



CHÂTEAU HAUT-BAGES LIBÉRAL

PAUILLAC . 5^E GRAND CRU CLASSÉ EN 1855

FACTSHEET
Vintage 2009

The name of Château Haut-Bages Libéral has two roots. The LIBERAL family ran the property in the early eighteenth century. Brokers from father to son, they sold the harvest in the Netherlands and Belgium. Their name adjoining to the topographical designation, earned them to be invited worldwide to the table of political parties of the same name. Over time, these connoisseurs gathered the best soils of Pauillac. Thus, this 5th Classified Growth in 1855 now has half of its vineyards adjacent to Château Latour and the other half behind Château Pichon Baron, on the heights of the locality "Bages", a large plateau in the south of Pauillac.

The property would regain his youth when, in 1960, the Cruse family, owner of Château Pontet Canet, another 5th Classified Growth in Pauillac, acquired the property. The Cruse would launch an extensive program of replanting the vineyard. However, it was in 1983 at the arrival of the Villars family that Château Haut-Bages Libéral really recovered its former glory. Today, the property is run by Claire VILLARS LURTON. She undertook an overhaul of the tool of winemaking and she directs the vineyard management to a sustainable viticulture.

Owner	Claire VILLARS LURTON
Production manager	Stefano RUINI
Winemaking consultant	Eric Boissenot
Surface of the vineyard	30 hectares
Soil	Deep gravels from the Quaternary on limestone-clay substrate
Plantation	75% cabernet sauvignon, 25% merlot
Average age of vineyard	35 years
Density	10 000 plants/ha
Yield	1 kg to 1,2 kg/plant
Growing	Traditional-Integrated wine growing management
Harvest	Hand picking
Vinification	Traditional in stainless and concrete vats, whose volumes are proportional to the plots
Fermentation on skins	18 to 24 days
Blending	70 % cabernet sauvignon, 30 % merlot
Aging	In oak barrels during 16 months. 40% of new oak
Production	138 000 bottles including the second wine
Second vin	La Chapelle de Bages, la Fleur de Haut-Bages Libéral, le Pauillac de Haut-Bages Libéral
Conservation	5 to 30 years



CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VINTAGE

The vintage is the earliest of the last 5 years. Rainfall from April to September was lower than previous years, about 45% less compared to 2007. This resulted in a lower yield per vine.

September and October had cool nights, which resulted in a steady and rapid maturation of the grapes with optimal health conditions. All the varieties reached a high level of polyphenols and kept a nice freshness.

The merlot were harvested from September 21st to 29th and the cabernet sauvignon from September 29th to October 9th of 2009.

TASTING

The 2009 vintage has an intense purple red color. The nose is open with lots of black fruit and also red, but also floral notes. The attack is frank. The palate is powerful and has a good balance between freshness, fat and tannin. The finish is long and voluminous. The wine has character. 2009 was a long aging potential and is a great vintage.

TASTING SCORES

Robert Parker - 92

Wine Spectator - 91/94

René Gabriel - 19

Revue du Vin de France - 16,5

Neal Martin - 90 / 92

Bettane & Desseuve - 16,5

Jacques Dupont - 17