

Château Brown 2011

CSPC#763541

750mlx12

12.9% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

Website

<http://www.chateau-brown.com/index.php?act=,,,,,,en>

Appellation

Pessac Léognan

General Info

Standing at the gateway to Bordeaux, Château Brown stretches between three towns: Gradignan, Villenave-d'Ornon and Léognan. The proximity of these towns gives the estate a mild climate ideal for the ripening of fruit and thus conducive to making high-quality wines. Set in the oldest Bordeaux wine region (the northern Graves) Château Brown is to be found right at the heart of the world-famous Pessac-Léognan appellation. Château Brown, as its name suggests, bears testimony to the close links that have always existed between the Bordeaux region and the Anglo-Saxons. Founded in the late Middle Ages when Aquitaine belonged to England, Château Brown owes its name to the wealthy Scottish wine trader John Lewis Brown, who settled in Bordeaux in the late 18th century. An enthusiast of wines and art, this epicurean passed on not only his name but also his passions to his grandson, the animal painter John Lewis Brown. The owners came and went at Château Brown over the centuries and the estate alternated between glory and neglect. It was not until the late 20th century that the estate was fully restored to its former eminent position under the impulse of Bernard Barthe, the master of the château for the last decade. In December 2004, he decided to place his life's work in the hands of a famous dynasty of wine traders: the Mau family, in partnership with the Dutch Dirkzwager family. Stéphane Derenoncourt is the consultant for Brown Rouge.

Vintage

One of the characteristics of 2011 was an extremely dry spring. Based on the measured rainfall in April, May & June this was the driest spring since 1949. Happily, summer brought some rain which allowed the vine to continue its growth. With a dry September, we were able to harvest in optimal conditions.

Vineyards

Average vine age is 20yrs, in gravel with clay subsoil

Harvest

picking by hand with trays – double sorting operation at the vat house (bunches, then berries). Merlot: 16.09.2011 - 22.09.2011

Cabernet Sauvignon: 26.09.2011 - 03.10.2011

Petit Verdot: 23.09.2011

Vinification/

Maturation

Pre-fermentary maceration at 6° for around 4 days – alcoholic fermentation in 100 hl stainless steel vats – post-fermentary maceration at 30° for around a week – running-off after tasting each vat – vertical pressing. Malolactic fermentation: one-third in new barrels. Ageing in French oak barrels, 40% in new barrels during 14 month/s

Tasting Notes

Good, deep, vibrant colour. Lovely fruit purity on the nose, with some of that vegetal, chicory-like firmness to the black fruit and a sappy feeling of freshness with modest oak influence. On the palate the tannins are more refined than in Preuillac, a smaller grain to the tannins and more silky texture. The svelte black fruit is still keen and quite lean and muscular, but there is a lovely sense of burgeoning blackcurrant sweetness. Good acidity, a bit of spice and chappy character building on the finish, and already tasting quite delicious. Should be very good.

Production

Approx. 80,000 bottles made

Cellaring

Drink 2012-2019

Scores/Awards

90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014

90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

85-87 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012

88-90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012

87-88 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April

15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012 (score only)

15.5 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012



Scores/Awards **87 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2012 (score only)
88-90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 25, 2012
76 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)
15 points - Gault & Millau - April 2012 (score only)

Reviews *"A gentle coffee frame guides the friendly plum sauce and blackberry coulis flavors along, while a hint of anise holds the finish. Has a fleshy, caressing feel and ample length. Drink now through 2021. 5,330 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This has concentration and grip, with layered cassis, raspberry coulis and blackberry paste flavors driving along hints of sweet spice. The finish is dense but polished. Score range: 90-93"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"A richly fruity, soft, corpulent Pessac-Leognan, the dark ruby/plum-tinged 2011 Brown reveals evolved aromatics of roasted herbs, loamy soil and red as well as black currants. Already charming, this medium-bodied offering should be drunk over the next 5-7 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon and 48% Merlot, the Brown Rouge has a surprisingly dense, opaque bouquet of lifted blackberry and boysenberry fruit, the fruit nicely integrated. The palate has a slight bitterness on the entry, and it is a very tight sample (despite leaving the bottle open for one hour.) However, it has respectable purity, brittle tannins and fine focus towards the coca-tinged finish. Fine. Tasted April 2012."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A little hard but some good blueberry and mineral character. Medium body. Fresh finish. The high percentage of Cabernet makes it a little tough."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Cassis fruit, good modern style with charm and some class. Drink 2014-2018."
- SS, Decanter.com

"Produced from 67% Cabernet Sauvignon and 33% Merlot, sporting deep color, the wine opens with smoke, caramel, coffee and jammy black cherry. Round, supple and fresh, this forward wine finishes with chocolate, coffee and cherry. 88-90 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Flavours have a greenness in this austere wine which is more vegetal than fruity. Short finish - enjoy young. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young."
- JCL, asianpalate.com
