

Château Cantenac Brown 2017

CSPC# 744982

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot
Margaux

Third Growth. Troisieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<http://www.cantenacbrown.com/en/>

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.

Winemaker
Vintage

Éric Boissenot

After a cold January month, February and March were quite mild and the budburst was fast and homogeneous. The vintage began to look promising; April was particularly beautiful, with important thermal amplitudes. The wind shifted to the North. At dawn of April 27th and 28th, the sky was perfectly clear, and temperatures fell below 0°C (32F). We are lucky as the majority of Château Cantenac Brown vineyard did not suffer too much loss. After this climatic shock, the following months were hot, especially the end of June where a heat wave boosted the vegetation. It was a true godsend. In July and August, temperatures stayed reasonable; while the vines remained advanced compared to the thirty-year average.

Finally a vintage in 7 with a high-quality level? The summer was slightly fresher than usual and the rains during the beginning of September removed any doubt, we will not harvest a 1947. What a pity!

Nevertheless, the vintage has a great potential, thanks to all the attention to detail including leaf thinning, removal of secondary shoots, and even green harvest on some particular plots too overloaded.

Vineyards

The 54-hectare Bordeaux wine vineyard of Cantenac Brown sits on gravel and sandy soils. Planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot & 10% Cabernet Franc, the average age of the vines are 35 yrs of age. The terroir is gravel and sand. The vines are planted to a density of 8,500 vines per hectare. Yields are high, averaging 55 hectoliters per hectare. The estate takes a sustainable approach to their Left Bank vineyard farming techniques. This approach means only plant-based fertilizers are used.

Harvest

The harvest took place September 14 to October 2. Merlot: September 14th - 21st; Cabernet Franc: September 26th; Cabernet Sauvignon: Sept. 27th - Oct. 2nd

The crop started progressively mid-September. We began with the plants and seedlings.

Then we prepared ourselves to harvest the old vines at good maturity. 2017 will remain in the memories as the vintage of the frost ...but 2017 is above all an early vintage with a regular and fast flowering and a homogeneous veraison. The great

terroirs gave great grapes. Very early, bunches presented a remarkable wealth in anthocyanins; juices are fresh and colored. Merlots are plumps and gourmands. Cabernets reveal complex aromas.

Maturation

French oak barrels 60% new oak barrels 40% one-year-old oak barrels.



Tasting Notes	Medium-bodied, Château Cantenac Brown 2017 offers a fresh attack. The middle palate is full of black fruit aromas rolled in a fine and granular tannic structure. The fruit notes develop in the mouth until giving way to a complex, tasty and impressively long finish.
Serve with	Chateau Cantenac Brown is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Cantenac Brown is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese.
Production	7,916 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2036
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2020</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2018</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2020</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p>95 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2020</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2020</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2020</p> <p>90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2018</p> <p>89-92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018</p> <p>90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>91 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2018</p> <p>94-95 points - Jonathon Choukroun, Vert de Vin - April 2021</p> <p>16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021</p> <p>15 points - Bettane & Desseuve (score only) - April 2020</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Warm and seductive in feel, with velvety plum sauce, blackberry puree and incense notes all melded together, flowing through a sandalwood- and black tea-tinged finish. Nicely done for the vintage. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Drink now through 2032. 7,916 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A bright savory streak leads off here, offering fresh cassis and bitter plum fruit flavors. A tangy mineral note runs through the finish. A pure and elegant wine that should fill out a bit more with the élevage."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"With a larger proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon this year, the blend is 67% Cabernet Sauvignon and 33% Merlot. Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Cantenac Brown leaps from the glass with exuberant notes of cassis, warm plums, and black forest cake with touches of violets, dark chocolate, cloves, and cigar box plus a waft of lavender. The palate is medium-bodied and firm with fine-grained tannins and tons of freshness, finishing with plenty of black fruit and perfumed layers.</i></p> <p><i>The vineyard received a bit of frost in 2017 with yields finishing at 35 hectoliters per hectare, whereas normally yields are around 42 hectoliters per hectare. "In 2003 the production was lower than this," estate manager José Sanfins added. "We tried not to make a mistake in the extraction here, trying to keep this vintage delicate and soft."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A solid core of fruit to this with blueberry and blackberry character. Plenty of chocolate as well. Medium to full body. Dense and flavorful for the vintage."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is a very pretty cabernet sauvignon with currants, raspberries, and blueberries. Bright and vivid. Medium to full body, firm and silky tannins and a fresh and clean finish."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Château Cantenac Brown 2017 Margaux. A lush wine packed with tannins and rich dark fruits, this will be dense and complex. Its solid structure is balanced with good acidity from the fruitiness. *Cellar Selection* (RV)"</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p>

Reviews *"The dial is just a little more turned-up here compared to most Margaux this year, but it works. Subtle charred oak notes are evident on the nose, with tight, savoury cassis and bilberry running through the mid-palate without dipping at all. It ends well, with a breadcrumb trail of carefully placed fruits. Nobody is going to call this broad-shouldered or a fruit bomb, but it is successfully expressed and really elegant, with layers of flavour. It's a wine that should be lovely to open in around eight years, so a little earlier than usual, but with good ageing potential."*

- JA, Decanter.com

"With a nice depth of color, the wine is loaded with deep, ripe, dark red fruits, smoke, cherries, plums, and blackberries. Lushly textured with length and complexity, this will be even better with age."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Showing respectable dark color in the glass, the wine opens with vanilla, licorice, smoke, black cherry, and the scent of a leafy wet valley. Medium/full bodied, forward, polished, sweet, and fruity, the wine is focused on the creamy tannins and subtle mouth feel. You'll notice sweet cherries throughout and a light splash of cocoa for an easy drinking finish. Already great now, the wine was produced from blending 67% Cabernet Sauvignon and 33% Merlot. The harvest took place September 14 to October 2."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2017 Cantenac Brown has really come together nicely. The typically overt Cantenac Brown style is present in a round, supple Margaux that exudes textural richness and raciness. Dark cherry, spice, chocolate, and licorice all flesh out in this wonderfully inviting, supple Margaux, with pretty savory notes that add freshness and energy. This understated wine is all class."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2017 Cantenac Brown is dark, plush, and powerful. Black fruit, chocolate, spice, new leather, and licorice notes infuse this plush, voluptuous Margaux. There is no shortage of depth or intensity, that much is clear. This is an especially potent style. Technical Director José Sanins lowered temperatures in fermentation and chose to handle the wines minimally with the goal of avoiding the extraction of hard tannin."

- AG, Vinous

"The deep, inky-colored 2017 Château Cantenac Brown is beauty that shines in the vintage. Black and blue fruits, plenty of violets, charcoal and spice, medium body, and ripe tannin all make from a beautiful, charming, balanced Margaux that will drink nicely for 15-20 years."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deep dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate lightening of the edges, dark berries, a hint of nougat, ripe plums, nuances of figs. Medium-bodied, red berry texture, red cherries, fine tannins, freshly structured, salty nuances in the aftertaste, a light-footed accompaniment to food."

- Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is elegant, fruity, racy and offers gourmandize, a fine richness as well as a very fine power. It reveals notes of blackberry, raspberry, and small notes of toasted associated with fine touches of chocolate, a subtle hint of grey pepper, spices as well as a discreet hint of lilac and an imperceptible hint of nutmeg. The mouth is fruity, well-balanced and offers an acidulous frame, tension, a fine fat, a very fine density, a beautiful definition, a beautiful structure, complexity, a beautiful finesse of the grain as well as a beautiful and slightly creamy matter. On the mouth this wine expresses notes of fleshy/juicy cassis, Boysen berry, wild strawberry and small notes of small red berries associated with fine touches of iris and violet with fine touches of iris, violet as well as a very discreet hint of spices, toasted and an imperceptible hint of vanilla. Good length. Tannins are elegant and structuring."

- Vert de Vin