

CHATEAU HAUT-BAILLY

C R U C L A S S É D E G R A V E S

2020

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 

05/2021

An absolute gem from France. A Bordeaux like no other from Haut-Bailly. This has incredible power and drive with blackberry, black olive and graphite. Its full-bodied, yet dynamic and agile, with so much polished and muscular tannin. Yet, it remains in harmony and balance. So much character. The head of the chateau calls it diabolical beauty. **99-100**

JEB DUNNUCK

05/2021

A legendary Haut-Bailly in the making, the 2020 sports a dense purple color to go with powerful notes of blackcurrants, black cherries, scorched earth, and graphite. Reminding me of the 2010, it takes plenty of air to show at its best yet is full-bodied, has a seamless texture, massive of ultra-fine tannins, and a blockbuster of a finish. It's one of the most structured, powerful Haut-Bailly I've ever tasted, yet it still has the classic elegance, nuance, and length of this terrific terroir. It will need 5-7 years (or more) of bottle age but will have 50 years of overall longevity. **96-98+**

vinous

Neal Martin
05/2021

The 2020 Haut-Bailly was picked September 9–25 in what the estate has called the "year of reinvention." Having left my sample to open for 30 minutes and then assessed it over the following three hours, I found that it has a mercurial nose of gorgeous blackberry, briar, white pepper, incense and hints of blood orange. It gains intensity and becomes more floral with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with supple but firm tannins that provide backbone. There is plenty of black fruit laced with white pepper and clove. Perhaps less rich on the finish compared to the last two vintages – a virtue as far as I am concerned, as it allows more terroir to show through. This is an impressive Haut-Bailly to coincide with their new winery, which I hope to visit very soon. **95-97**

Terre de Vins

05/2021

S'il a le charme du millésime précédent, sa complexité est étonnante au moment de la dégustation. Il s'affiche plus dense, plus concentré, plus puissant. Un côté sanguin, une cerise rouge croquante, et surtout une texture à grain fin soutenue par une fine acidité. L'énergie et la classe. **98**



Lisa Perrotti-Brown
05/2021

Deep purple-black in color, it prances out of the glass with naturally beautiful notions of fresh black cherries, violets, mulberries and boysenberries, giving way to hints of redcurrant jelly, star anise, tilled soil and menthol. The medium to full-bodied palate is delicately crafted with velvety/grainy tannins and fantastic freshness framing the perfumed red and black berry layers, finishing on a lingering fragrant-earth note. **97-98+**



Pierre Citerne
04/2021

2020 est le premier millésime élevé dans le nouveau chai au toit végétalisé, s'intégrant avec grâce au sommet de la croupe de Haut-Bailly. Long, serein, très pur, le vin de ce millésime se situe dans la veine du magnifique 2019. Avec un naturel supérieur, il laisse parler le fruit, tout un éventail de baies rouges et noires, une touche de poivre et de mine de crayon. Il n'affirme jamais sa puissance, les tanins sont imperceptibles jusqu'en milieu de bouche mais conduisent la finale très loin. Du grand art. **96-98**

vinous

Antonio Galloni
06/2021

Deep, rich and explosive, the 2020 Haut-Bailly is magnificent from the very first taste. Dark fruit, chocolate, licorice and spice give the 2020 a level of unctuousness that is absolutely thrilling. Readers should be patient, as the 2020 is going to need time to come around. Yields are down 25% from 2019, and that richness comes through loud and clear. **95-97**

the Wine Cellar **INSIDER**

Jeff Leve
05/2021

Deeply colored, the wine explodes with fresh flowers, tobacco leaf, cigar box, currants, blackberry, Allspice, licorice, savory herbs and smoke aromas. On the palate, the wine is intense, balanced, silky and refined. The fruits express purity, harmony, length and complexity, finishing with layers of currants, blackberry, herbs, pepper and plums that hold your focus for at least 50 seconds. Give this at least 10-12 years of age. It will evolve and provide sensuous tasting for at least 25 or more years after that. **97-99**

A great wine with excellent tension, very deep, intense purple colour with violet hue and black core. **Very noble nose**, well concentrated with a wonderfully perfumed character. Blackcurrants and elderberries, floral hints, mallow blossoms, hints of liquorice, subtle oak, very complex with impressive elegance. On the palate juicy fruit, strawberries, blackberries. Powerful structured with massive ripe tannins, appetizing freshness, combining the power of 2016 and 2018 with the freshness of 2019. Expressive fruit, elegant spiciness and fine oak in the background. **A truly impressive wine. 98+**

Decanter

Jane Anson
05/2021

Rich in texture and colour, this has clear layers and complexity, a wine that you want to take your time with, slow down and enjoy. One that will take its time to age also. This has a **precision** and a **clarity to the aromatics**, and a gentle buzz of minerality that gives a physical reaction in the mouth. Less exuberant than the 2018 or 2019, making this a vintage that suits the style of Haut-Bailly. A slight austerity to the tannins on the finish gives a blueberry redcurrant edge. 3% Petit Verdot completes the blend (now around eight years old), usually co-fermented with the Cabernet Sauvignon (sometimes with Cabernet Franc). IPT similar to 2016, 2010, 2005, but with a **softness that comes from extremely ripe tannins**. Strong potential for upscoring when it bottle. **96**

Yves Beck

05/2021

Que d'intensité, de complexité et de subtilité dans ce bouquet. Il est marqué par d'élégantes notes fruitées telles que myrtilles, framboises ainsi que de rafraîchissantes nuances de menthe poivrée. En bouche le vin s'installe par palier ; l'attaque est fruitée alors que les tannins se révèlent petit à petit et gagnent en puissance le long du palais. Ils sont serrés, imposants mais également soyeux grâce à leur exceptionnelle finesse de grain. **Que de précision dans ce vin avec une si belle notion de force tranquille. Un Haut-Bailly puissant, fin, élégant et persistant. Il figure parmi les plus grandes réussites de Pessac-Léognan en 2020. 98-99**

B My Bordeaux

Christer Byklum
05/2021

Ruby. Blackberries, anise, fruit driven, nuanced, detailed, layered nose, floral high notes. Fresh acidity, ripe tannins, dark fruits, detailed, layered, lots of depth, anise, spices, structured, **focused, both linear and broad, long. 97-99**

Tasted alongside Haut-Bailly II, this shows a very similar violet-black hue, the obvious difference here being a major step up in concentration, the wine exhibiting a lightly dusty and near-opaque density in the glass. A quite brilliant nose here; it is not as immediately flattering as that of Haut-Bailly II (nor, I suppose, should it be), but you can sense the focus and intent here. It is **brilliantly defined**, with a tight core of blackcurrant and currant fruits, wrapped up with black bean, dark chocolate and cherry blossom scents, with a little lick of new oak. Beautifully defined on the palate, **such focused fruits**, lithe and sinewy though, rather than broad or weighty, rich with dark currant and damson, **so fragrant and perfumed**, set in a neatly defined texture, and tightly fenced in by its wrapping of **very fine tannins** and slowly unfurling tobacco oak. There is such **great concentration** here, yet also such **fine precision**, the wine just deftly skipping across the midpalate. **An absolutely stunning Haut-Bailly this year. 97-99**

ALEXANDRE MAU

05/2021

The nose is elegant and discreet, slightly offering savory spices and graceful black fruits. Strands of ink-like scent describe a unique charm that I often find in Chinese landscape painting. The entry is extraordinarily **refined and classy, adorned with a creamy texture and streamlined structure**. Tannins are possessive yet perfectly polished, infusing into the velvet and round body like falling into a cup of smooth chocolate milk. As a hot vintage, **Haut-Bailly 2020 shows me a supreme example of achieving a harmonious balance. 97-99**

 **JEAN-MARC QUARIN**
CRITIQUE INDÉPENDANT DES VINS DE BORDEAUX
www.quarin.com

05/2021

Couleur noire. Nez intense, fin, fruité, pur, subtil, noble, profond et complexe. **Un jardin de fleurs fraîches sur un lit de fruits noirs. Aérien** en entrée de bouche, **moelleux** et plein au milieu, avec une texture soyeuse, le vin se développe lentement, gras, **ascendant et profond**, avec dans les 30 derniers pour cent du palais **un magnifique éclat**. La douceur de sa pulpe me rappelle le 1964. Grain très fin. **Superbe ! 18,5**

LE FIGARO

05/2021

Un grand vin dont le nez est déjà **impressionnant de maturité**, avec de **voluptueuses notes de prunes et de fruits noirs comme la nuit**. Une bouche de crème de cassis, précise, portée par une texture fine, et le **parfait équilibre entre la rondeur du merlot et le caractère bien trempé du cabernet sauvignon, avec des tannins plein d'élégance. Un «grand» grand vin. 96-98**

bettane + desseauve

05/2021

Closed, minerally to smell, with a great finesse; full, supple yet fresh, and very fine in tannin, **an effortlessly beautiful balance; long and graceful, very Haut-Bailly in style**, full of soft, sweet, freshly ripe fruit, long and subtle across the palate, and with wonderful fragrant length. **A gloriously complete wine of great class. Power and delicacy, great beauty in a particularly discreet style. First-growth quality and refinement**, an illuminating tribute to the splendid new chai. Likely to be accessible early, but offer decades of pleasure. **94-96**

matthewjukes

05/2021

This is a delicious Haut-Bailly with a thrilling perfume of perfectly ripe grapes and discreet leaf details. The oak is firm and it buttresses the dense, dark fruit beautifully. Bold, regal and amazingly well-balanced considering its powerful stance, this is a long, fine wine with lip-smacking tannins and a welcoming kick of brightness and joy right on the finish. While the overall tone is of a contemplative soul as opposed to an extrovert, this is a delicious Haut-Bailly and when you dive into the serene black fruit and allow your palate to swim around its cathedral-like caverns of flavour there is a stunning sensation of freshness when you eventually come up for air. This is a wine that will be sure to open and reveal itself younger in its life than the past handful of vintages but I venture its staying power will be extraordinary, too. **19+**



Adrian van Velsen
05/2021

In der Nase ein kleines Spektakel, was für eine Droge, dunkle Kirschen, Brombeeren, Tabak, Tee, das Holz ist wahrnehmbar, würzige Komponenten, auch viele Veilchenblüten, Zimt, sogar zitrische Noten. Im gaumen verspielt, saftig, frischer, mittlerer Körper, straffe Gerbstoffstruktur, ein enges Korsett, kernig, hält die Frucht in Schach, der Wein hat Druck und Kraft, eine unglaublich Energie und zeigt im Abgang eine hervorragende Länge. **Einmal mehr, einer der ganz grossen Weine des Jahrgangs. Bravo! 97-99**

WINE REPORT

Akihiko Yamamoto
05/2021

きめ細かでシームレスなタンニン、ヴェルベツテイで、足りないもののないバランス感。ラベンダー、ブラックベリー、杉、黒鉛、凝縮して丸い。ピュアなフレッシュ感をコアに秘めていて、砕いた石、ミント、息が止まるような長いフィニッシュ。 **97**

Pur, éclatant et frais, le bouquet du Château Haut-Bailly 2020 offre des notes de fruits noirs, de myrtille, de menthol et une touche de Zan. Des notes de graphite et d'iris apparaissent à l'aération. Bouche dense, bien en place, assez massive pour la propriété avec **des tanins élégants, de l'épure et une allonge superbe**. Ce millésime sied à merveille à Haut-Bailly même s'il présente un côté un peu terrien et légèrement ferme. Les élevages amélioreront l'ensemble. **97-99**

falstaff

Peter Moser
05/2021

Tiefdunkles Rubingranat, opaker Kern, violette Reflexe, zarte Randaufhellung. Feine schwarze Beerenfrucht, angenehme Edelholzwürze, Nuancen von Brombeeren, Pflaumen, ein Hauch von Vanille, facettenreiches Bukett. Komplex, saftig, reife Herzkirschen, seidig wirkende, perfekt eingebundene Tannine, zeigt eine nahtlose Textur, sehr gute Länge und Harmonie, saliner Nachhall, **großes Zukunftspotenzial. 96-98**



James Lawther MW
05/2021

Well within itself but complex, compelling and **Powerful, deep-coloured wine with a considerable tannic core**. Mellow fruit provides a suave texture but the pixelated tannins are still palpable. Intense, brooding with lots of extract, the finish warm, the oak just present. Needs time to knit. **17++**

Lin LIU MW

05/2021

Another great example illustrating Haut-Bailly's DNA: **exquisite classicism. Grand, elegant, complex yet discrete**. Ample structure with solid mid-palate concentration filling in, making an impressive architect. Smooth texture of dark chocolate alike tannins. Dark-toned fruit core with layers of density. Finish with lingering salinity adding some dynamic and lift. Ageing potential: 2050+. **98-99**



Colin Hay
05/2021

Haut Bailly 2020 is **extremely refined, suave and elegant** on the nose, with the signature floral and herbal notes of the vintage. (...) The **considerable concentration and density** is fantastically well disguised. This unfurls beautifully, with the grain of the tannins very slowly revealing themselves and helping to stretch the fruit out over the mineral-saline backbone of the wine toward a **lovely sappy, juicy finish. 94-96+**

This wine's texture is **exceptional**, with powerful dark fruits and rich tannins blending seamlessly. All this density is cut with the finest spice and fresh acidity. The result is a wine that has both **power** and **delicacy** that gives a lift to the aftertaste. It will certainly age so well. **96-98**