

Ch Larrivet Haut Brion Rouge 2015

CSPC# 801714

750mlx12

14.3% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

33% Merlot, 62 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc
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 18 September to 7 October 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.

Vinification Plot by plot in small, temperature-controlled concrete vats using gravity-flow for filling. De-stemming without crushing, regular punching down of the cap of skins and long macerations (4 to 5 weeks).



Maturation	Aged In an air-conditioned barrel cellar. Traditional rackings. One third aged in new French oak barrels, one third in second fill and one third in third-fill barrels for 14 to 18 months. Egg white fining before a light filtration and bottling
Tasting Notes	Ruby color with purplish reflections. The nose expresses black ripe fruits grown more complex by smoky and licorice notes. The palate is long and meaty, with no hollowness. The tannins are silky. Great wine, perfectly balanced.
Serve with	Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. The red wine of Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Production	12,500 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2038
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 27, 2016</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>16.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>90-92+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>16 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Enticing, with vibrant raspberry and red currant coulis fruit liberally laced with singed alder and dried anise notes. Flashes of rooibos tea and incense weave through as well. A light tarry thread on the finish adds range. Drink now through 2027. 12,500 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Tasty, with plum, boysenberry and fig notes forming the core, inlaid with singed alder details and backed by a solid tarry edge on the finish. A textbook Pessac red. Score range: 89-92"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium garnet-purple in color, the 2015 Larrivet Haut-Brion offers up fragrant notes of crushed raspberries, Bing cherries and red plums with hints of baking spices, black tea and potpourri plus a touch of crushed rocks. Medium-bodied and vibrantly fruited in the mouth with impressive energy and tension, it has a soft, silky frame and finishes on a lingering perfumed note."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"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></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep and slightly spicy black cherries and blackberries with leafy nuances. The palate has a very pure, lively core of cassis. Full body and deep flavors of blue plums. Try from 2021."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *"A Stéphane Derenoncourt wine. Very dark crimson. Hugely rich and sweet. Only just remains refreshing... But it does. Well done. Good tension."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Rich dark chocolate and damson coulis nose – fruit over finesse. It's a touch heavy with the ripe fruit but still very pleasurable. 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc. 14.3%abv, 3.79pH."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Soft, polished, elegant, supple, ripe, red fruits with a plummy edge are made even better due to a spicy quality that shows through the smoke, tobacco, espresso and earthy complexities. The refined, fresh edge on the palate gives the wine lift and extra overtones. You can drink this early and age it for more secondary notes."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Round supple textures, smoky plummy and earthy, with ripe fruit, espresso and thyme notes that are all over the place. With more volume and depth than usual, the medium/full bodied, soft, tobacco laced, fruit filled finish is right where it needs to be."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep colour; ripe cassis notes; unctuously styled aromatics; coffee and mocha notes too; quite chewy palate which needs to settle but there is plenty of style and promise here. [65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 13.8% alc]. Tasted UGCB 7/4/16. Drink 2022-2030. 90-92+"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "A beautiful Larrivet that is one of the best tasted over the past 10 years. Gorgeous palate of cassis, cedar and plums with plush tannins and a richness that hugs you on the palate. Fairly long finish. Best after 2022."*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- "The 2015 Château Larrivet-Haut-Brion is a real stunner. Vibrant, nuanced and delineated, the 2015 possesses remarkable detail to balance the richness of the vintage. Sumptuous at the outset yet backed up by considerable structure, the 2015 is simply superb today. Creamy, silky tannins round out the highly expressive finish. This is the first vintage made by Stéphane Derenoncourt and his team. (AG)"*
- AG, Vinous
- "Loads of ripe black cherries, plums, bouquet garni, truffle and forest floor emerge from the glass of the deep purple color 2015 Château Larrivet Haut-Brion. With a full, layered, concentrated profile, ripe tannin, and a great, great finish, it's a seriously good Pessac-Leognan that's capable of holding for 15-20 years."*
- Jeb Dunnuck
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