

# Ch Larrivet Haut Brion Blanc 2015

CSPC# 801713

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**Classification**  
**Website**  
**General Info**

*80% Sauvignon Blanc, 20% Semillon*

Pessac-Léognan

**Grand Vin de Bordeaux**

<http://www.larrivethautbrion.fr/index.php/en/>

What we know of today as Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion came into being with the original name of La Rivette. This took place during the 1800's. In 1874, the estate began calling itself Chateau Haut Brion Larrivet by the new owner, Ernest Laurent. This was much to the consternation of Chateau Haut Brion. Although it took decades until an official lawsuit was filed to remedy the situation. In 1893, the property was sold to the Canolle family who were already experienced in the Bordeaux wine trade as they also owned Chateau Belair in St. Emilion.

At that time, the property was much larger than it was today. For various reasons having to do with needing money, portions of their vineyards for Larrivet Haut Brion were sold to other neighboring properties like Chateau Haut Bailly.

In the late 1800's, the estate was sold to Thomas Conseil. It was Thomas Conseil who changed the name of the chateau in 1949. The name change came about due to a lawsuit filed by the owners of Chateau Haut Brion. The estate was allowed to retain Haut Brion in their name, provided it followed at the end of the title. This was easy enough. From that point forward, the wines were sold under the name of Larrivet Haut Brion.

Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion changed hands again when it passed to Jacques Guillemaud. Jacques Guillemaud began to replant the vineyards which had become dilapidated. In fact, only 3 hectares of vines were planted when he took over the property.

Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion is quite a popular wine these days. In fact, I think it is safe to say that their wines are probably the best known of the unclassified wineries in the appellation.

Today Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion is owned and managed by the Gervoson family who took over the property in 1987. The Gervoson family are better known for producing the popular line of jams and jellies from Bonne Maman.

**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.

**Harvest** Manual at perfect ripeness, transfer of bunches in crates from September 1-8, 2015.  
**Vineyard** The 72 hectare vineyard of Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion has 61 hectares planted to 55% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc for the red wine grape varieties. This shows a marked reduction in the Cabernet Sauvignon, an increase in the Merlot, and new plantings of Cabernet Franc in the vines since the mid 1990's. It is possible that in the moderate future, some Malbec and Petit Verdot could also added to their vineyards. Larrivet Haut Brion has good neighbors. They are close to Haut Bailly and La Louviere and they also have vines bordering Smith Haut Lafitte. The red wine grape varietals are on average, 25 years of age. The vineyard is planted to produce both red and white Bordeaux wine grapes. For the white wine grape varieties, 11 hectares are planted to 60% Sauvignon Blanc and 40% Semillon. Although there are some Muscadelle grape vines planted in their vineyards as well.



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| <b>Vineyard</b>                     | The white wine grape vines are kept at an average of 20 years of age. During the mid-1990's, the white wine grapes were planted in an even 50% ratio, which as you can see, has been changed over the years.   |
| <b>Vinification/<br/>Maturation</b> | Settling for 48 hours in small, temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats. Vinification in new barrels (50%), small wooden foudres (30%) and egg-shaped concrete vats (20%)<br>Ageing: In the same recipients as for the 11-month vinifications with regular stirring to put the lees into suspension, either by bâtonnage or rotation.<br>Fining: Fining with bentonite before a light filtering for the bottling   |
| <b>Tasting Notes</b>                | Bright yellow gold color. The nose is very expressive, ripe and reminds us of yellow and exotic fruits. The palate is very fresh but has a creamy consistency that is very long and pleasant.  |
| <b>Serve with</b>                   | The white wine of Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion is a perfect wine to serve with shellfish, sashimi, sushi, all types of seafood, chicken, veal and cheese.   |
| <b>Production</b>                   | 1,667 cases made."   |
| <b>Cellaring</b>                    | Drink 2019-2030  |
| <b>Scores/Awards</b>                | <p><b>90 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 27, 2016</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p><b>17+ points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>89-91+ points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p><b>88-91 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p>  |
| <b>Reviews</b>                      | <p><i>"This takes a flattering approach, with creamy gooseberry and lemon curd flavors gilded by honeysuckle and white peach notes. The long verbena- and shortbread-fueled finish is quite alluring. Drink now through 2021. 1,667 cases made."</i><br/>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"There's alluring richness here, with an anise hint underscoring the yellow apple, white peach and verbena notes, gaining depth steadily with air. Offers a long, shortbread-enhanced finish. Score range: 90-93"</i><br/>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"92-94 Points, Neal Martin, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate: ""The 2015 Larrivet Haut Brion might be overlooked against some startling other 2015s with ""Haut Brion"" in their name, which would be wholly unfair because this is a potentially great wine. It has an outgoing bouquet with plenty of bright and bushy tailed red fruit that is well defined and very nicely focused. The new oak is carefully used here and gives it real lift. The palate is medium bodied with fine grain tannins, fleshy in the mouth with crisp acidity and a nicely composed, lightly spiced finish. This is an excellent Pessac-Léognan and it will hopefully be well priced."</i><br/>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Intense aromas of Sicilian lemons with hints of peaches and green apples. Full-bodied, yet tight and agile with steely, fruity and fresh character. Shows energy and brightness."</i><br/>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Stéphane Derenoncourt. Really quite rich and broad. Racy and charming. Extremely vivacious. Chock full of fruit but then tense on the end."</i><br/>- JR, JancisRobinson.com</p> |

- Reviews** *“A full expression of the vintage, with ripe fruit aromatics but very nicely handled, with a sense of weight but a lovely focus on the finish. This is a wine that develops over the palate; sneaks up on you.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- “With a strong sense of minerality, lemon peel, juicy grapefruit and vanilla bean, the wine offers freshness and a zippy style, allowing the wine the right amount of tension, and sweetness from the ripe fruits.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Crushed rocks, juicy grapefruit and vanilla with a blast of lemon and lime in the finish, give this wine freshness and sweet, citrus fruits from start to finish.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Pale straw; mineral; spearmint; pear drop notes; tight palate with depth; will fill out. Like the balance here in the white. [80% Sauvignon Blanc, 20% Sémillon, 100% new oak ferments – some in 225 litre, some 500 ltr]. Tasted UGCB 7/6/16. Drink 2020-2025. 89-91+”*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “A generous, round Bordeaux white that is quite creamy and full on the mid palate - hint of toast and butter along with fresh herbs and citrus. This is one of the fuller, more generous styles from this vintage that should evolve well over the next 5-8 years.”*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- “The 2015 Larrivet-Haut-Brion Blanc comes across as decidedly rustic and four square. There is no shortage of intensity...Lemon peel and orchard fruit notes abound in a distinctly phenolic white that emphasizes power at this stage. This is the first vintage made by Stéphane Deroncourt and his team. (AG)”*  
- AG, Vinous
- “I loved both the red and white from Larrivet Haut-Brion. Starting with the 2015 Château Larrivet Haut-Brion Blanc which is based largely on Sauvignon Blanc, it gives up a big nose of white peach, citrus, caramelized lemons and hints of leafy herbs. With an exotic, ripe, beautifully textured personality that stays fresh and vibrant, it should keep for a decade or more.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck
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