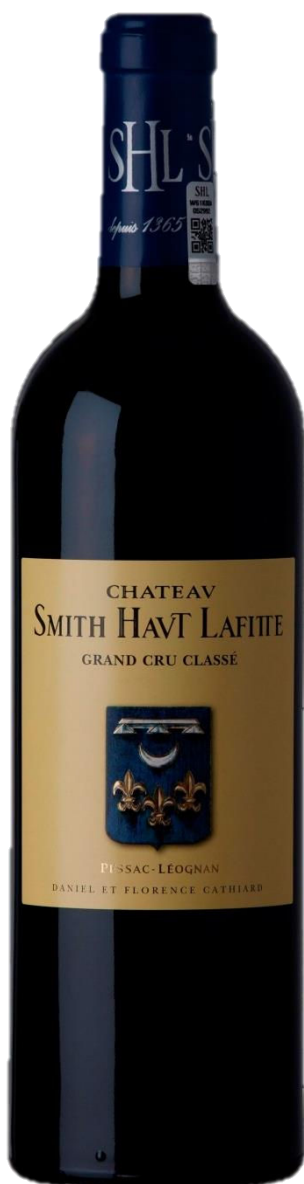


Château Smith Haut Lafitte red 2010

Grand Cru Classé de Graves



Yield: 35 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 of 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

Dry, cool weather = optimum ripeness

The 2010 vintage will be remembered for:

- A sum of temperatures close to that of summer 2009 (962°C compared to 982°C), but much cooler than in 2005 (1,052°C) – especially during the first three weeks of August. This locked in good acidity and gave the wines considerable aromatic freshness.

- Low rainfall from March to August 2010 (267mm) and dryness comparable to 2005 (227mm).

This was ideal for full ripening, while retaining the acidity typical of great Bordeaux vintages. The dry weather brought about an early stop to vine growth, and thus paved the way for a long, slow ripening period. The tannin had all the time it needed for total maturity. Red stems and brown crunchy seeds were sure signs of great phenolic maturity!

The harvest began on 29 September in plots of young Merlot vines and finished on 22 October with Cabernet Franc.

Comments by Fabien Teitgen, Technical Director

2010 Smith Haut Lafitte rouge is a deep, concentrated, nearly black colour.

The bouquet displays a range of red and black fruit aromas, as well as ones reminiscent of spice and warm herbs. With aeration, the wine reveals magnificent black fruit, liquorice, clove, and graphite nuances...

The wine starts out firm and straightforward on the palate. It is huge, but in no way austere. Its power comes through in a full-bodied flavour profile with a long aftertaste. The tannin is rich and silky, and the texture is well-defined thanks to ripe tannin and a careful control during extraction. The wine has an extremely well-focused structure and taste. The long aftertaste of liquorice, red fruit, and black fruit also features more subtle underlying flavours of hot stones and warm earth.

This 2010 Smith Haut Lafitte rouge is undoubtedly one of the finest wines the estate has ever made.

Tasting notes of the 2010 vintage

Wine Spectator	96
Robert Parker	98+
James Suckling	95
Bettane & Desseauve	18
Neal Martin	95
Jeff Leve	98
La Revue du Vin de France	19
Weinwisser - René Gabriel	19
Vinifera	94-96