

# Château Smith Haut Lafitte

## red 2013

Grand Cru Classé de Graves



**Yield:** 25 hl/ha, before selection of the three wines: Château Smith Haut Lafitte, Les Hauts de Smith and Le Petit Haut Lafitte.

### **Blend**

60 % Cabernet sauvignon  
35 % Merlot  
4 % 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 (60 % new) made at the Château onsite cooperage, one racking only and then ageing adjusted for each wine.

**Vine age:** 38 years

Enjoy in 2017 - 2027.

## **2013: year of climatic risks**

After a quite gentle yet humid winter, the vine woke up on due date as budbreak happened from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. The gloomy, cold and humid spring (April, May, June) strongly slowed down the vine cycle. We were fortunately spared by the spring frost of the 27<sup>th</sup> of April. Flowering was late by 2 weeks and disturbed by weather conditions, generating millerandage and on few plots of Merlot some important coulure.

A beautiful sunny summer with cool nights unleashed a very favourable maturation phase for white grapes: coolness of nights preserving aromatic freshness and acidity. These positive weather conditions made up for most of the heterogeneity of flowering and induced a quick and homogeneous although late veraison from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August.

Harvest started late with old vines of Merlot on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October followed by the Cabernets on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Due to humid weather we had to be very responsive to pick up the different plots at the right time. We therefore mobilized the efforts of over 200 harvesters and our two grapes reception areas.

### **Comments by Fabien Teitgen, Technical Director**

Château Smith Haut Lafitte red 2013 offers a beautiful bright red color with a very light blue hue.

The nose is expressive and complex with very bordelais fresh aromas of red fruits (strawberry, raspberry, red cherry), spices, clove, star anise, liquorice and blond tobacco.

The mouth presents a good concentration with an unctuous yet structuring tannic texture.

The attack is balanced, the middle-mouth unctuous and long aromatic finale is marked by notes of fresh red fruits, spices, aniseed and more terroir hints of flint stone.

A wine of elegance and complexity.