

Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte Tasting



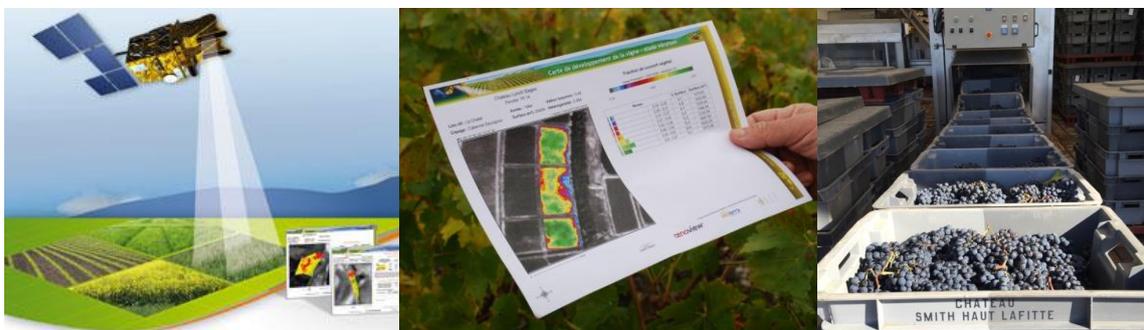
Date : Tuesday, 24th May, 2016
Time : 6:30pm to 8:00pm
Venue : 21/F Hong Kong Wine Vault (Tin Wan)
No. of Attendees : 60
Wines Tasted : Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte red 2012
Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte red 2007
Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte red 1998
Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte white 2012
Le Petit Haut Lafitte red 2011
Le Petit Haut Lafitte red 2008
Le Petit Haut Lafitte white 2014



Château Smith Haut Lafitte has a long history in Graves region Bordeaux that dates back since 14th century. The noble Bosq family started growing grapes on a gravelly plateau called Lafitte and the property was purchased

in the 18th century by Scotsman George Smith, who gave the estate its present name. He also built the manor house and exported his – by now famous – wine to England on his own ships. In 1990, Daniel Cathiard, fell in love with the property and joined the list of prestigious owners, firmly intending to further enhance Smith Haut Lafitte's tradition of excellence. He combined the most modern winemaking techniques and age-old methods: organic compost, hand-harvesting, small wooden vats, ageing on the lees in barrel, cooperage, Oenoview satellite imagery system, etc. Château Smith Haut Lafitte is one of the few Bordeaux wine estates producing both red and white wines.

The Cathiard's invested considerable sums of money into modernizing Smith Haut Lafitte. One of their first major decisions was in 1995 when they built their own cooperage, allowing them produce 70% of their own barrels in the exact manner they desired. Barrels have a major role to play in the flavour of the wines. Special attention is paid to the origin of the oak, the degree of toasting, seasoning methods, and preparation of the stave wood. Since 1993, Daniel Cathiard has personally selected the oak used to make the barrels in which Château Smith Haut Lafitte is aged. The next move was to completely redesign and create all new, state of the art wine making facilities.



Château Smith Haut Lafitte strive to stay on top of the latest technology available for Bordeaux wine makers. With the 2009 harvest, they were one of the first properties embracing the use of **Oenoview Satellite Imagery System** to assist in finding the perfect moment to begin harvesting their Pessac Leognan vineyards.



For the 2015 vintage, the Cathiard family produced a special label celebrating their 25 years of ownership at Smith Haut Lafitte. Today, the property features a world class spa, Les Sources de Caudalie. They specialize in Vinotherapie, which uses grape extracts in many of their products and treatments.



It was our pleasure to have Mr. Ludovic Fradin (left), the Commercial Director of the estate to present their premium wines to us.

2014 Le Petit Haut Lafitte white

A blend of 80% Sauvignon Blanc and 20% Sémillon -- It shows a more vibrant nose of lemon, green apple and freshness. Round and crisp acidity gives the wine an attractive and nicely balanced.

2012 Château Smith Haut Lafitte white

A blend of 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 5% Sauvignon Gris and 5% Sémillon -- It offers a bright and pale yellow color and delicate notes of peach, grapefruit and a hint of flower. Mineral, rich, well-judged acidity and some oaky flavors at the end taste. Delicious, brilliant finish!

2011 Le Petit Haut Lafitte red

A blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot -- The 2011 Le Petit Haut Lafitte exhibits the aromas of blackcurrants, licorice, spicy and a touch of smoky on the nose. Earthy, ripe fruits, good tannin structure with an overall expression of harmony and balance.

2008 Le Petit Haut Lafitte red

A blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot – It appears a dark ruby color along

with the expressive notes of spicy, blackcurrants and tobacco. Medium-bodied, good concentration and roundness give to the wines its length.

2012 Château Smith Haut Lafitte red

A blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot – Wine aged in barrel on the lees for 18 months (60% new barrels, made at the estate's own cooperage) and only racked once. Average age of the vines is 38 years old -- It emerges lots of red fruits flavor, licorice and smoky on the nose. Medium to full-bodied mouthfeel, ripe tannin, very good concentration with gorgeous texture and excellent length on the finish!

2007 Château Smith Haut Lafitte red

A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot -- The grapes were fermented whole in wooden vats with periodic pigeage (punching down): 28-30° C Ageing for 18 months in oak barrels (80% new oak, from the integrated cooperage) on the lees with one single racking, and then aged lot by lot – It offers up a succession of delicate aromas of blackcurrants, licorice, spicy and a touch of toasty oak. The palate is medium-bodied, finesse with silky tannin that is well balanced, drinking beautifully now!

1998 Château Smith Haut Lafitte red

Beautifully mature with lots of development, blackcurrants, meaty and earthy on the nose. Medium weight, plums, spicy and fine tannin that is well integrated. A classic, elegant style of Smith Haut Lafitte!