

Château Brane-Cantenac 2018

CSPC# 849082

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

CSPC# 881009

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety	74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Margaux
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	www.brane-cantenac.com
General Info	Château Brane-Cantenac was for many years the home of Lucien Lurton - it is now owned and run by his son Henri. Its vineyards are located west of the village of Cantenac in the Margaux appellation. Brane Cantenac was perceived throughout much of the 70s and 80s as an underperforming property. Since Henri took over, there has been extensive investment in the cuverie and chai, as well as vastly improved vineyard management techniques. Consequently, the wines at Brane Cantenac now show more weight and concentration, although they still possess that haunting bouquet and quintessential elegance that characterise the wines of Margaux. It is classified as a 2ème Cru Classé.
Winemaker	Henri Lurton
Vintage	2018 was a special year because of the very high threat of mildew. We had to be very vigilant to combat this disease, adopting the most natural possible strategy while avoiding excessive use of copper, high doses of which can sterilize the soil. The summer was superb, resulting in an exceptional vintage. The vines did not suffer during the dry period thanks to high groundwater reserves at the start of the growing season and the good water retention capacity of the property's clay-gravel soil.
Vineyards	Henri Lurton, the proprietor here, has been working to improve quality in the vineyard with regrafting of Merlot to high quality Cabernet Sauvignon as they look to keep freshness and structure in the wines. 72 hectares in AOC Margaux with 30 hectares planted on the "Terrasse" n°4, on the quaternary era-deep gravels. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40 % Merlot, 4% CabernetFranc, 0,5 % Petit Verdot, 0,5% Carmenère. Average vine age is 35 years old.
Harvest	The 2018 Brane-Cantenac was picked from September 17 to October 11 at 45hl/ha
Maturation	18 months in French oak barrels, with 70% new.
Tasting Notes	Deep and dark color with purplish reflections. The nose is intense. It harmoniously combines woody, spicy, fruity, and floral notes and reveals its great complexity when aired. The attack is large, the mid-palate is dense and has a high sweetness. The wine is concentrated and chewy. It is beautifully balanced. The grainy, silky, and coated tannins give the wine a great elegance. Undoubtedly a Brane of long aging.
Serve with	Chateau Brane Cantenac is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Brane Cantenac is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese
Cellaring	Drink 2026-2045
Scores/Awards	93+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021 92-94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019 95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021 95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019 95 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2021 94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019 17++ points - Tom Parker, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020 16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019 95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020 95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019 96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021



Scores/Awards **95-97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019

16.5 points - Farr Vintner - April 2019

93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021

92.94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019

92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019

95+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021

94-96+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019

17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019

17.5-18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - April 2019

96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2019

Reviews *"The 2018 Brane-Cantenac is medium to deep garnet-purple in color, leaping from the glass with vibrant notes of kirsch, black raspberries and warm cassis, plus suggestions of roses, forest floor and cinnamon stick with a waft of cedar chest. The medium-bodied palate is wonderfully elegant and refreshing, weighing in at just 13.5% alcohol, while not scrimping on the interplay of red and black fruits. It has lovely soft tannins and a long, perfumed finish. Impressive!"*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2018 Brane-Cantenac is deep garnet-purple in color and delivers expressive black cherry compote, blueberry coulis and crème de cassis scents with suggestions of cigar box, Provence herbs and lavender. Full-bodied with mouth-filling, rich black fruit preserves, it has a velvety texture and a long, perfumed finish."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Aromas of mushroom, meat, bark and iodine with blackberries and blackcurrants, following through to a full body with firm, creamy tannins that give structure and form to the wine. Tight on the finish. Long and persistent with presence. Drink after 2025."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"What strikes me about this Brane-Cantenac is the gorgeous center palate of ripe fruit, which gives an impression of generosity, yet it's tight and reserved at the same time. Fine and polished tannins follow on and drive this gorgeous fruit."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is now performing as one of the top Margaux estates. Their latest release shows structure, elegant black fruits and rich tannins. Densely textured and vibrantly fruity, the wine has a fine future. Drink from 2027. *Cellar Selection* (RV)"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"This wine is rich yet finely balanced. The acidity and the tannins are well integrated with the beautiful black currant flavor. Overall, this fine wine promises a bright future."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. Deep ruby colour. Classic fragrance, violets, and fresh blackcurrants. Lovely nose. Silky entry, with a rush of fresh cassis fruit and vibrant acidity in tandem on the palate. Svelte but intense, retaining all the freshness of great bordeaux while exhibiting hints of the solar vintage in the ripeness of fruit. Long and fine with subtle spices lingering on the finish. Lots to enjoy here. (TP)"

"74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot; 70% new oak. Barrel sample. Darkest core with barely a rim. Prettily scented, reminding me, along with Angludet just tasted, of the aromatic distinctiveness of classic Margaux. A bit dry and slim on the palate but the tannins have been gently handled and there's freshness to finish. (JH)"

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Deep and generous blackberry fruits and rich chocolate, there is good balance here with depth and interest and a ton of flavour. Really good stuff, with juice and a drive forward through the palate. 1% Petit Verdot makes up the blend - there was no Carmenère in the grand vin in 2018. 70% new oak. Drinking Window 2026 – 2045."

- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews

"This is a serious wine, with well-constructed walls and floor, but it's full of life too, with brambled, succulent and generously-extracted fruit on the nose. It has less immediate charm than some in the appellation and will take a while to come round, but it has clear ageing ability and is one to savour. You feel the precision and confidence in how it presents itself. 1% Petit Verdot makes up the blend - there was no Carmenère in the grand vin in 2018. 45hl/ha yield. 70% new oak. Drinking Window 2027 – 2042."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Elegant, fresh and refined, the wine offers layers of sweet, ripe, fresh, red berries, smoke, flowers, wet earth, herbs, spice box and tobacco leaf in the perfume. On the palate, the wine is silky, lifted, long and pure, displaying a beautiful depth of flavor in the finish. The wine blends 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep garnet in color, this wine exudes a dark, black cherry core of fruits. Next, the perfume reveals hints of smoke, flowers, thyme, and cigar wrapper. On the palate, the wine is focused on silky tannins, elegant textures, and depth of flavor. Fans of Brane Cantenac should know that even with this depth of fruit the wine is still dances lightly over the palate. I am not ready to pick a favorite from the 2015, 2016 and 2018 trio but it is going to be fun tasting and comparing those vintages over the next few decades! From a blend of 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13% alcohol with a pH of 3.76. It represents 60% of the harvest, which took place from September 14 to October 10. The higher than usual percentage of the Grand Vin is due to the frost, which hit the areas of the vineyard customarily reserved for the second wine."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep in colour, with strawberry and red cherry fruit on the nose layered with notes of tobacco and incense. The palate is juicy and rounded but cut by fresh acidity that gives a cooler, brighter edge to the black fruit at the core. The oak is integrated but smoky, with notes of roasted coffee bean and bonfire. The finish is vibrant, juicy, long and savoury."

- Farr Vintners

"The 2018 Brane-Cantenac was picked from September 17 until October 11 at 45hl/ha and aged in 70% new French oak. As I wrote in my barrel report, the bouquet is more forthcoming than other vintages, scents of blackberry, cranberry, fern, and mint lending it a Pauillac touch, as you often find on Brane-Cantenac in its youth. The palate is very well balanced with a fine bead of acidity. As usual, there is a soupçon of underlying greenness that will dissipate with bottle age. This brims with energy yet remains very classic in style. Will it drink earlier than other vintages? I am not so sure; revisiting this in bottle, I would certainly afford it 4–5 years. 2024 - 2048."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Brane-Cantenac was picked from September 17 to October 11 at 45hl/ha and aged in 70% new French oak. The nose is more immediate compared to other vintages, demanding less coaxing, and offering attractive cranberry, raspberry, mint and chalk dust aromas that feel well defined and focused. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannins and good acidity (pH 3.78). This is quintessential Brane-Cantenac, its DNA overriding the leitmotifs of the growing season. Touches of sour cherry appear toward a saline finish that lingers nicely in the mouth. This is full of freshness even at this early stage, and I suspect it will drink sooner than other recent vintages. 2024 – 2048"

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Brane-Cantenac captures all of the natural richness of the year. Ample, creamy, and resonant, the 2018 offers quite a bit of intensity while retaining its mid-weight sense of structure. Dark red cherry, mint, spice, and dried rose petals are some of the signatures. Even with its obvious volume the 2018 retains lovely aromatic freshness and nuance. The 2018 is an especially juicy, open-knit Brane-Cantenac. Grilled herbs, menthol, spice, and anise add an attractive upper register to the perfumed finish. The blend is 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Tasted three times."

- AG, Vinous

Reviews

"A quintessential Margaux as well as one of the finest wines I've tasted from this estate, the 2018 Château Brane-Cantenac is based on 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, all aged in 70% new French oak. Beautiful cassis and mulberry fruits as well as notes of leafy tobacco, spice, cedarwood, and spring flowers emerge from the glass. Medium to full-bodied, beautifully balanced, and elegant, it has loads of fruit, a seamless texture, and a good spine of acidity. Give bottles 4-5 years and enjoy over the following 30 years or more."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"The grand vin 2018 Château Brane-Cantenac checks in as 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, and the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that fermented in wooden tanks and saw malolactic fermentation and aging in 70% new French oak. It's a beautifully layered, sexy beauty loaded with notions of blackcurrants, spicy oak, camphor, and dried tobacco. Medium to full-bodied, balanced, and layered on the palate, it has a seamless texture, sweet tannin, remarkable freshness and purity, and a great finish. Count me in as a fan. This is another irresistible 2018 that should be snatched up by readers. It will keep for 25-30 years."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"(74 Cabernet Sauvignon, 23 Merlot, 2 Cabernet Franc) | 70% new oak | 13.4% alc | 45 hl/ha | 3.78 pH This is yet another superb Brane-Cantenac and the fruit is clean, ripe and smooth and it is not too overblown or heavy. There is delicious intensity here and the tannins are wonderfully mouth-watering and complete. I would not hesitate to recommend this wine not least because it will surely drink early and hold well, too. The only problem I have with it is that the blend that I noted down only adds up to 99%!"

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
