

Le Petit Smith Haut Lafitte 2019

CSPC# 881229

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot
Appellation Pessac-Léognan
Classification 2nd wine
Website <https://www.smith-haut-lafitte.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2019-PHL-Rouge-GB.pdf>

Sustainability The great particularity of Château Smith Haut Lafitte, beyond its fabulous wines, lies in its commitment to the preservation of our ecosystem and the biodiversity of the vineyard. Thus, in addition to state-of-the-art and environmentally friendly growing and winemaking techniques (organic homemade compost, implantation of hedges, forest, beehives, horse vine work, drones, or the Normalized Difference Vegetative Index (NDVI) which allows the detection of row heterogeneities...), Château Smith Haut Lafitte works according to the circular economy model. This new economic, ecological, local, and societal model, on the fringe of the breathtaking “extract-manufacture-consumer-dispose” linear system, is practiced with the aim of producing an exceptional wine. The property limits the consumption and waste of raw materials and non-renewable energy resources, transforms waste into recycled raw materials, and reflects on the eco-design of its products. The stealthy wine storehouse is a perfect example of this. This new investment is completely blind to environmental radars and must produce its own energy, without emitting CO2.

General Info The history of Château Smith Haut Lafitte goes back to 1365, when the noble house of Bosq chose this terroir to run a vineyard. Then in the 18th century the Scotsman George Smith bought the estate, gave it his name, built the Chartreuse and exported the already famous barrels to England on his ships. In 1842, Mr. Duffour-Dubergier, mayor of Bordeaux but also a passionate winegrower, inherited Château Smith Haut Lafitte from his mother and turned it into a Grand Cru. At the beginning of the century the House of Louis Eschenauer realized the exceptional quality of this wine and ensured its distribution, finally buying the property in 1958. Since that time, major investments have been made, including the construction of a superb underground cellar that can raise more than 1,000 barrels at the same time. In 1990, Daniel Cathiard fell in love with the vineyard and joined the prestigious line of owners with the firm intention of continuing to enhance the value of this noble cru: his constant search for excellence led him to harmoniously handle the most modern winemaking techniques with traditional methods: living soil, organic compost, a return to small oak vats, ageing on lees in barrels... Without a doubt, the exemplary elegance of the red wines of Smith Haut Lafitte deserves this daily care.

Winemakers Technical Director: Fabien Teigen

Vintage The 2019 vintage witnessed two ripening phases. The first took place in hot, dry conditions, resulting in small, concentrated grapes with rich tannins. The second occurred in cooler and slightly wetter conditions, leading to gentle ripening, thus preserving freshness and softening tannins. The Merlots have great substance and power, while the Cabernets contribute length and freshness. This wine is a very dark red, almost black colour. The bouquet is expressive, with black fruit notes (blackberry, blackcurrant, blueberry) accompanied by cherry overtones. Complex spicy aromas then come to the fore (clove, cinnamon, liquorice), underscored by subtle hints of gun flint, very emblematic of the Graves terroir. A rather "approachable" wine, powerful, broad-based, and concentrated with a smooth texture that caresses the palate. The mid-palate is full-bodied and equally concentrated, paving the way for a lovely long aftertaste. A decidedly delicious and lively wine combining power, concentration, and smoothness! The aftertaste is very long, showcasing great complexity where spices and empyreumatic notes typical of the terroir nicely balance out fruity overtones.

Vineyards The terroir of Château Smith Haut Lafitte is located on a hilltop, 67 hectares of which are planted with vines and covered with “Gunziennes” graves which offers two astonishing particularities: a natural drainage of the soil which forces the roots of the vines to fetch water and mineral salts at a depth of several meters, and a “mirror



Vineyards	effect” of the sun, which, by reflecting on the pebbles composing the graves, helps the grapes to ripen and blossom. The average age of the vines for the Le Petit is 11 years. Selection Massale: grafted on our own mother rootstock grown at the estate.
Harvest	Yield: 36 hl/ha The harvest is done by hand, in the Sauternes style, by successive sorting, picking only the bunches of grapes at good maturity, leaving the others to finish their maturation.
Vinification/ Maturation	Grapes are sorted twice, before and after destemming, and are not pressed before undergoing fermentation in vats. Tannins and color are extracted by punching down and/or pumping over. Aged for 14 months in barrels (20% new barrels) produced in our in-house cooperage Stealth Cellar a frugal innovation wine facilities, positive-energy, recycling Co2 into baking soda.
Tasting Notes	Le Petit Smith Haut Lafitte red 2019 is extremely fine with silky tannins and beautiful aromas and flavours of Cabernet Sauvignon. Medium-bodied, with notes of blackcurrant, liquorice, and dark chocolate. A great finesse and a good structure with a lot of ageing potential.
Serve with	The red wines from Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte are best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2036
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>90+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>90-92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2022</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - January 2022</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2020</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - December 2021</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - June 2020</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2022</p> <p>93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - February 2022</p> <p>93 points - Vert de Vin - April 2022</p> <p>15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“A broad, rich, and caressing wine, with a lovely display of cassis, plum puree, and blackberry pâte de fruit notes. There's form thanks to a buried alder note, along with sweet tobacco and iron accents on the finish. A strong showing. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. Best from 2024 through 2036. 10,000 cases made.”</i></p> <p><i>- JM, Wine Spectator</i></p> <p><i>“More serious than the forward Les Hauts de Smith, the 2019 Le Petit Haut Lafitte contains only 40% Merlot, with the balance Cabernet Sauvignon. Exhibiting aromas of crème de cassis, sweet berries, cocoa nib, pencil shavings and loamy soil, it's medium to full-bodied, lively, and concentrated, with a more structured, reserved profile but more incipient complexity too.</i></p> <p><i>Certified organic with the 2019 vintage, this year marks a waypoint—rather than a stopping point—in Smith Haut Lafitte's agronomic journey. The Cathiard family banished herbicides at this address in 1991, radically reducing chemical treatments and suffering the consequences for several years in the form of much diminished yields (today, happily, materiel and techniques are more sophisticated). In addition to organic methods, cover crops have been deployed on the vineyard's central blocks and western band, where soils are less well drained. Hedges have been planted to encourage biodiversity, and ultraviolet treatments are being trialed as an alternative to copper sulfate. In addition to such initiatives, the technical team is adapting to a warmer climate: that means picking a touch earlier, certainly, but more importantly, adapting in the vineyards, with somewhat</i></p>

Reviews *lower canopies and an end to deleafing to retain fresh, vibrant flavors. Winemaking, too, is a little gentler: cool but protracted macerations, with periodic punch-downs, for reds and whole-cluster pressing with an inverted press for whites. This has brought new structural elegance and energy to the estate's wines. It surely helps that as much as possible is done in-house: since 1995, the Cathiards have their own nursery for their own massale selections, in partnership with Bérillon, and barrels are made in the château's own on-site cooperage too, favoring the forests of Tronçais and Jupilles for reds, Loches (which brings tension) for whites. All this is symptomatic of the attention to detail and seriousness that the Cathiards, and their technical director Fabien Teitgen, have brought to this estate; and the result, in 2019, is one of the finest wines they've produced to date."*
- WK, Wine Advocate

*"Deep garnet-purple in color, the nose of the 2019 Le Petit Haut Lafitte needs a little coaxing to reveal notes of freshly crushed blackberries, wild blueberries, and blackcurrant pastilles plus wafts of garrigue, pencil lead and damp soil. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has classic black fruit, cedar, and mineral-tinged layers with a sturdy frame of grainy tannins and plenty of freshness, finishing with an herbal lift.
"It is difficult in Bordeaux to have both high acidity and good ripeness," began Château Smith Haut Lafitte's technical director, Fabien Teitgen. "But this year you have both. Cool nights preserved the acidity nicely. Overall, 2019 was cooler than in 2018. We have the impression that 2019 was hot, but it was generally cooler. The wines are fresher and brighter. 2018 is powerful, but 2019 has intensity." As an organic grower, Smith Haut Lafitte was one of the châteaux that got hit hard in 2018 with the mildew. "In 2018, we lost half the crop," Teitgen confessed. "In 2019, we had no problems, in fact. The yields were normal for us." "We have the opposition of two weather systems during the growing season," he went on to say. "The first part—June / July—was warm and dry. Our young vines had a bit of water stress at the end of July. Then in August and September, we had cooler temperatures. At the beginning of August, I had a map of the vineyard showing the depth of the roots. It was clear that the old vines with deep roots did much better." Technically speaking, Teitgen noted that the acids were a bit higher in 2019. "The quantity of tannins is very similar to 2018," he said. "But the texture is different. We had a strong synthesis of tannins, small berries—no need to extract too much, just wait with the infusion." Smith Haut Lafitte's 2019 red may not have quite the same "wow" factor as the 2018, but I suspect that because of its increased freshness and slightly brighter style, there are many consumers who will actually prefer the 2019. The 2019 SHL Blanc is another story though—wow-o-WOW that is good!"*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Spices, such as cloves and white pepper, with violets and dark fruit follow through to a full body with firm, chewy tannins and a polished yet intense finish. Open tannins. An ash-like undertone to it. Best after 2027."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Extremely polished with tannins that melt into the wine, showing blackberry, black-olive and walnut undertones. It's full-bodied, yet reserved and tight. Very fine for the second wine of Smith."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"As one of the two second wines from this organic estate, Cabernet Sauvignon dominates this wine. It has structured black currant fruits as well as a beautiful pure line of acidity. The structure, while there, is open and integrated, meaning the wine will age well over the medium-term."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Green bell pepper, eucalyptus, dark chocolate and perfumed cherries and blackcurrants on the nose - so much aromatic intensity. Immediate impact on the palate with weighty tannins that are ample and mouthcoating giving the softly sweet raspberry and red cherry flavours structure and grip. A juicy core is offset by hints of wood spice which linger on the finish so this needs more time but there is excellent vibrancy and life here and strong markers of the vintage and terroir. Drinking Window 2026 – 2046."
- JA, Decanter.com

"Closed up on the opening bars, a little more austere than the 2018 with tight tannins but opens up to show elegance and balance, and the juicy salinity on the finish that has become so characteristic of Smith Haut Lafitte across its range of wines"
- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews

"This is a 2nd wine that you can always rely on for confidence and quality, and that begs to be opened with friends. Packed with cassis and bilberry fruit, smoked coffee beans and an earthy edge. Sleek and enjoyable, can be drunk now with a carafe and over next 5 to 10 years. Supple tannins don't wait too long to maximise enjoyment of the bright fruits. 36hl/h yield, 20% new oak."

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Dense, creamy, a touch of smoked caramel on the finish, brilliant quality, with tobacco leaves, cigar box, turmeric, truffle, cassis, and blueberry. This is one of my value wines of the vintage, really one to recommend and to seek out - it feels concentrated and comfortable."

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Cedar, tobacco leaf, herbs, cherries, and blackberries crowd into the nose. Elegant, soft, polished, and fresh, the wine is refined, energetic, lusciously textured with a finish that resonates due to all of its cocoa tinted, dark, red pit fruits with their dash of chocolate that comes in at the very end. Drink from 2023-2035."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"A deep shade of ruby, the wine pops with its smoke, licorice, roasted coffee bean and dark red fruit note. Fruity with structure and roundness, the wine feels good as it hits your palate with concentrated, soft, ripe, sweet fruit. The finish gives you a nice dusty quality to the ripe fruit, along with just a hint of bitter chocolate. The wine is made from a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and paired with 40% Merlot."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2019 Le Petit Smith Haut Lafitte has a lively bouquet of blackberry, briar and just a hint of espresso, classic in style and nicely focused. The palate is medium-bodied with a smooth texture and quite approachable in style (not "furry," as I found last year). It builds pleasantly toward the finish, which displays impressive density combined with elegance. A couple of years in bottle will do this fine."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Le Petit Haut Lafitte possesses the most backward aromatics of those I tasted from Smith Haut Lafitte. Blackberry, briary and dark chocolate notes are coaxed out after several minutes. The palate is medium-bodied with supple, slightly "furry" tannins. Plush but with good structure here, delivering black pepper and graphite notes towards the Pauillac-tinged finish. Give it two or three years in bottle, but I suspect it will drink well for at least a decade."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Le Petit Smith Haut Lafitte is fabulous. Rich, powerful and vibrant, Le Petit packs a serious punch. Readers will have a hard time keeping their hands off this jewel of a wine. Black cherry, plum, new leather, licorice, mocha, and dried herbs build as this effusive, generous wine shows off its racy, alluring personality. I loved it."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2019 Le Petit Haut Lafitte is a potent, brooding wine. Gravel, crushed rocks, blackberry jam, lavender, menthol, and licorice infuse the 2019 with tremendous character and nuance. Cabernet Sauvignon takes the leading role, and that very much comes through in the wine's tannic profile and overall feel. This is a fabulous showing. Le Petit Haut Lafitte is a serious second wine that needs a bit of time in bottle to be at its very best."

- AG, Vinous

"The more Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated second wine, the 2019 Le Petit Haut Lafitte is dense purple. with a promising bouquet of cassis, cedary spice, tobacco leaf, and background oak. It picks up some classic Graves scorched earth notes as it sits in the glass and is medium to full-bodied, has a concentrated, layered, balanced mouthfeel, and a great finish. A serious, impressive wine, it will benefit from 2-3 years of bottle age and drink brilliantly over the following 10-15. Best After 2024."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate rim lightening. A hint of candied violets, black cherries, nuances of orange zest, cassis, and liquorice. Good complexity, fresh, with firm tannins, sweet cherries, salty finish, has good development potential."

- Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is elegant, aromatic and offers a beautiful definition, a certain power and delicacy. It reveals notes of wild blackberry, small pulpy/ripe black fruits, small notes of wild strawberry associated with touches of violet, iris, small blue fruits, crushed cherry as well as hints of timut pepper, cardamom, very discreet hints of toasted and an imperceptible hint of tea (in the background). The palate is juicy, gourmand, finely tight and offers a certain richness (but controlled), finesse, a fine grain, a beautiful definition of a ripe/fleshy/juicy fruit and an acidulous frame. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy/juicy cassis, fleshy/juicy blackberry, small notes of violet associated with touches of small black berries, juicy/pulpy violet plum as well as hints of juicy/fresh raspberry, lily, violet, black tea, fine hints of chocolate/toasted and a very discreet iodine/saline hint (in the background).”

- Vert de Vin
