



CHÂTEAU HAUT-BAGES LIBÉRAL

PAUILLAC . 5^E GRAND CRU CLASSÉ EN 1855

Technical sheet
Vintage 2018

The name of Château Haut-Bages Libéral has two roots. The Liberal family was the former owner of the property from the beginning of the 18th century. Brokers from father to son, they sold most of the harvest at the time in the Netherlands and Belgium. Their name added to the topographical designation, had long earned them to be invited to the tables of political parties of the same name around the world. Over time, these fine connoisseurs brought together the best terroirs of Pauillac.

This is how this fifth Classified Growth in 1855 now has half of its vineyard contiguous to Château Latour and the other half behind Château Pichon Baron, located on the heights of the place called "Bages", a large plateau in the south of Pauillac. This superb vineyard would regain its youth when in 1960, the Cruse family, then owner of Château Pontet-Canet, also a fifth Classified Growth in Pauillac, acquired the property. They launched a vast program to replant the vines. However, it was not until the arrival of the Villars family in 1983 that Château Haut-Bages Libéral regained its former glory.

Today, Claire Villars Lurton is the owner of the estate and she undertook a complete overhaul of the winemaking facilities. She has directed her vineyard management towards a sustainable viticulture. The property is now in the process of certification in organic and biodynamics farming.

Owner	Claire Villars Lurton
Production Manager	Thomas Bontemps
Winemaking consultant	Eric Boissenot
Surface of the vineyard	30 hectares
Soil	Guntz gravels on limestone and clay subsoil
Average age of the vineyard	35 years old
Yield	2 kg/ plant
Vine growing	in conversion to organic and biodynamics farming
Harvest	hand picking
Vinification	traditional bordelaise style in concrete vats. Plots selection
Fermentation on skins	19 to 22 days
Blending	70 % cabernet sauvignon, 21 % merlot
Ageing	in French oak barrels during 16 months. 40 % of new oak
Second wine	La Chapelle de Haut-Bages Libéral - La Fleur de Haut-Bages Libéral
Conservation	25 years

In conversion to



CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VINTAGE

« 2018 is a vintage that will certainly mark the spirits ... On the one hand because it was very difficult to born. A humid spring and an exceptional pressure of fungal diseases were followed by a summer with extreme sunshine conditions. Certain areas of the Margaux appellation and more generally the South of the Médoc were favored by a few thunderstorms during the summer which allowed to reduce the impact of the water stress.

The musts with complicated fermentation potentials (high degrees, malic acid in low concentration) ended up keeping the technical teams under pressure until the end of the winemaking process. In addition, the quality of the wines produced has a character and a quite remarkable sweetness. From the first days of vinification, the vats perfumed the cellars with a generous and intense fragrance, letting the musts with a juicy and round characters. At the end of the maceration, our feelings were confirmed when the tastings revealed powerful and concentrated wines. The levels of acidity remained moderate despite their high levels. This acidity allowed the wines to keep a surprising freshness. On the aromatic level, the wines are expressive and precise, the palate is both powerful and silky.

TASTING NOTES

The comparison between vintages brings us immediately to great references ... 2009 for the richness and roundness with its solar temperament ; 2016 for the power and smoothness of the tannic frame and the remarkable ageing potential. A vintage at the crossroads of the best of both worlds: a precise blend of classicism and generosity.

TASTING NOTES

VINOUS - 92 / 95 James SUCKLING - 96 / 97

REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE - 16 / 16,5 DECANTER - 92 LE POINT - 16,5

BETTANE+DESSEAUVRE - 17,5 VINBLADET Peter Winding - 93/94