

CHATEAU
SMITH HAUT LAFITTE
GRAND CRU CLASSÉ



● **Smith Haut Lafitte 2009**



Yield 34 hl/ha, before selection of the three wines: Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte, Les Hauts de Smith and Le Petit Haut Lafitte.

Blend

64 % Cabernet sauvignon

30 % Merlot

5 % Cabernet franc

1% Petit verdot

Vinification whole berries in small wooden vats at 28°C, extraction through pigeages.

Ageing 18 months on lees in French oak barrels (65 % new) made at the Château onsite cooperage, one racking only and then ageing adjusted for each wine.

Vine age: 38 years

Fabien Teitgen's comments, Technical Director :

The harvest began on 25 September in plots of young Merlot vines and finished on 14 October with Cabernet Franc. The excellent initial impressions we had from tasting the grapes were soon confirmed in the fermentation vats. The new wine was deeply-coloured, almost black. It had great concentration with powerful, complex, and elegant aromas of red and black fruit, spices, herbs, cedar, liquorice, clove, and graphite...

This complexity was also present on the palate, and the wine soon proved to be rich, powerful, balanced, and refreshing. With time, power and concentration have become its hallmarks – but not at all at the expense of finesse. The tannin is incredibly rich and there is a beautiful, long aftertaste. The aromatic complexity on the nose carries over to the palate, which features superb red fruit and spicy flavours (clove, liquorice, and cinnamon) as well as subtle overtones of graphite, gunflint, and violet...

2009 red Smith Haut Lafitte displays a rare combination of power, richness, outstanding elegance, and delicate tannin.

Tasting Notes

100



Robert Parker – WINE ADVOCATE

The finest wine ever made by proprietors Daniel and Florence Cathiard, the 2009 Smith-Haut-Lafitte exhibits an opaque blue/purple color in addition to a glorious nose of acacia flowers, licorice, charcoal, blueberries, black raspberries, lead pencil shavings and incense. This massive, extraordinarily rich, unctuously textured wine may be the most concentrated effort produced to date, although the 2000, 2005 and 2010 are nearly as prodigious. A gorgeous expression of Pessac-Leognan with sweet tannin, emerging charm and delicacy, and considerable power, depth, richness and authority, it should age effortlessly for 30-40+ years. Bravo!

96



James Suckling

Aromas of flowers, dried citrus fruit and blueberries follow through to a full body, with firm and silky tannins and a long, long finish. Gorgeous fruit and structure. Polished and powerful. Best red ever from Smith. Best in 2018.

96



James Molesworth – WINE SPECTATOR

This is really loaded, with crushed plum, blueberry, cassis, fig and blackberry paste flavors all melded together, along with notes of tar, pastis and violet. Very long and dark, but polished and pure, with terrific fruit offset by a great tug of earth on the finish. Should cruise easily in the cellar. Best from 2015 through 2035. 10,000 cases made.

94



Neal Martin - VINOUS

The 2009 Smith Haut-Lafitte has a very perfumed, quite floral bouquet with violets permeating the black and red fruit, hints of game and leather developing with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin. Touches of brown spice filter through the red fruit and towards a fleshy and lightly peppered finish. This is a classy Pessac-Léognan from the Cathiard's.

98

Jeff Leve

18.5

Olivier Poels - RVF

95

Jeannie Cho Lee

18

Jancis Robinson

95

John Stimpfig - DECANTER

18

Chris Kissack – WINE DOCTOR

17.5

Figaro Vin

18.5

Bettane & Desseauve