points** - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022  
**95 points** - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022  
**95 points** - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024  
**94-96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022  
**94 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022  
**93 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024  
**93-95 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022  
**96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024  
**94-96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022  
**93 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024  
**93-95 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022  
**95 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022  
**94 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022  
**95-96 points** - Vert de Vin - July 2022  
**94-95 points** - Bettane & Desseave (score only) - May 2022

**Reviews** *"The 2021 Haut-Bailly, a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc, reveals a complex, brooding bouquet with aromas of blackcurrant, spices, plums, spring flowers and smoke. Medium to full-bodied, it's a lively, rather muscular wine with a fleshy, dense core of fruit, tangy acids, and powdery tannins. Despite its firm character, I like its overall balance. It should age gracefully over the next 10 years."*  
- WK, Wine Advocate

*"A classic in the making, the 2021 Haut-Bailly wafts from the glass with aromas of dark berries and wild plums mingled with sweet spices, loamy soil, raw cocoa, and violets. Medium to full-bodied, seamless, and concentrated, with bright acids, ultra-refined tannins, and a long, penetrating finish, it's a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, only 22% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc. With yields of a mere 19 hectoliters per hectare, it's impressively intensely flavored despite its quintessentially elegant, classically proportioned profile. In many respects, it may represent the Cabernet-driven modern-day alter ego of the superb Merlot-dominant 1998 Haut-Bailly."*  
- WK, Wine Advocate

*"The 2021 Haut-Bailly is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot, and 3% Cabernet Franc, harvested from 27 September to 11 October, and aging in 50% new oak. Deep garnet-purple colored, it is a little closed and broody to begin, opening out to offer notes of plum preserves, warm cassis, and black raspberries, plus suggestions of fertile loam, tapenade, tar, and smoked meats. Medium-bodied, the palate has wonderful tension and energy with plenty of black fruit layers and a fine-grained texture, culminating in a long, lifted finish. This was the first vintage in the new winery, and 50% of the crop went into the grand vin. (LPB) 92-94+."*  
- LPB, Wine Independent

*"The 2021 Haut-Bailly, a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc, reveals a complex, brooding bouquet with aromas of blackcurrant, spices, plums, spring flowers and smoke. Medium to full-bodied, it's a lively, rather muscular wine with a fleshy, dense core of fruit, tangy acids, and powdery tannins. Despite its firm character, I like its overall balance. It should age gracefully over the next 10 years. Drink 2023-2040."*  
- YC, JamesSuckling.com

**Reviews** *“Lots of graphite and crushed-stone character with redcurrants and pine needles. Medium body with silky and layered tannins. Pretty balance and elegance.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This is a very aromatic, precise wine. Ripe fruits and density are balanced by the wine's freshness and acidity. It has structure that brings out creamy tannins to balance the succulent black fruit flavors.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Elegant and flowing with mineral, dark fruit, and smoky notes. Plenty of freshness, the fruit juicy and gourmand. Grainy tannins and a saline finish. Less grand scale than recent years but harmony and balance prevail. (JL) 13%. Drink 2027 – 2038.”*  
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

*“Seductive blackcurrant and juniper with purple floral touches on the nose. Smooth texture with high acidity giving sharp strawberry fruit balanced by both savoury and mineral touches - slate, crushed stone, smoke, violets, and dark chocolate - very much in the style of the vintage with no harshness or overt opulence but instead gives a pure sense of classicism, restraint, and refinement. Elegant and well-structured with a long-determined finish - this will continue to deliver pleasure for a long time. 10% press wine. No chaptalization. 30% grand vin. 3.9pH. 3% Cabernet Franc completes the blend. Yield 19hl/ha. First year in the new cellar.”*  
- GH, Decanter.com

*“Impresses from the first moment with its enveloping nose, and purity of flavour. Plenty of estate signature, with finely grained tannins and creamy black fruit that is concentrated with density through the mid palate but not opulent, delivering cocoa bean, slate, cassis and gunsmoke personality and poise. One of the few where I can really see the comparison to 1996, or perhaps 2000, with firm tannins that are subdued but with clear ageing potential. An excellent Haut-Bailly, with a small 19hl/h yield, meaning that in this first year with the new cellar they used just 20 of the smallest size vats (out of 50 in total). Harvest Sept 27 to Oct 11.”*  
- JA, janeanson.com

*“Dark garnet in color, the wine is equally dark aromatically with its nuances of smoky black cherries, blackberries, cocoa, cigar box, flowers, and black plums. On the palate, the wine is focused on its chewy, black cherries, chalk, spicy black raspberries, cocoa, and spice. Texturally, the wine offers an exotic, sensuous, elegant quality that I really like. It separates Haut Bailly from all the other wines I tasted. The wine is probably always going to be a bit reticent in character, so, allow it a few years in the cellar, and sometime in the decanter as well. The wine blends 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot, and 3% Cabernet Franc, representing the highest percentage of Petit Verdot in the history of the estate. 2021 is the first vintage produced in their new, state-of-the-art cellars. Drink from 2026-2055.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Initially you notice the blackberries, black plums, and black currants before moving on to the tobacco, flowers, spice, and smoke in the aromatic profile. Supple, refined, and elegant, perhaps the best way to describe the wine is modern chic, or modern classic if you prefer. The tannins are soft and polished, and the fruit is pure, clean, and fresh, with a salty, mildly-chalky, supple endnote. Although it is going to probably always be a bit reticent in character, you will be able to approach and enjoy this wine in its youth, as well as age it for more complexity. The wine blends 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc. The blend represents the highest percentage of Petit Verdot in the history of the estate. 13% ABV, pH 3.9. The harvest took place September 27 to October 11. The Grand Vin was produced from 50% of the harvest. 2021 is the first vintage produced in their new, state-of-the-art cellars. Drink from 2025-2055”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2021 Haut-Bailly harked back to the older style when I tasted it out of barrel during en primeur. Now bottled since the end of March, it has developed a very composed and harmonious bouquet with blackberry, briar, cedar, and melted tar scents that gradually gain intensity in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, again quite saline with hints of black olive and Japanese nori tincturing the black fruit. It*

**Reviews** *segues into a classically styled finish, with a welcome touch of black pepper on the aftertaste. Give this three of four years in bottle, and it should drink well for 20+ years."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2021 Haut-Bailly is built around 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, the blend employing less Merlot and more Petit Verdot this year since the latter was not affected by frost. It was picked between September 27 and October 11 and matured in 50% new oak with 10% vin de presse. Allowed to open in the glass, it unfurls to reveal blackberry, briar, touches of crushed stone and cedar. The taut, fresh palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit and fine acidity. This is back to the older style of Haut-Bailly in some ways; less opulent, in keeping with the style of the vintage, and delivering good weight on the finish, even if there is not the persistent aftertaste of previous vintages. The great virtue of this Haut-Bailly is the sapidity that marks the conclusion. The kind of Pessac-Léognan that needs to be decanted then poured at the dinner table."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2021 Haut-Bailly is incredibly poised, even if it is clearly a wine of reserve in this vintage. Its vertical build speaks of pure sophistication. Time in the glass brings out hints of dried herbs, menthol, licorice, pine, blackberry, and underbrush. Most of the blend is Cabernet, so the flavor profile and overall structural feel is quite savory. I can't wait to see how the 2021 ages. It may very well surprise down the road."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2021 Haut-Bailly is a dark, rather somber wine. The aromatics alone are captivating, but there are strong savory inflections from the high percentage of Petit Verdot in this year's blend. This deceptively mid-weight Haut-Bailly has plenty to offer. Spice, leather, tobacco and incense linger. The final blend also includes 10% press wine."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2021 Château Haut-Bailly is a beautiful, elegant wine that's very much in the style of the estate with its charming, supple, seamless profile. Red and black currants, smoke tobacco, spice, and subtle flower nuances all define this utterly classic, seamless Haut-Bailly. Coming from minuscule yields of 19 hectoliters per hectare, it will drink well for at least 20 years."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"The 2021 Château Haut-Bailly checks in as 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot, and the rest Cabernet Franc. It's another elegant, pure, incredibly balanced wine from this château, offering complex aromatics (cassis, smoked tobacco, spicy wood, and earth), medium body, ripe, supple tannins, and a great finish. Hitting 13% alcohol with a pH of 3.9, this seamless beauty will drink nicely right out of the gate yet evolve for 25-30 years. 93-95+."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Deep dark ruby core, with purple reflections at the narrow rim. Black cherries and cassis, fine savouriness, nougat, and a little candied orange zest. Juicy, ripe cherries, a touch of plum, silky-ripe tannins, salty touch, good freshness, lingers nicely; a multi-faceted food companion, very pure in style; certain ageing potential. Très chic."*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*"The nose is beautifully elegant, revealing a fine grain, a delicate spiciness and harmony. There are notes of bright wild blackcurrant, ripe blueberries, and slightly ripe strawberry with hints of blueberry, graphite and fine points of racy minerality/saline, light tobacco and a discreet hint of roasted fruit and a very discreet touch of chocolate. A nice complexity with finesse. The palate is nicely conducted, balanced, fresh/mineral, masterful, sapid, "quaffable" (in the good sense of the word) and reveals a nice definition, an acidic backbone, freshness, tension, suavity, an airy quality, a nice multi-layered side, a nice, nice purity, silky complexity as well as a certain depth. On the palate this wine expresses notes of full-bodied/juicy Morello cherry, bright boysenberry and more lightly ripe/juicy blackcurrant combined with hints of star anise, tonka bean, an almost roasted edge, a discreet hint of ripe red berry fruit, almost a subtle hint of black olive as well as fine hints of bergamot, chocolate, toasted almond, Madagascar pepper and spice. The tannins are supple, fine, and elegant."*

- Vert de Vin

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