
Alto de Cantenac Brown 2021

CSPC# 883824

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

90% Sauvignon Blanc, 10% Semillon
Margaux
Bordeaux Blanc AOC

<https://www.cantenacbrown.com/en/alto-de-cantenac-brown/>

Cantenac-Brown estate once formed part of Boyd-Cantenac, founded by Irishman Jacques Boyd in 1754 and later passed on within the family to Scottish socialite John Lewis Brown - who unfortunately became bankrupt. Designed by Brown in a traditional Tudor style, the château was host to the grand parties the owner was renowned for, highlighting his love of good wines. Sold in 1843 to a banker (Gromard), the owner in 1855, when the estate was granted a Grand Cru classification. Cantenac-Brown, also building the striking brown-brick château. Hard times were around the corner (phylloxera, war, depression) and by 1968, the estate was quite ready for the overhaul the Du Vivier family gave it. Rejuvenation continued under AXA Millésimes (they bought in 1998) and is ongoing today under British businessman Simon Halabi. 150 years later the Simon Halabi family has given new impetus to the estate with the ambition of raising it to the highest echelons.

Cantenac Brown also started to produce a small amount of white Bordeaux wine called AltO de Cantenac Brown in 2011.

AltO de Cantenac Brown comes from a specific 5.1-hectare parcel of vines planted to 90% Sauvignon Blanc, 6.5% Sauvignon Gris, and 3.5% Semillon. AltO de Cantenac Brown is vinified in French oak barrels.

Winemaker
Vintage

Josž Sanfins

The winter of 2021 was relatively mild, although quite wet, with more than 230 mm of rain falling in the first two months of the year. With the month of March being drier and warmer, our vines flowered between the 23rd and the 30th of the month. Spring was marked by frequent and severe episodes of frost, testing the frost protection sprinkling systems on our white grape vineyards like never before. Temperatures fell so drastically that we lost close to a hectare's worth of our white harvest. On the other hand, our red grape vineyards were less affected by the cold, with only a few vines hit by some morning frost.

May and June recorded quite a bit of rainfall, and we had to be watchful to prevent the spread of fungal diseases. The determination of our team eventually paid off and we were able to maintain the grapes and leaves in good health. Budbreak occurred between the 1st and the 6th of March in average conditions, however the fruit-set was excellent, with only a few of the older plots falling prey to coulure or shatter.

After a rainy month of July, August and the first half of September were extremely dry. Just after we had finished picking the white grapes, we had about 45 mm of rain, raising concerns of a poor red harvest.

Vineyards

For many years, the magnificent Grand Cru Classé de Château Cantenac Brown has been accompanied by BriO de Cantenac Brown, a special parcel selection from Cantenac Brown vineyards. But in 2011, our family expands with the addition of AltO de Cantenac Brown, our white wine.

We are fortunate to own a wonderful plot of clay and calcareous soil cool enough to produce a fine white wine.

1.80 hectares are planted to

Sauvignon Blanc (90%) and Semillon (10%) for a production of only 7,000 to 8,000 bottles a year.

Harvest

September 9th-10th

Vinification

Slow pressurization by inert gas fermentation in barrels

Aging

French oak barrels. 10% new barrels. 90% one year old barrels

Tasting Notes

We wished to make a wine of nice minerality, beautiful aromas, and a wine for Gastronomical table. Elegant and delicate, AltO pays homage to the art of music, while at the same time complimenting the entire Cantenac Brown gamut of wines. A perfect addition!

AltO 2021 is marked by citrus fruits, lime, nectarine hints...The round and elegant mouth, marked by a beautiful freshness and vivacity, is supported by a nice tension.



Serve with	Chateau Cantenac Brown is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese.
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2027
Scores/Awards	<p>89-91 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>93 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - April 2022</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>90-91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - Vert de Vin - April 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"The 2021 Alto de Cantenac Brown exhibits notes of citrus zest, crisp stone fruits, fresh mint and pastry cream, followed by a medium-bodied, fleshy and textural palate underpinned by lively acids. It will be bottled soon and arrive on the market in time for summer."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Lots of sliced apple and lime with some grapefruit on both the nose and palate. Green mango, too. Medium body, bright acidity and a fresh finish. Minerally and clean. Hints of honeysuckle. A blend of 90% sauvignon blanc and 10% semillon."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Perfumed black cherries and raspberries on the nose. Lovely sculpting, you get waves of juicy, bright, red summer berries and just-ripe red cherries with creamy, chalky edges. Tannins are present and linger on the tongue, gently gripping the flavours. This has great character, not too dense nor expansive, but good definition, energy, and classicism with slate and crushed stone. Touch of bitter black chocolate marks the finish which is extremely attractive. Excellent job from winemaker Josž Sanfins."</i></p> <p>- GH, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"Lemon peel, orange, white peach, and pineapple show up on the nose and in the bright, fresh, crisp palate. The wine was produced from a blend of 90% Sauvignon Blanc and 10% Semillon. Drink from 2022-2027"</i></p> <p>- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Alto de Cantenac Brown is a tasty dry white. White pepper, mint, crushed rocks, and lemon peel give this fresh, vibrant white tons of nuance. Drink this over the next few years."</i></p> <p>- AG, Vinous</p> <p><i>"The nose is nicely fresh, precise and reveals some fleshiness and discreet firmness (in the background). There are notes of fleshy/pulpy nectarine, fleshy apple and more slightly ripe citrus fruits combined with delicate nuances of peach blossom, crushed peach, hints of Quenette, a subtle touch of fresh passion fruit, mineral, and chestnut butter. The palate is nicely managed, elegant, precise and demonstrates roundness, nice gourmandize, roundness, purity, tension, juiciness, smoothness, a tangy backbone. On the palate, this wine expresses notes of Quenette, vine peach and, more lightly, fleshy/juicy green apple combined with hints of lychee, grapefruit and fine points of bright/ripe white grapes, a subtle hint of tangerine, fresh almond, and iodine minerality. Good length."</i></p> <p>- Vert de Vin</p>
