

CHATEAU HAUT-BAILLY TASTING



Date	:	Friday, 13 th February 2015	
Time	:	6:00pm to 8:00pm	
Venue	:	12/F Hong Kong Wine Vault (Wong Chuk Hang)	
No. of Attendees	:	60	
Wines Tasted	:	2012 Chateau Haut-Bailly	Robert Parker 91-93pts
	:	2011 Chateau Haut-Bailly	Robert Parker 94pts+
	:	2009 Chateau Haut-Bailly	Robert Parker 100pts
	:	2006 Chateau Haut-Bailly	Robert Parker 95pts
	:	1998 Chateau Haut-Bailly	Robert Parker 88pts
	:	2012 La Parde Haut-Bailly	Robert Parker 85-87pts
	:	2010 La Parde Haut-Bailly	Robert Parker 87pts

Careful research in the archives of Chateau Haut-Bailly reveals the ancient origins of this estate. Already, in 1461, vine were cultivated on this land which at the time was known as « Pujau » (« small height » in Gascon) to emphasize the topography of this unique terrior which gives its wine such remarkable character and elegance and also climate – sun, heat, rain, wind, humidity – and the soil in which the vines are grown.

Alcide Bellot des Minières, the former owner of Château Haut-Bailly at the end of the nineteenth century, was against grafting his delicate French vines onto phylloxera-resistant American rootstocks – something that was being done in the majority of other Bordeaux vineyards.

Although some American graft stock was eventually planted, Haut-Bailly still has 4 hectares of its old vines which are over a hundred years old – a mixture of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Carmenère, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Malbec. The remainder of the estate is planted with: 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot.



Madame Veronique Sanders, General Manager of Château Haut-Bailly sharing the Haut-Bailly story with us.

It has been our great honour to have Madame Veronique Sanders, General Manager of the estate, to present the wines to us. We began the tasting with the 2012 and 2010 vintages of La Parde Haut-Bailly, both of the second wine offers the classic notes of tobacco, coffee, sweet and ripe, the style of 2012 is more supple fruit aromatics and freshness but the 2010 has opulently textured as the wine has blended equal parts of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon with 20% Cabernet Franc.

We then moved on to the 2012 Haut-Bailly. This red shows intense blackberries, violets and plums on the nose, medium-weight, good concentration and ripe tannin. The 2011 exhibits the aromas of black currants, graphite, truffles, medium-bodied with good acidity and freshness, this good wine is also one to keep an eye on.



The 2009 Haut-Bailly shows dark ruby/purple color, a beautiful nose of blackcurrant, smoky, crème de cassis, plum and a touch of floral scent, low acidity with outstanding concentration and the tannins are well-integrated, this elegant wine showing a lot of characters that can also be enjoyable when its youthful!

We then move on to the 2006 vintage. This is very “Graves style”, earthy notes on the nose combine with sweet cherries, medium-bodied with a stunningly layered texture, the finish is long and elegant! The 1998 Haut-Bailly from magnum format has a dark ruby-coloured with sweet nose of berry fruit, smoky, spice box. The palate is medium-bodied with a rounded texture, rich and long, drinking beautifully now!

In Henry Guillier’s book “Grands Vins de la Gironde Illustrés” published at the beginning of the 20th century, Haut-Bailly is mentioned as being the only Graves, together with Haut-Brion, worthy of being ranked among the Bordeaux Classified First Growths. The price for which Haut-Bailly was being sold at the time confirms this position.



After the tasting, I totally agreed that Chateau Haut-Bailly is truly one of the great wines showing the unique terroir of Graves. The finesse and precision further indicates just how profound this wine will turn out. Thank you very much!