

Château Brown Blanc 2021

CSPC# 102862

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

68% *Sauvignon Blanc*, 32% *Sémillon*

Appellation

Pessac Léognan

Classification

Grand Vin de Graves

Website

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

Sustainability

Wine is made according to extremely sustainable principles, whereas of the year 2016, the HVE certification has been awarded. (High Environmental Certification).

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.



Winemaker

Philippe Dulong is the consultant for Brown Blanc.

Vintage

2021 is atypical, following the pattern of "1" vintages.

The climatic conditions were totally extraordinary, with a very challenging and highly stressful growing season leading up to the late harvest. Coming out of winter, conditions were calm and mild with budburst occurring between 24th March and 1st April.

9 nights of frost were endured between 28th March and 19th April, and this impacted yields – in addition to the unusually long flowering period which lasted all through June due to an unusually wet spring.

Very warm temperatures combined with relatively high rainfall created almost 'tropical' conditions, leading to wild vegetative growth. This required wineries to employ significant manpower and intervene quickly to keep the trellis in optimal condition.

Vineyards

At the gateway to Bordeaux in the Pessac-Léognan area, Château Brown stands on a 63-hectare estate with 29 hectares of vines in a single stretch: 23.5 hectares for the reds and 5.5 ha for the whites. The plots given over to white grapes are shared between 70% Sauvignon and 30% Semillon. Average vine age is 18yrs, in fine gravel.

Harvest

100% manual, with sorting in the vineyard and transportation in small cases to avoid any risk of oxidation.

Sauvignon Blanc: from 10th to 15th September 2021

Sémillon: from 14th September to 17th September 2021

Vinification/

Maturation

Maceration on the skins under cold conditions for 10 hours; grapes pressed whole. Alcoholic fermentation in oak barrels and maturing for 8 months in oak barrels (50% new barrels) with stirring on the fine lees.

Tasting Notes

Nice clear color with a perfect shine. The first nose is discreet but after swirling reveals floral notes with a slight smoked note. The attack is soft and fresh. The palate is full-bodied and aromatically dense with floral notes. The sauvignon blanc fully expresses itself by giving a beautiful tension to the wine. The finish is mineral, tense and extremely long in mouth. It is a wonderful wine with great ageing potential.

Winemaker's

notes

2021 was a richly-coloured vintage, even for the white wines. The 2021 vintage boasts the pronounced floral scents of lovely ripe Semillon grapes, good sugar content and high acidity, despite the warm end to the season. The wine is very fleshy and fresh with the vivacious, salty edge of the Sauvignon Blanc that will make this 2021 a delight for some years to come, for its purity and aromatic range.

Serve with	Milanese-style medallion of veal with ricotta ravioli in a tomato and fresh oregano cream: the tender meat and fresh cheese flavour will provide the perfect match for the aromatic power of this Château Brown White. The white wine of Chateau Brown is a perfect wine to serve with shellfish, sashimi, sushi, all types of seafood, chicken, veal, and cheese.
Production	Approx. 1,250 cases made annually
Cellaring	Drink now - 2030
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2024</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com (score only) - January 2024</p> <p>93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast (score only) - February 2024</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>88-90 points - Neal Martin, Vinous (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>93-94 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>91 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>90-91 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Zingy and focused, with white nectarine, peach and lemon peel notes streaming through, laced with flashes of bitter almond and quinine on the finish. Distinctive and delicious. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2025."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Lemon rind, yellow tropical fruits, mango, tangerine, and honeysuckle get your attention on the nose, while the fresh, bright, lemons, green apples, and touches of orange seal the deal on the bright, crisp palate. Drink from 2023-2030."</i></p> <p>- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"Brown once again manages to surprise us with this elegant wine, with a complex aromatic palette of white grapes, white peach, orange, and wisteria. The fruity flavors of lemon and pear excite the taste buds. Here we have a delicate and airy, classy white. A castle that becomes a reference."</i></p> <p>- Terre de Vins</p>
