



## LES HAUTS DE SMITH

### LES HAUTS DE SMITH RED 2005

Chosen during the final blend of Château Smith Haut Lafitte, 2005 red Les Hauts de Smith was fermented and aged with every bit as much care and attention as the grand vin. In fact, this wine is produced in exactly the same way.

**Yield:** 30 hectolitres per hectare prior to making a selection of the estate's 3 wines: Smith Haut Lafitte, Les Hauts de Smith and Les Hauts de Maujan

**Grape varieties:**

55 % Cabernet sauvignon

35% Merlot

10% Cabernet Franc

**Winemaking:** Fermentation is done the traditional way at 26-28°C and maceration takes place at the same temperature. The wine is pumped over and/or the cap is punched down (pigeage). Pneumatic wine presses are used to ensure gentle pressing.

The wine ages in oak barrels for 14 months.

2005 will be remembered as a drought year in Bordeaux. Aggregate precipitation in 2005 was just 480mm, i.e. much less than the average of approximately 800mm.

The vines nevertheless managed to cope with the drought conditions with no manifestation other than low yields. Smith Haut Lafitte's old vines and fabulous terroir made all the difference, making it possible to produce wines of outstanding quality.

Thanks to their deep roots and little need for vegetative growth, the old vines at Smith Haut Lafitte were able to find enough water to:

- grow normally (adapting their physiology to limit water loss due to evaporation by growing small leaves and few side shoots, etc.)
- produce ripe grapes.

Smith Haut Lafitte's great terroir was able to alleviate the effects of the drought and provide sufficient water for slow, steady ripening. The roots simply pushed deep into the clay subsoil in order to find nourishment.



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### Tasting notes

When nature allows, we are able to produce very great wine, including our second wines. This 2005 red Hauts de Smith has a lovely, deep, bluish-red colour. The bouquet is expressive and concentrated with hints of the very ripe red and black fruit, graphite and spice. The wine is well-balanced and concentrated on the palate. It has plenty of tannin, but this is already totally integrated. This elegant, complete wine has a round, aromatic, and very long aftertaste of red and black fruit as well as spice and liquorice. It will be a delight over the next 3-10 years.

### DECANTER - \*\*\*\*

Developed -undergrowth and leather- but also vanilla and ripe plums. Firm, dry and less expressive palate with ripe, round tannins. From 2012-2022. (december 2008)