

Château Talbot 2000

CSPC# 744976

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Julien

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.

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 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.

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 *élevage* comes from eight different coopers, with 50% new wood each year for the *grand vin* 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

Its firm, well-rounded tannins offer a smoothness ever present over the years. Being highly concentrated, it can be left to age for many years even though it is tempting to drink it young to enjoy the fullness of its fruity aromas and silken finish.

Production

28,330 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2010-2025

Scores/Awards

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003

92-94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001

93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #189 - June 2010

90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003

90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 2002

90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 2001

88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012

90-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010

89-91 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2001

17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only)

16.5 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010

90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 31, 2011

92 points - Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine (score only)

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



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

87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

Review Only - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2011

Reviews *"Beautiful aromas of raspberries, Indian spices, crushed flowers and berries. Full-bodied, with a solid core of ripe fruit and silky tannins. Long and delicious. A very fine and pretty wine. Best Talbot in years. Best after 2010. 28,330 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Wonderful aromas of black currants and spices follow through to a full-bodied palate, with masses of velvety tannins and a long, classy finish. Almost classic. Best Talbot in years. Score range: 92-94."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"This was a strong performance (better than my original notes suggested) by the 2000 Talbot. Close to full maturity, it exhibits a dense ruby/plum/purple color in addition to a subtle herbaceousness intermixed with smoked meats, black currants, licorice, cedar, and foresty notes. Rich and full-bodied with light tannins, and a slightly richer, more savory, broader, deeper style than I remember, it should drink well for 10-15 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"To my surprise, the in the bottle tastings revealed a supple, open-knit, surprisingly accessible and open-styled wine. Although not a blockbuster, this outstanding St.-Julien reveals admirable richness, a layered texture, sweet tannin, and abundant quantities of smoky cassis, licorice, herb, earth, and leather characteristics. With complex aromatics and splendid richness, it admirably blends power with elegance. Some tannin suggests 2-3 years of cellaring might be warranted, but drinking it now hardly seems like infanticide. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2020."

- RP, Wine Advocate

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- RP, Wine Advocate

"This wine is sexy, seductive, and undeniably difficult to resist, even at such a young age. The deep ruby/purple color is followed by a wine with low acidity, sweet tannin, and copious quantities of blackberry and currant fruit intermixed with new oak and spice. Initially superficial, it seemed to grow in the glass. While not a blockbuster, it is velvety-textured, succulent, and delicious. Anticipated maturity: 2002-2018."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Finally, a Talbot that delivers. Elegant and classy when tasted out of barrel. Then at the UGC in November 2002: more classic Bordeaux than Leoville Poyferre. Rustic and earthy on the palate but not as concentrated as others for the vintage. A top class wine. Then a great bottle in November 2004. This is a great success for Chateau Talbot that made some poor wines in the 1990's. A very muted nose with hints of dried blood and tobacco. The palate is very elegant and stylish with a lot of finesse from start to finish. Good acidity and poise. Quite feminine, not too showy, this is more refined. Superb. Drink from 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Bright ruby-red. Retent aromas of black fruits, violet, bitter chocolate and licorice, plus a whiff of smoky oak. Dense, lush and sweet, but lively acids lift the flavors and contribute to the perfumed impression in the mouth. Finishes firmly tannic and fresh but sweet, with dusty tannins and lingering notes of leather and game. A second sample of roughly equal quality seemed less fleshy but offered lovely pliancy, and a flavor of bitter chocolate."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Sweet toasted oak, black fruit, mocha and vanilla. Accessible and ripe, this blends innate muscularity with elegance and charm. Drink from 2010."

- SS, Decanter.com

Reviews *“Earth, barnyard, green olive tapenade, cassis and herbal aromas lead to a Bordeaux wine on the lean, austere side. The finish offers cassis, olives and a drying tannic finish. Still young, perhaps this will fill out with time, but it will always maintain the herbaceous, olive profile.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Talbot's wines have been consistently good for the last 40 years, with a house style that is both classic and stylish. In 2000 they have really excelled themselves. Cool menthol notes of eucalyptus, pine, roasted nuts and cassis on the nose lead to a medium to full-bodied palate with a lush texture, low acidity, and firm, rich, fruity flavours. Drinking from 2010-2022.”
- SS, *Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants*
