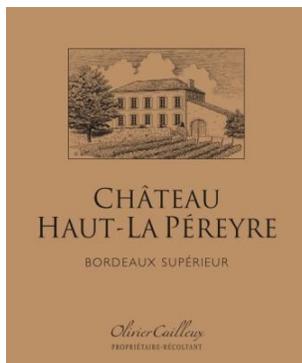


# Château Haut-La Péreyre

## Haut-Benauge



This domain started life in 1881 in the prestigious, if small and under the radar, appellation of Haut-Benauge in Bordeaux's Entre-Deux-Mers region. It sold its wine in bulk to traders over the years until Olivier Cailleux's parents began to estate bottle in 1974. Olivier himself was given the keys to the domaine in 1994; he is the sixth generation to manage the family affairs.

Haut-Benauge refers to the coveted high ground inland from the historic river town of Cadillac, which looks across the Garonne to the appellation of Graves. This hill country's south-facing slopes and good drainage make for prime vineyard land and is why the sector was granted its own appellation in 1955. The AOC is reserved for dry and sweet white wines—red wine falls under the larger AOC umbrella of Bordeaux Supérieur—but both colors do equally well here.

This sector's earlier claim to fame was that Benauges was the last bastion to fall to the French when they won the Hundred Years War in 1453 and finally drove the English out of Bordeaux (the English have never recovered).

Today, Olivier farms 126 acres of grapes. All in all, he makes a range of wine under several labels: red, white, rosé, even *crémant*; sells in bottle, in bag-in-box, continues to sell some in bulk (to the *négoc*), and he attends wine fairs on weekends to hawk his wares direct to consumers. As such, he typifies the ranks of *petits chateaux*, the class of unheralded small farmers who account for so much of the wine made in Bordeaux. There's little in the way of bells and whistles to announce their wines, but they can be some of the best values in Bordeaux—and France—today.

Olivier reserves 54 of his 126 acres for the production of his two most important wines, the Haut-La Péreyre red and white. 22 hectares (54 acres) represent his finest terroirs. red varieties make up 39.5 acres and the white varieties constitute 14.5 acres, and all are farmed according to the pragmatic principals of *lutte raisonnée*, or reasoned fight (ie, one can spray synthetic treatments to protect against mildew and odium, but not blindly or without evident reason).