

Le Petit Haut Lafitte 2016

Red wine

Crafted from the young vines of
Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte



Blended at the same time as Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte, Le Petit Haut Lafitte is crafted and aged in our energy-plus facilities with the same care as the estate's Grand Vin. From the vineyard to the cellar, the entire winemaking process is exactly the same.

Yield: 35 hectoliters per hectare prior to selection for the three wines: Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte, Le Petit Haut Lafitte and Les Hauts de Smith.

Blend:
60% Cabernet Sauvignon
40% Merlot

Winemaking: Grapes are sorted twice, before and after destemming, and 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 barrels) produced in our in-house cooperage.

To be enjoyed from 2020.

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 in the fall 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

Le Petit Haut Lafitte 2016 is a deep, dark, intense red.

Still somewhat discreet, the nose reveals notes of black fruit and dried grass. Upon aeration it becomes much more expressive and complex, with notes of blackberry, blackcurrant, cigar leaves, dried jalapenos, and cold smoke.

On the palate the 2016 is concentrated with the firm tannic structure of Cabernet Sauvignon. Thanks to the Merlot, it is also full, smooth and ample.

Le Petit Haut Lafitte delivers lovely structure, volume and smoothness with a very long, fresh finish that recalls the same aromatic palette as the nose, with notes of blackberry, blackcurrant, tobacco leaves, star anise and flint.

Refined and elegant, Le Petit Haut Lafitte 2016 expresses the characteristics of Cabernet grapes planted on gravelly soils.

En primeur scores:

James Suckling	92-93
Robert Parker's Wine Advocate	91-93
Decanter	91
Jancis Robinson	17/20

In the bottle scores:

Antonio Galloni	94
-----------------	----