
Château Haut Bailly 1990

CSPC# 749557

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc.

Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

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 emphasise 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.

Vineyards

The Haut-Bailly estate accounts for 33 hectares of the Médoc, of which 30 hectares are vineyard, 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

The harvest is entirely picked by hand, the "saignée" method is used and spraying is carefully limited, with a true respect for the environment.

Maturation

In small oak barriques (65% new) for 16 months and is bottled unfiltered and unfiltered.

Tasting Notes

Generally considered one of the top five Château of Graves, Haut-Bailly makes only red wine and one-quarter of the vineyard is a mixed plantation of very old vines. The tannins are extremely smooth, it is an elegant wine - soft but with structure and a complexity of aromas. Great ageing potential.

Production

11,000 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2004-2019

93 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - August 31, 2000

88 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 1993

90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #183 - June 2009

92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #109 - February 1997

91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #85 - February 1993

89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2009

17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com

18 points/4 stars - Decanter.com

90 points - Jean Marc Quarin

90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 3, 2010

