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CHATEAU HAUT-BAILLY

C R U C L A S S É D E G R A V E S

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2020 will always be remembered in the history of Haut-Bailly as an incredible year. An incredible year of solidarity facing the pandemic. An incredible year of difficulties in the vines, all of which have been overcome. An incredible year of satisfaction to witness the completion of the new winery, whose natural beauty and elegant form are an extension of the vineyard and the garden that are so dear to me.

The 2020 vintage itself will be incredible, being the first aged in this “jewellery box” of a cellar.

This architecture masterpiece offers to the exceptional terroir of Haut-Bailly a tool on its own level. Under its vaulted dome, high-precision technology allows us to reveal the full potential of our vineyard, and to pursue our drive to create, vinify and age great wines, in search of perfection.

This permanent quest is the true signature of Haut-Bailly.

**Chris Wilmers**

*Chairman of the Supervisory Board  
Château Haut-Bailly*

*Professor of Ecology,  
Department of Environmental Studies,  
University of California, Santa Cruz, USA*



The highlight of 2020 is to have achieved a very fine vintage in a year that has had its share of surprises. Put to the test by a succession of sanitary and climatic difficulties, we were continuously able to adapt to face each situation.

This unexpected year reminds us that surprise is part of life. It is even at the heart of our activity, as the work in the vineyard is constantly subject to the unpredictability of weather. The beauty and the very essence of our profession are to deal with the commands of nature. We do not know what tomorrow will bring, and this lack of certainty opens up the field of possibilities. It is an invitation to dream.

Dreaming and making people dream is what drives us at Haut-Bailly. We have the honour and privilege to live on an exceptional terroir, in a place that inspires us every day. Haut-Bailly nourishes our dreams, and is enriched by them when they come true. The completion of the construction of our modern cellar opens a new chapter for the estate.

This architectural work is an extension of our vineyard. It blends perfectly into the landscape, and the softness of its lines reflect the vineyard that surrounds it. The interior is spectacular, with unexpected volume, multiple perspectives and the omnipresent feeling of peace and harmony. It brings with it the promise of new heights for Haut-Bailly.

And since we have the freedom to dream, let us dream of freedom!

*Véronique Andlers*





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## A year of reinvention

**2020** is a vintage that was filled with unprecedented challenges, but also highlighted the incredible power of adaptation and our capacity to think on our feet. It was a year in which we faced the threat of spring frosts, resisted mildew in June, drought during the summer, and were spared the hail in May, June and August. It was also a year that required us to respond to new health conditions imposed by the global pandemic. We are particularly grateful for the dedication, vigilance and reactivity of our teams in organising the work in the vineyard, which was a key factor in the success of this year.



## Weather conditions

The winter was marked by heavy rainfall from November 2019 to March 2020, although January and February were fairly mild and dry, which facilitated the progress of pruning and vineyard maintenance. Precipitation from March to June broke records. Budburst was particularly early. So when France went into lockdown on March 17<sup>th</sup>, we went straight to work to manage the rapid and proliferating growth in the vineyard.

Frost hit several plots during the nights of March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and caused localised damage destroying the most developed buds. Straw bales were lit several times to combat this threat, which has become frequent in recent vintages. Warm temperatures at the end of April (25-26°C) stimulated vine growth requiring additional seasonal workers from April 20<sup>th</sup> onwards. The reinforced team in the vineyard was able to work in safe conditions, respecting health guidelines.





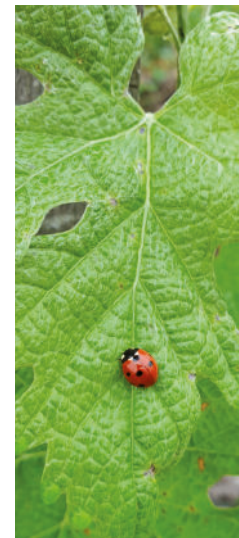
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The intense rains from May 1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> were equivalent to two months of rainfall. The soils were saturated and difficult to work. This is when a first miracle appeared: hot, dry conditions allowed for early flowering (two weeks early) for the Merlot between May 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, and for the other grape varieties in a more homogenous and grouped manner, from May 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first fortnight of June was dreary and vulnerable to mildew. The closure of the bunches ended around June 15<sup>th</sup>, almost three weeks earlier than usual.

Beginning on June 20<sup>th</sup> summer finally arrived when the weather changed radically (2<sup>nd</sup> miracle): hot and historically dry in July, and until August 11<sup>th</sup> with only 5 mm of rain for more than 50 days, punctuated by peaks of heat (> 40°C) on July 30<sup>th</sup>, and between August 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. This short-lived drought did not affect our plots, whose root system was able to reach the water reserves in the deep layers of soil formed during spring. The early veraison - from July 14<sup>th</sup> onwards - was heterogeneous.

From August 11<sup>th</sup> to August 13<sup>th</sup>, a few thunderstorms finally brought cooler weather and some rain (40 mm), enabling the veraison to be completed and relieving the hydric stress of the young vines.



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## Harvest

Early picking (September 9<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>) was carried out under exceptional weather. The vines were magnificent. Our harvest team was remarkable for its efficiency, mutual help and solidarity. The joy of picking a promising vintage was palpable.

The grapes were ripe, fruity, full of sugar and very concentrated. Yields are similar to those of 2010.



## Wines

The first tastings have shown an incredible homogeneity, with generous colour and density. The wines offer freshness but also complexity, depth, texture and as usual the elegant tannins which characterise Haut-Bailly. Powerful and rich wines are to be expected from a sunny vintage.

Nature, more than ever, in the extraordinary context of the year, was a saving grace for us. It tested our courage and our capability to reinvent, but in the end it was favorable to us. The quality of this vintage leads us to believe that determination, tenacity and passion can be rewarded. An exceptional terroir and skilled winemakers are always a winning equation. We will all remember 2020... and are proud of having produced a very fine vintage!







# Château Haut-Bailly 2020

A year of reinvention

Harvest: September 9<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>  
Blend: 52% Cabernet Sauvignon  
42% Merlot  
3% Cabernet Franc  
3% Petit Verdot

## TASTING NOTES

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# Haut-Bailly · II 2020

A reflection of the grand vin

Harvest: September 9<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>  
Blend: 54% Merlot  
46% Cabernet Sauvignon

## TASTING NOTES

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# Château Le Pape 2020

A smooth and elegant wine

Harvest: Merlot: September 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>  
Cabernet Sauvignon: September 25<sup>th</sup>

Blend: 80% Merlot  
20% Cabernet Sauvignon

## TASTING NOTES

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## A dialogue between architecture and nature

Our vineyard is a garden. The winery is its continuation just as the winemaking is the continuation of the work in the vines.

The building reflects the wines of the estate and the spirit of the place: discreet, elegant, precise. It mirrors the vineyard that surrounds it.

The project, which is remarkably aesthetic, meets three technical imperatives: to collect the harvest in the best possible conditions, to apply the same level of precision to the winemaking process as is applied to our viticulture, and to enable the cellar master and his team to work in the best of conditions in premises that are perfectly suited to their tasks.

The complexity of the project, the high standards required, the talent of the architect and the landscape designer as well as the quality of the selected companies make this building a unique place, outside of any usual configuration. More than a cellar, it is an architectural creation. The modern technical and environmental prowess is also timeless by the purity of its lines and its integration into the landscape.

An exceptional cru deserves absolute care and attention. The wines of Haut-Bailly are now elaborated and perfected in a setting that is tailored to their needs.



# Patrons of the art

## Museums

Faithful to their commitments, the Wilmers family and Château Haut-Bailly have been important patrons of the great artistic and cultural movements of Bordeaux.

At the Madd (Museum of Decorative Arts and Design) with Constance Rubini, the exhibition “Playground - Le design des sneakers”, was a great success greeted by an enthusiastic press, drawing a new young public who enjoyed the basketball court installed in the main courtyard.

At the CAPC “Le tour du Jour en Quatre-Vingts Mondes” marked a revival driven by its director, Sandra Patron. The CAPC has become a “Centre for Contemporary Art of National Interest” and also gained the title “Musée de France”.

Haut-Bailly is happy to support these changes and salutes the dynamism of the directors and teams of these two museums.

*Exhibition Playground - The design of the sneakers 2020 MADD-Bordeaux museum*

## Pulsations

Pygmalion is an independent entity founded and directed by Raphaël Pichon in 2006, combining a choir with an orchestra made up of historical instruments.

In July 2020, Raphaël Pichon created the Pulsations Festival in Bordeaux with more than 25 concerts.

Quickly conceived and developed, this first edition was a huge success and allowed for a large number of events. The many concerts revived the pleasure of singing and provided a new approach to classical music while maintaining high artistic standards.

The 2021 Pulsations programme promises exceptional, innovative, sometimes unusual, interactive projects in unique venues. Lyric art will hold a special place. The second edition will be a festival faithful to its musical excellence and principles.



