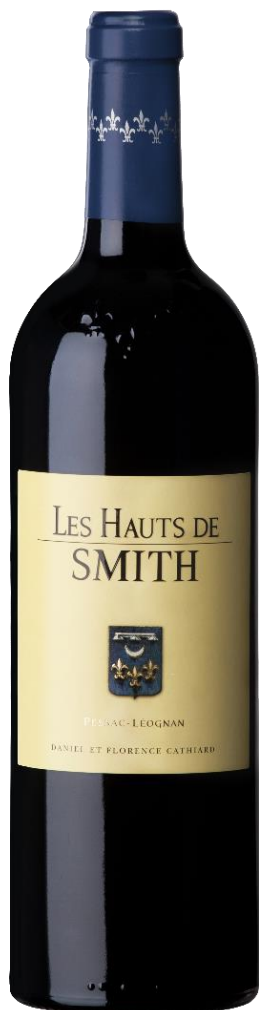


Les Hauts de Smith 2016 Red



Blended at the same time as Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte, Les Hauts de Smith 2016 was crafted and aged with the same care as the estate's Grand Vin; the entire winemaking process is exactly the same.

Yield: 36 hectoliters per hectare prior to selection for the three wines: Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte, Les Hauts de Smith and Le Petit Haut Lafitte.

Blend:

60% Merlot

40% Cabernet Sauvignon

Winemaking: Grapes are sorted twice, before and after destemming, to eliminate any undesirable elements (stem fragments). They are not pressed before undergoing fermentation in vats. Tannins and color are extracted by punching down and/or pumping over. Maceration takes place at 26-28° C; tasting determines the length of maceration for each vat (from 4 to 6 weeks).

Aging: 14 months in barrels (20% new wood) produced in our in-house cooperage.

To be enjoyed from 2018.

The 2016 vintage

It could have been a difficult year, between early bud break, frost warnings in the second half of April, hot, humid weather and widespread mildew in May and June and a very dry summer. But nature had something else in store for the estate, sparing it from frost and allowing its *terroirs* to accumulate enough water for the vineyard's oldest vines. A precise mastery of organic techniques allowed the team to control mildew, and water stress benefited tannin development in the estate's red wines. Finally, superb weather at the end of the growing season created ideal ripening conditions for the development of complex aromas. Harvest took place over 4 weeks (from 9/29 to 10/6 for the Merlot, on 10/6 for the Petit Verdot, on 10/12 for the Cabernet Franc, and from 10/10 to 10/19 for the Cabernet Sauvignon). Never overripe, grapes were harvested at the height of their phenolic maturity. What a delight it was to harvest perfectly ripened and balanced grapes under beautiful, sunny skies!

Despite our expertise and the cutting-edge tools at our disposal, it was only with time that we fully grasped the immense quality of the 2016 vintage. Mother Nature continues to surprise us...

Tasting notes by Fabien Teitgen, Technical Director

Les Hauts de Smith 2016 is a very dark, deep red. Expressive, with beautiful notes of raspberry, cherry and blackcurrant, the nose becomes more complex upon aeration, revealing mild spices and toasted aromas.

On the palate the 2016 is open and dense with lovely fullness. Round and elegant, it offers delightful tannins and smoothness. The long, fresh finish offers complex aromas of raspberry, blackberry, strawberry, cinnamon and star anise while also evoking the estate's *terroir* with flinty notes.

Balanced, fresh and smooth, Les Hauts de Smith 2016 is a true delight.

To be enjoyed from 2019.

Tasting scores:

Antonio Galloni – Vinous

92

En Primeur:

James Suckling

91-92

Jancis Robinson

17

Decanter

92