

# Château La Mission Haut Brion 2018

CSPC# 848127

750mlx3

14.4% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	53.5% Merlot, 42.9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3.6% Cabernet Franc
<b>Appellation</b>	Pessac-Léognan
<b>Classification</b>	Cru Classe de Graves in 1959
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.mission-haut-brion.com/#/home">http://www.mission-haut-brion.com/#/home</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>Château La Mission-Haut-Brion is the greatest Graves wine after Haut-Brion and in some vintages, is considered the superior wine of the two. La Mission-Haut-Brion is situated just across the road from Haut-Brion in the commune of Talence in the southern suburbs of Bordeaux.</p> <p>Once a rival of adjacent Haut-Brion, La Mission has actually shared ownership with its neighbor since 1983. While just a narrow suburban street divides the two properties, La Mission's wines maintain their distinctive wilder identity: more powerful and more tannic, often displaying a meaty, truffley character with extended time in bottle. The newly constructed tasting room and cellars here, which opened in 2007, are quite impressive.</p> <p>La Mission-Haut-Brion has a long and illustrious history in Graves and in some eyes is the greatest estate in Bordeaux. The estate has an unbelievable record of great wines stretching back over the past century and today has a reputation for pure excellence. Robert Parker believes the quality is that of a First Growth. The vines are planted to 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Since 1983 the Clarence Dillon family, owners of Chateau Haut Brion have owned and managed La Mission now under the expert guidance of Jean-Philippe Delmas, the third generation in his family to manage the properties of the Dillon Family.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Jean-Philippe Delmas
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>The spring of 2018 was marked by frequent stormy weather. The growing season started very well, although was later slowed down as a result of a violent hailstorm on the 26th of May. The vines nevertheless recovered fairly quickly. The month of June was relatively warm, conducive to even flowering. A hot summer followed, with little rainfall. Véraison (colour change) took place under ideal conditions.</p> <p>A high-pressure system set in during the month of September. The grapes were picked under clear blue skies at peak ripeness and in excellent condition.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	La Mission-Haut-Brion's vineyards (Cabernet Sauvignon 48%, Merlot 45%, Cabernet Franc 7%) lie on a large (up to 18 metres deep in places) gravel bank interspersed with clay. Average vine age is 27 years.
<b>Harvest</b>	Harvested between 10 September and 2 October.
<b>Maturation</b>	The wine is fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless steel vats and then matured in oak barriques (100% new) for 18 months. The wines of La Mission Haut Brion are rich, oaky, and powerful and need at least 10 years of bottle ageing before they should be broached.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Very beautiful, dark, intense red colour. The nose is deep and concentrated, suggestive of very ripe grapes, underscored by complex oaky and spicy overtones. Starts out broad-based and juicy on the palate, becoming full-bodied, tannic, and succulent, culminating in a lovely long aftertaste. Very pleasant flavours linger on the palate, reminiscent of the finest vintages.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau La Mission 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. Chateau La Mission 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. Chateau La Mission Haut Brion is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta.



**Cellaring  
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2025 - 2040

- 96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021
- 99 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021
- 98-100 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019
- 98 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021
- 97-98 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019
- 95-97 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019
- 17.5+ points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019
- 97 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020
- 99 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021
- 97-99 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019
- 17.5+ points** - Farr Vintner - April 2019
- 97 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021
- 96-98 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019
- 100 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021
- 18+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019
- 97 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2021
- 96 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019
- 94 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019
- 19 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021
- 17.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

**Reviews**

*"Tightly packed, with its core of steeped blackberry, black currant preserves and plum paste notes bristling to emerge fully but held in check for now by a swath of tar, warmed licorice and sweet tobacco. There's a great tug of earth through the finish but the fruit keeps the upper hand, even while closed, thanks to its finishing kick. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The 2018 La Mission Haut-Brion is a blend of 53.5% Merlot, 42.9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3.6% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple colored, it emerges from the glass with a first wave of stewed black and red plums, mulberries and black raspberries scents, followed by pronounced notions of warm cassis, clove oil, violets and chocolate box, with hints of cast-iron pan, pencil lead and forest floor coming through after a few minutes. The medium to full-bodied palate shimmers with energy, delivering layers of red and black fruits with earthy and mineral sparks and a texture so satiny you need to remember to look for it, finishing with amazing vibrancy. This is so wonderfully evocative and singular, and yet it feels like its holding something back. It makes for an impressive glass right now but give it a good 5 years in bottle to allow further nuances to emerge and expect it to seriously reward those who can wait a good 12-15 years, when it should really hit its stride."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2018 La Mission Haut-Brion is composed of 53.5% Merlot, 42.9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3.6% Cabernet Franc, harvested September 10 to October 2. Deep purple black in color, it slowly unfurls to reveal a beguiling nose of earth and soft-spoken fruit, opening with wild blueberries, wet slate, pencil lead and fresh black cherries giving way to a serious core of blackcurrant cordial, baked plums and wild sage, and then exposing delicate wafts of rose hip tea and candied violets. Full-bodied, the palate is very tightly wound and super intense with amazing restraint and energy focused around very firm, exquisitely fine-grained tannins and seamless freshness, finishing incredibly long and fantastically multilayered. Extraordinary wine."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Enticing aromas of currant, crushed stone, blueberry, lead pencil, iodine and graphite follow through to a full body with round, chewy tannins that are polished and powerful, yet balanced and beautiful. In the end, the tannins are compact and tight at the finish. But you want to drink it. Try after 2027, when it will open."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A tight and linear red with fantastic oyster-shell, iodine and crushed-stone character, complementing the currants and blackberries. Extremely long and fresh."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

**Reviews** *“While the wine is certainly structured, it has all the finesse and elegance that is associated with this estate. Beautiful berry flavors are packed with acidity but supported by generous tannins. This is impressive and obviously will age well.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“40.8% Merlot, 7.6% Cabernet Franc, 51.6% Cabernet Sauvignon. Harvested between 10 September and 2 October. Barrel sample. Deepest crimson with very dark core. Intense, pure aromatic cassis and a hint of cassis leaf, though fully ripe. Smells very Cabernet. And the tannins are upright and structured but extremely lithe and supple. No thickness here. Agile. Just a little chewy on the finish. So seemingly approachable and full of energy.”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“Well-structured and shot through with a savoury black fruit and charcoal character alongside fine tannins that slowly but surely build through the palate. Needs time to settle; no need to approach for another decade as these are big shoulders with liquorice root and olive paste. A yield of 43.5hl/ha, 53.1% grand vin. Harvested 10 September to 2 October. 1% Petit Verdot completes the blend. IPT 75.8. The 3.76pH is the highest since 1989.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“Black, red fruit and hints of blue fruit, cigar box, tobacco leaf, tar, smoke, espresso and campfire notes create the enticing aromatic profile. The wine is powerful, full-bodied, and concentrated, taking up a lot of room on your palate. Luxurious, palate staining, polished, and energetic in your mouth, the finish lingers with layers of smoked red, blue, and black fruits, stone, tobacco leaf, oyster shell and smoke. I really like the length and purity in the finish. The end note kept going long after the wine left my glass. The wine blends 57.5% Merlot with 42.5%, 14.4% ABV.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Take all the power La Mission Haut Brion is capable of harnessing, add the elegance, freshness, purity and layers of complexity that come at you in waves, and you have an idea of what to expect in your glass. There is purity of the fruit with a natural smoke, tobacco leaf and burning ember profile in every sip. And the finish, it kept going long after the wine left my glass. Made from 57.5% Merlot and 42.5% and reaching 14.4% alcohol with a pH of 3.76, the harvest took place September 19-October 14. The Grand Vin represents 53% of the harvest.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Deep ruby-purple in the glass. Exotic and aromatic on the nose with smoked almonds, tobacco, and blue fruits. The palate is tightly focused and precise, with very fine but plentiful tannins coating the mouth. The fruit is pure and ripe, with juicy cherries and hints of cassis. The exotic spice of oak is judicious and complements the riper elements of fruit, bringing savoury, smoky tones through the mid palate. The finish is fleshy and long, with a creamy, chocolate and vanilla edge to the black cherries that linger in the mouth.”*  
- Farr Vintners

*“The 2018 La Mission Haut-Brion was double decanted and assessed after two hours, and the over the following 24 hours compared directly with – what else? – Haut-Brion. They were initially poured blind. This has retained a very perfumed and hedonistic bouquet of black fruit and pressed violets, and less of the graphite that I picked up out of barrel; touches of ash/fireside hearth develop with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-boned tannins, and quite structured, more so than the Haut-Brion. There is a brightness here that I really like. Vivid, animated, and brimming with energy and still incredibly persistent on the finish. A fabulous La Mission Haut-Brion that deserves several years in bottle, and though I would not rank it alongside, say, the 1955 or 1989, it is a magnificent Pessac-Léognan.”*  
- NM, Vinous

**Reviews** *“The 2018 La Mission Haut-Brion was picked from 10 September to 2 October at 44hL/ha. It has a perfumed and wonderfully delineated bouquet with blackberry, briary, pressed violets and graphite aromas, perhaps even more precise than the Haut-Brion at this stage. The palate is medium bodied with silky smooth tannins. This is almost clinical in terms of precision, symmetrical, with a powerful, almost Burgundian finish that reveals amazing persistence. This is a fabulous La Mission Haut-Brion and a contender for one of the wines of the vintage.2024 – 2060.”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“Although it emerges from a similar terroir and the same winemaking team, the 2018 Château La Mission Haut-Brion is a dramatically different wine than the Haut-Brion and has a more concentrated, dense, powerful style that is all potential at this point. Dense purple-hued, with lots of crème de cassis, black cherries, smoked meats, lead pencil, graphite, and crushed stone aromatics, it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, a concentrated mid-palate, masses of ripe tannins, integrated acidity, and one hell of a finish. This blockbuster, backward, monster of a La Mission Haut-Brion needs to be forgotten for a good decade (or more) but is going to be just about immortal.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The 2018 La Mission Haut-Brion checks in as 53.5% Merlot, 42.9% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Cabernet Franc that, like the La Chappelle de la Mission Haut-Brion, was harvested between September 10 and October 2. Straight up awesome notes of black raspberries, smoked earth, melted licorice, and tobacco all emerge from this deeply colored 2018, and it develops a beautiful violet and floral quality with time in the glass. Rich, full-bodied, and concentrated on the palate, with subtle background oak and sweet tannins, it's one sexy yet also seamless 2018 that does everything right.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“(53.5 Merlot, 42.9 Cabernet Sauvignon, 4.4 Cabernet Franc) | 62% new oak | 14.2 – 14.4% alc | 76 IPT | Harvested between 10th September and 2nd October This is a blunt and tough La Mission with muscle and power and it is not showing much fruit, preferring to lead with skin tannin and oak notes. The dryness and intensity of the skin derived flavours are rather arresting and this dents the flow of the wine across the palate. There are slight coffee bean notes and some tobacco details here, but overall, this is a square, monolithic wine which needs a lot of time and also some serious softening of the tannins to fall into balance.”*  
- MJ, [matthewjukes.com](http://matthewjukes.com)

---