

Château Branon 2010

CSPC# 756471

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

CSPC# 844659

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 50% Merlot

Appellation

Pessac-Leognan

General Info

Chateau Branon is an old property whose high reputation dates back to the 18th century. It is located in Léognan on the slope of a gravelly hill between Haut-Bailly and Malartic Lagravière. Its vineyards are particularly well exposed towards the south and south-west. The whole estate was in a very poor condition and partly abandoned when Sylvaine Garcin-Cathiard acquired it in 1996. Today it comprises of 6.5 hectares. It is mainly the diversity of its soil that gives the wine its character. The exceptional soil consists of clay and gravel washed up from the Pyrenees caused by the meanderings of the Garonne over time.

In former years the wine had indisputable fame as the old ruins of the Château and the chai testify. One of the Gironde's oldest stone wine presses can be found here. An ancient book - "Les richesses gastronomiques de la France, les vins des Bordeaux", written by Charles Lorbac, says that the merchants Schröder and Schyler bought the 1865 vintage at a price of 1800 F (Germinal) per "tonneau". The official documents of the classification of 1855 indicate that BRANON, at that price, was classified as a 4^{eme} cru.

Vineyards

The 6.5-hectare Bordeaux vineyard of Chateau Branon has a terroir of clay and gravel soil. It's planted to an even split with its 50% Merlot and 50% Cabernet Sauvignon cepage. On average, the vines of Chateau Branon are close to 35 years of age. At Chateau Branon, malolactic fermentation is performed in barrel. The wines are aged in 100% new, French oak barrels. Production is tiny. Only 6,000 bottles of Chateau Branon are produced every year.

Maturation

It is aged for 16-18 months in new French oak.

Tasting Notes

With a very perfumed and balanced nose, the intense red fruit and a hint of earth liven up the palate. It is concentrated, pure, and well structured.

Cellaring

Drink 2016-2030.

Scores/Awards

94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013

92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011

97 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013

96-98 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011

91-93+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011

93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2011

88-91 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July/Aug2012

15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011

16 points/4 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011

95 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2011 (no review)

95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 21, 2011

Reviews

"Loaded, with intense bittersweet cocoa, mulled blackberry, steeped fig and warm plum reduction notes, all layered together and pushed by a loamy finish. Dark, deep and intense, showing some serious grip. Best from 2016 through 2030."

- JM, Wine Spectator

V" Really juicy and racy, with a great graphite spine supporting the dark linzer torte, boysenberry and blackberry fruit. Very fresh and long, with a tarry note hanging on nicely. Score range: 92-95."

- JS, Wine Spectator



Reviews

"Once again in 2010, notes of mocha, espresso roast, chocolate, creme de cassis and scorched earth soar from this opaque, purple-colored wine. It is aged in 100% new oak, but that is hardly noticeable given the wine's sensational richness and extravagant fruit. This wine is classic, full-bodied and intense. It's just a shame that less than 8,000 bottles are usually made. This wine is still backward, but very full, rich, and impressively pure in texture. Give it another 5-8 years of cellaring and drink it over the following 20+ years.

From a small but fabulous jewel of a property owned by the Garcin family, sandwiched between Malartic-Lagraviere and Haut-Bailly, this blend of 50% Merlot and the rest equal parts Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon is absolutely sensational. The debut vintage, 2000, continues to show tremendous potential and clearly reveals the high-quality terroir Branon possesses."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The fruit from this vineyard, planted on a small outcropping of gravel close to both Haut-Bailly and Malartic-Lagraviere, used to be blended with Haut-Bergey until the Garcin family decided it had such an impressive potential that it had to be culled out. A blend of equal parts Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, the production is a tiny 6,000-8,000 bottles. The debut vintage, 2000, was one of the superstars of that superlative vintage. The 2010 reveals awesome potential. It offers a dense opaque purple color along with a glorious as well as classic Graves bouquet of smoky barbecue scents, blackberries, cassis, tobacco leaf and plums. Deep, full-bodied and pure with singularity, freshness and precision, this stunning 2010 should be accessible in 2-3 years and last for 2-3 decades."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"A deep purple colour. The nose is very ripe with iodine, macerated black cherries and blueberry with good definition. The palate is fresh on the entry with dense, tannic entry, very closed at the moment, good depth but fine delineation on the finish. Masculine, obdurate but it should blossom after bottling. Tasted April 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This has great fruit. So pure and beautiful, with blueberry, currant and raspberries. Full, yet very reserved, with a long, long finish."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Fully saturated inky-ruby. Sexy aromas of balsamic plum, smoke, sweet spices and wild herbs. Dense, sweet and rich, with the palate showing more vibrancy than the nose suggests. Dark berry flavors are complemented by vanilla, balsamic vinegar and menthol but are currently slightly overwhelmed by smoky oak and cocoa. The wine finishes long but with mounting and rather astringent tannins that detract considerably from its pleasure quotient."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Very dark with great freshness. Minerals and refinement. Nicely directed. Dry finish. Vital and vibrant but it cuts off a bit at the end and seems a bit too forced and harsh. "

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Lots of tobacco leaf fruit, good robust flavours, depth and terroir. Drink 2014-20. (16 points"

- Decanter.com

"Branon Using a blend of 50% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, this 500 case wine reached 14% alcohol. Scents of coffee bean, truffle, tobacco and jammy blackberry meld with a big, sweet, ripe, long, smoky, jammy berry, mocha infused, sultry textured finish. 93-96 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
