
Château Haut Brion 2014

CSPC# 790550

750mlx12

14.25% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

50% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pessac-Leognan

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classé

Website

<https://haut-brion.com/#/wines>

General Info

1st classified growth in 1855. Haut Brion was founded in 1525 by Jean de Pontac and since then, many illustrious personalities succeeded each other as owners. The last among them was Clarence Douglas Dillon, American financial minister under the Kennedy government. Today, the continuity and presence of the Dillon family are ensured by Prince Robert of Luxembourg who watches over the destiny of Domaine Clarence Dillon S.A.S., having joined the management of the Company in June of 1997 and succeeding his mother Princess Joan de Mouchy as President at the end of July 2008. Haut Brion is the sole 1st classified growth from the 1855 classification which is outside of the Medoc appellation. Its terroir may be compared to the one of Latour. Even if it is not the more concentrated wine, Haut Brion is the noblest wine of Pessac Leognan, and its longevity is incomparable. The silky structure of the tannins is always exceptional. Classed Premier Cru of the Gironde in 1855, and Cru de Graves in 1953, Château Haut-Brion was also classed thus in 1973, and although this latest classification only concerned the Médoc whilst Haut-Brion is located in the Graves appellation, the minutes of the 1973 classification meeting state: The jury, considering the situation of Château Haut-Brion and its long traditional connections with the Médoc Premiers Crus, and taking into account this tradition, the customs and practices on the one hand, together with its very eminent virtues on the other, has deemed it to be worthy of featuring alongside the Médoc's Premiers Crus Classés

Vintage

2014 was marked by an extraordinary Indian summer that saved the vintage. Fine spring weather was conducive to a good start to the growing season. However, challenging summer conditions seriously slowed down ripening. Fortunately, the month of September was absolutely beautiful, with dry, extremely sunny weather accompanied by highs of close to 30°C. This superb weather, with cool night-time temperatures, enabled the grapes to ripen beautifully, and they were able to be brought into the vat house having reached a perfect level of ripeness.

Vineyards

Vines have been cultivated here for at least six centuries, in a vineyard once surrounded by pasture and parkland, now by suburban houses. Despite the encroaching reality of the 21st century, within the walls of the Haut-Brion there lies an excellent *terroir*, typical of Bordeaux in that it revolves around two gravel *croupes* - the same can be said for many of the leading estates of the Médoc. These gravelly mounds rise to the heady altitude of 15 metres, a lofty summit compared to much of the surrounding land, providing two south-east facing slopes perfect for the vine. The soils include ancient stones washed down from the Pyrenees over many millennia, Gunzian gravel peppered with quartz and related minerals, hardened conglomerates of stone and flint. All in all, there are just over 51 hectares of vines which are cared for by vineyard manager Pascal Baratié, who also looks after the vineyard of neighbouring La Mission Haut-Brion.

Harvest

11 September and 10 October cropped at 42.9 hectoliters per hectare

Maturation

70% in new barrels during 20 month/s

Tasting Notes

Very Good Year. The truly beautiful bouquet has notes of black fruit such as blackberry and blackcurrant along with empyreumatic overtones. The wine shows smooth, well-structured tannin on the palate, combining power and elegance from the beginning to the end.

Production

10,800 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2024-2044



Scores/Awards **96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017
95-98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015
97 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017
95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015
97 points / Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017
96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015
18.75 (95) points - Decanter.com - June 2015
94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
93-95 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015
96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015
18.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2015
93-96 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015
97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
94-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015 (score only)
95-97 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
19 points - Bettane & Desseave (score only)
18.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"Loaded with warm tar, singed juniper, plum reduction and cassis notes that are perfectly melded, giving this a remarkably supple edge. The finish lets tobacco, bay leaf and incense accents glide in. Shows lovely mouthfeel and superior refinement overall. Best from 2020 through 2035. 10,800 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Features a youthfully muscular edge, but remains elegant despite the heft, with a core of plum, red currant and raspberry fruit, guided by supple tannins and backed by subtle tobacco and spice hints. A light bay thread chimes in on the finish, while a juniper detail adds a pleasant underpinning. Displays admirable concentration, but this will need time to soak up its élevage, as it is always one of the more backward wines of the spring tastings. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 95-98"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"The Château Haut-Brion 2014 is a blend of 50% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc and 39% Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 11 September and 10 October cropped at 42.9 hectoliters per hectare raised in 70% new oak (Jean-Philippe Delmas has been lowering the new oak in recent vintages.) The fruit seems a little "redder" than La Mission at this stage with vibrant wild strawberry, blackcurrant and a pinch of dry tobacco, a hint of menthol developing with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, that tobacco element becoming a little stronger in the mouth, a little foursquare but like La Mission Haut-Brion, focusing upon precision rather than power. Of course, a superb contribution to the vintage, but I'd place my bets on the "Mish", at least on these barrel tastings."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"Beautifully perfumed with rose petals, violets and currant bush. Full body, very silky tannins and bright acidity. Tannins are super fine-grained. Goes on for minutes. Racy and refined. Persistent. Drink in 2025."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Dense and tight now with blackberries, blueberries, iodine, minerals and currants. Full-bodied, firm and closed, yet there's a persistence and length that is most impressive. Polished and very classy."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"With seriously dense tannins, this shows great structure. Rich and full of ripe fruit, it also has a fresh streak that gives it a lift. The structure will allow the wine to age over many years while the fruit and acidity will give it crispness. Drink this impressive wine from 2027."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"From a blend of 50% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, this is a full and deep expression of the vintage. The fruit leads with damson and plum, with black pepper spicing, lovely smoked grilled notes,

Reviews touches of bramble, with a beautiful tannic hold and life on the finish. Deft and elegant, clearly successful, rich complexity and deceptive in terms of ageing because the tannins are fine but there are plenty of them, gently building up in your mouth over the course of the tasting. Such confident handling of the vintage, as you would expect, relatively high alcohol for the year at 14.25%, but barely discernible.”
- Decanter.com

“Deep ruby in color, sweet, fresh and concentrated with layers of lushly textured, sweet, red and black fruits, this wine is bolstered with smoke, tobacco and tar. Silky, smooth and concentrated with velvety tannins flowing with pure cassis, the freshness feels good on the palate and will only get better. The wine reached 14.25% alcohol with a pH of 3.67. 94-96 Pts.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“2014 Deeper than La Mission; glossy in the glass; vivid purple meniscus; lots of attractive fruit on the nose; earthy blackcurrants; some mineral tones; very mineral Haut-Brion; some smoke; menthol; elegant entry to the palate; blackcurrant and black cherry fruit; chew and density; acidity and freshness. [50% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc]. Drink 2022-2035. 93-95”
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“Haut-Brion is often the least showy of the first growths at this stage and that's the case once more in 2014. It's a pretty backward wine, dominated by acidity and tannin at the moment, but with its grassy, leafy fruit lying just below the surface. Elegant and restrained, it's a connoisseur's red.”
- TA, timatkin.com

“Without doubt one of the world's greatest and most individual wine estates. The family traditions continue here with Jean-Philippe Delmas running the winemaking as his father and grandfather did before him and Clarence Dillon's great-grandson Robert de Luxembourg in overall charge of this wonderful property. Haut Brion - unlike the other First Growths - has never had a bad period and, for our money, is the most consistently great wine of Bordeaux. 50% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc and 39% Cabernet Sauvignon. Deep ruby colour. Brooding black fruit on the nose. Big and powerful but still quite tight and unyielding. A wonderful precision and a whiff of stony terroir and minerality giving real Graves typicity. Smoky and perfumed after some swirling in the glass with violets and exotic spices. The palate is silky smooth with velvety, ripe, and very fine tannins. Pure black cherry, violets, and spring flowers. Excellent purity, power, and refinement. Generous, rich, complex, and enduring. A great wine for the vintage.”
- Farr Vintners

“Black fruits dominate the nose floral fragrant slightly smoky with lots of violets. The fruit on the palate is sweet the tannins fine the mid palate rich with depth suppleness. There is lovely balance freshness under the richness and although light and elegant at the back the finish has depth of flavour. 2025-40”
- Derek Smedley MW

“The structure of Haut-Brion this year is compact and tight with ripe, velvety tannins that are dominating the dark fruit and tobacco flavors in the background. Tasted alongside the La Mission, there is less flamboyancy and spice here but rather long-term aging potential and greater intensity. Wait for the wine to open up in 8-plus years.”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“One of the stars of the vintage, the 2014 Haut-Brion is an exceptionally beautiful and vivid wine. Super-ripe dark cherry, plum, tobacco and menthol are some of the notes that run through the 2014. Just as it did from barrel, the 2014 boasts tons of opulence, intensity and richness. Dried flowers, tobacco, menthol, licorice and smoke wrap around the huge, baritone-inflected finish. Readers should not be in any rush with the 2014, as it is likely to require a number of years before it even starts to drink well.”
- AG, Vinous