
Château Haut Brion 2015

CSPC# 801733

750mlx3

14.9% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

50% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% 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

A cold winter finishing with an even colder month of March, explains a late bud break. This late start was quickly offset by very mild temperatures from the 10th of April. The early and clustered flowering began at the end of May, the weather conditions in June allowed an even and rapid flowering. The months of June and July were particularly hot and dry. A water shortage led to the creation of small berries and a stop to early growth of the vine. The rainy period at the beginning of August was beneficial in producing a speedy ripening. The harvesting started early and spread out.

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

between 8 September and 5 October, 2015

Maturation

70% in new barrels during 20 month/s

Tasting Notes

Deep, dark red color. The nose is very deep with powerful aromas of black fruit and spice. The wine starts out quite powerful on the palate, but softens on the middle palate, developing a lovely velvety texture. The finely polished tannic structure is enhanced by considerable concentration and full, luscious body.

Production

11,250 cases made



**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2024-2064

98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018
100 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018
90-100 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
100 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018
98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016
97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018
94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016
18.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017
100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018
98-100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
97-100 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016
96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
18.5+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2016
95-97 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
98 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016
98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
95-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018
20 points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016
95-97 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016
19.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016
19.5 points - Bettane & Desseave (score only) - April 2016
19 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016

Reviews

“A brick house of a wine, loaded with roasted fig, warmed currant compote and plum reduction flavors that are as broad as they are deep, carried by warm tar, ganache and smoldering bay leaf and charcoal notes. A swath of tobacco through the finish pulls everything together and ties it up with a bow of roasted mesquite. The core shows lean, muscular strength in spades. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2025 through 2045. 11,250 cases made.”
- JM, Wine Spectator

“A blend of 50% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, the medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2015 Haut-Brion is reticent to begin, languidly revealing crushed black cherries, ripe black plums and wild blueberries with sparks of cinnamon stick, cloves, nutmeg, espresso, unsmoked cigars, tapenade, crushed rocks and lavender. The full-bodied palate possesses wonderfully complementary contrasts of bold black and blue fruit richness and delicately nuanced cherry fruit, baking spices and floral accents, strutting ripe, finely pixelated tannins and seamless acidity that is placed firmly in the background, finishing very long and with plenty of attitude. This impeccably poised, exquisitely perfumed 2015 Haut-Brion possesses the most alluring yet seemingly effortless beauty. While it bears only a passing resemblance in its opulent personality to the now legendary 1989, like that vintage the 2015 cannot fail to hedonically satiate and intellectually edify all lovers of great Bordeaux who drink it. What’s more, it also has the blue-blooded tenaciousness to remain this jaw-droppingly impressive, throughout its many guises over time, and for a very, very long time”
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 Haut Brion... is matured in the same level of new oak (78%) and IPT (75) as the La Mission. It has a heavenly bouquet that like the La Mission bestows instant gratification - a veritable kaleidoscope of aromas so crystalline that you can pick them out one by one: dark plum, blackcurrant, Kalamata olive and graphite. It is tempting to just nose this all day. The palate has an indescribably stunning balance and like the La Mission, there is a paradoxical sense of intensity married to weightlessness. Everything here is so precise, so pure and yet as it crescendos towards the finish, it offers a profundity that is unmatched across Bordeaux in this vintage. Having had the pleasure of many great wines from this estate in the past - 1945, 1955, 1959, 1961 and 1989 - the 2015 belongs among that pantheon. Drink 2030-2075.”
- NM, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 Haut-Brion is a blend of 50% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Cabernet Franc picked between 8 September and 5 October. Of course, it showed majestically out of barrel, so pressure was on in bottle. Deep in

Reviews *color, the bouquet is a real showstopper: blackberry, raspberry, sage, black olive and warm gravel...this is a profoundly complex bouquet that is nuanced and beautifully delineated. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin and ample freshness, but don't be deceived because this is a very structured Haut-Brion built for the long-term. Remarkably the 14.9% alcohol is completely disguised. It feels incredibly long, and yet instead of fanning out, it shuts down the door on the finish. It is a behemoth of a wine, one that is up there with the legends of the past. Anticipated maturity: 2025 - 2070."*
- NM, Wine Journal

"This is all about seduction and beauty with tobacco, berries, tea and wet earth. Full-bodied, round and sexy. Love the polished and beautiful tannins. Racy and refined. Try in 2023."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A structured and powerful Haut-Brion with so much finesse and beauty. Complex and long. It's full and ultra-refined. Super length and polish. A formed and sexy Haut Brion. Barrel Sample: 97-98 Points"
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Direct and concentrated, this wine is powered by tannins and a firm texture. Dense, it has the potential for plenty of fruit as it matures. That will take time, because this impressive wine is powered by its structure. Wait until 2028. Cellar Selection"
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"94-96. Barrel Sample. Dark tannins dominate this dense and concentrated wine. It does have some flavors of extraction that will probably disappear as the wine ages further in barrel. For the rest, the black fruits are impressive and shaping up beautifully."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Much more aromatic than La Mission. Lovely silky tannins but masses of them. Very strict and savoury. Really dense but manages to be expressive and convincing. A megalith. 14.9%
Drink 2030-2055"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"The Graves wine of the vintage (along with Haut-Bailly). Taking the highest proposition of first wine (55%) for several years and a good yield of 45hl/ha. The fruit and tannins reached full and perfect ripeness and the structure shows incredible cohesion, easily approaching the quality of the 2010 but with softer tannins. Beautifully complete with great integrity of coffee grounds and rich damson fruit. Opens up in the glass, the personality and complexity ripples through. A touch lower alcohol than La Mission at 14.9% abv and with 3.73pH for fresh balance. 58% Merlot, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Cabernet Franc and 78% new oak. May well be scored upwards when in bottle."
- JA, Decanter.com

"If the color does not let you know you're in for a treat, the nose is going to knock you over with its floral, smoke, cigar wrapper, black cherry and cassis notes. The purity of fruit here is off the charts. The wine is all about its silk and velvet textures from that point forward. The finish is so expansive, it feels like it keeps on going, moving across an array of flavors long after you've put the wine where it was supposed to go. This is the best wine yet produced by Jean Philippe Delmas yet. Bravo!"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"It is the sensuous texture that really makes this wine rock! The feel is pure silk and velvet and the impressive fragrance captivates with its floral, smoke, boysenberry, cassis and earthy aromatics. This wine has great color, real volume, depth of flavor and despite the fact that it is quite high in alcohol, there is no sense of heaviness or heat. It lacks the depth of the 2009 but it offers more elegance and silk on the palate. Made from a blend of 50% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 14.9% alcohol with a pH of 3.73 and represents 55% of the harvest."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Bold colour; dark at centre; lovely cassis beauty on the nose; real depth and succulence; nice balance between the plummy purity and the influence of the Cabernets; seductive on the nose – quite gorgeous actually; great texture to the palate; greater mid palate richness here than displaying on La Mission; some restraint but lots of power and weight; quite masculine overall; sinew and flesh too but this is quite bold; length here very good. Definition. Needs 10 years – no flashy 2015 this – but stunning texture. [50% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc, 14.9% alc]. Tasted Haut-Brion 7/4/16. Drink 2025-2045. 97-100”
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“This is an Haut-Brion to stick away in the cellar and forget about for a decade or more. Thick, compact and very concentrated, it doesn’t win many points for elegance and finesse, but will soften and flesh out with age. The flavours - plum, damson and blackberry - are just a little jammy, yet the acidity freshens the finish.”
- 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. Since 1958 it has been bottled in the unique Haut Brion bottle. In 2015 it is made from 50% Merlot with 42% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Cabernet Franc. Jean-Philippe says that it is like the 2005 but with riper tannins. His father says it reminds him of the young 1985 or even the 1959. Deep purple colour. The nose is sultry and subtle, with smoky cedar, allspice, brooding cassis and a light licorice and coffee note. Very complex as it unravels its aromas. The palate is silky smooth on entry with black cherry and blackcurrant at the core. As the intensity builds on the mid palate, notes of chocolate, vanilla and a mineral edge all become apparent. There are plentiful, but very refined and ripe tannins on the palate which perfectly frame the fruit, adding to the persistence of purity on the finish. There is a precision and harmony here to pair with the expansive intensity. Outstanding.”
- Farr Vintners

“Brooding depth the nose has rich ripe black fruits the palate is fleshy and supple black plum and black cherry underpinned by dark chocolate. Underlying freshness fine tannins there is a balance of sweet fruit and freshness complexity. Sweet fruit at the back depth of flavour richness yet the finish is bilberry fresh slightly lighter stylish long and elegant.”
- Derek Smedley MW

“Ripe, generous and intensely concentrated with plush, velvety tannins and layers of earthy, dark berry flavors. This is a serious, complex vintage with sumptuous flavors - almost California-like in its ripeness. The alcohol this year is quite high with 14.9%. This is a wine that needs at least a decade in bottle.”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“A huge, dramatic wine, the 2015 Haut-Brion is magnificent. Vertical in its construction and towering in its reach, the 2015 is going to need a good decade-plus to even start becoming approachable, as it needs to lose baby fat and develop the full range of its aromatics. Even at this early stage, though, it is wonderfully complete and positively stunning. 2030 – 2065”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2015 Haut-Brion is shaping up to be one of the wines of the vintage. Thrust, power and pure intensity come through loud and clear in the crème de cassis, blackberry jam, smoke, licorice and graphite flavors. Soaring aromatics and layers of intense fruit, all supported by a beam of firm tannin make the 2015 a wonderfully complete wine that will drink well for many, many decades. The unctuous fruit and baby fat will need time to melt away, but there is little doubt this a magical wine with huge potential for the future. The purity of flavors and textures will take your breath away.”
- AG, Vinous

“Haut-Brion takes on the role of a fruit-driven (if one can call it that) temptress by comparison to the brutally tannic La Mission. Of course, there is more power here and this is just an illusion, but this wine has so much allure and refinement of red fruit draped over a monumental core it is heart-stopping. The wines from Haut-Brion and La Mission Haut-Brion in 2015 are so different from the norm it is incredible. The quality of the tannins is mystifying. This is thrilling wine which is so intense and yet so splendid and powerful it takes my knowledge of

Reviews *this estate to another level by giving us a shape, size, aroma and flavour which is found nowhere else on earth.*
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"The 2015 Haut Brion is a perfect wine that couldn't be any better and is certainly at the top of this great vintage. A blend of 50% Merlot, 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the balance Cabernet Franc, this full-bodied, concentrated, backward, yet sensationally pure 2015 boast knockout notes of blackcurrants, smoked tobacco, ground herbs, and graphite, with a terrific damp earth/minerality quality emerging with time in the glass. Straight, focused, and built like a skyscraper, with a stacked mid-palate, forget bottles for 7-8 years and enjoy over the following three to four decades."

- Jeb Dunnuck
