
Château Brown Rouge 2013

CSPC# 779696

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

CSPC# 780654

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

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

Appellation

Pessac Léognan

Classification

Grand Vin de Graves

Website

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

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. Philippe Dulong is the consultant for Brown Blanc.

Vintage

Jean-Christophe Mau of Château Brown in Pessac-Léognan wrote this painfully honest account of the 2013 vintage on 16 Oct. The image, from Ch Brown's website, is of a much healthier vintage. It is rumoured that not a bag of sugar is to be found in Bordeaux's supermarkets...

It was at 4 pm that the last snips of the secateurs were made in the rows of Cabernet Sauvignon vines.

After 1971, 1972 and 1973, and then the frosts of 1991, 1992 and 1993, here we go again with the trio of 2011, 2012 and 2013. What a difficult vintage this one was, coming after a decade or so when we had got used to things being on the easier side. One thing is certain today: 2013 has been one of the hardest vintages, or perhaps even the most complicated, in the last 30 years. The disastrous spring set the tone for the year, combining severe delays in the vegetation cycle and the loss of a large part of the harvest, due to all the rain during flowering.

An exceptional month of July, among the sunniest in the last 25 years, and a very pleasant month of August, were not enough to make up for the delays built up during the spring, resulting in véraison as late as 20 August for the Merlot grapes.

What we needed was as exceptional a month of September as in 2012, but that was only partly the case. In the event, the general humidity [and threat of rot - JR] forced us to start the harvest on 1 October, earlier than we had hoped. The Merlot grapes were in very good condition, although botrytis rot did show some signs of virulence here and there. After very strict sorting in the vineyard and the winery, we had some difficulties filling the vats, which do seem so very big this year.

The initial results on the reds (before running off) show a yield of 33 hl/ha, which is some 25% down on the 10-year average for the harvests. We should consider ourselves lucky, however, compared with those in Bordeaux who were hit by a deluge in June or those who suffered from the many hailstorms that ruined all or part of their harvests.



Vintage	<p>The main disappointment will necessarily be tannin quality, which would have benefited from at least another fortnight to finish off ripening. The winemaking process is set to be a very technical, precise and delicate one. The key will be to extract the tannins gently and go for roundness and a fruity expression that can make the vintage a success.</p> <p>Alcoholic fermentation is coming gently to a close and stirring of the must should be able to start soon, before we allow some time for maturing on the fine lees, as is the tradition at Château Brown.</p> <p>All we can hope for now is that 2014 is not like 1974, 1984 or 1994, but more like 2004. A generous, top-quality harvest would be more than welcome</p>
Vineyards	<p>The 25 hectare Pessac Leognan, Bordeaux vineyard of Chateau Brown is planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot for the production of red wine. Chateau Brown also maintains small plantings of 4.5 hectares of Bordeaux white grape varieties which consist of 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Semillon. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 7,200 vines per hectare. The vines are on average, 20 years of age. The terroir is gravel based, with some clay, sandstone and iron deposits in the soil. The Merlot vines are as you would expect, planted in the areas with the most of clay in the soil.</p>
Harvest	October 1-13, 2013
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
Production	5,417 cases made
Cellaring	Drink from now to 2017
Scores/Awards	<p>86 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2016</p> <p>86-89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014</p> <p>86-87 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com (score only)</p> <p>89 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>86-88 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 21, 2014</p> <p>87-89 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2014 (score only)</p> <p>87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>15.5 (89) points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p> <p>14 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“Direct, with a core of dark plum and steeped cherry that has melded already with tar and tobacco hints. Shows good typicity, though this remains consistent with the vintage's lighter profile. Drink now through 2017. 5,417 cases made.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“Pretty floral, plum and raspberry notes mingle here, with a light singed spice spine on the finish. Shows good freshness and cut. Score range: 86-89”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“This is a concentrated wine, full of blackberry fruits with acidity and spice. The wood-aging character is balancing out well, giving structure without dominating the fruit. Drink from 2020. Grapes are vinified by variety and plot from the 60-acre vineyard of Cabernet Sauvignon (55%), Merlot (40%) and Petit Verdot (5%). The property was purchased by Jean-Christophe Mau in 2004.”</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>“With incense, coffee bean, licorice and plum on the nose, this enjoyable wine is easy to drink with its open personality filled with light red berries. The wine is aging in 40% new French oak. 86-88 Pts”</i></p> <p>- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p>
