

# Château La Mission Haut Brion 2019

CSPC# 848127

750mlx3

14.6% alc./vol.

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

53% Merlot, 39.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7.5% Cabernet Franc

Pessac-Léognan

Cru Classe de Graves in 1959

<http://www.mission-haut-brion.com/#/home>

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.

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.

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.

**Winemaker**  
**Vintage**

Oenologist and cellar master: Jean-Philippe Masclef

The mild and dry 2018-2019 winter period led to a rather precocious budbreak, on March 1st.

Then, in spring, with the cool temperatures, the vine grew slowly. The flowering was beautiful, with neither shatter nor millerandage. The vine growth was supported by consistent, steady rainfall in June, with the vine developing a very beautiful, uniform surface.

From the end of June, the year 2019 was marked by several heatwaves. The month of July, which was particularly hot, ranks as the third-hottest July on record, after July 2006 and 2013, registering a record-breaking 42°C (107.6°F) on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In August, the temperature variation between cool nights and hot days favored the development of anthocyanins (which color the grapes and tannins).

These periods of intense heat resulted in relatively slow ripening, on the cabernet francs and sauvignons, but did not stunt the vine. Ripening progressed smoothly across all of the white varieties - which were ready in time for harvesting season - as well as on the earliest merlots.

In September, the long-awaited rain arrived on the 9th of the month, returning from the 21st to the 25th, without any consequence on the grape clusters. In between these two rainy episodes, the dry, hot continental air accelerated the final ripening stage for all the red grape varieties.

**Vineyards**

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.

**Harvest**

Harvested between September 11th to October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The harvesting of the reds began a little later, on September 10th. The harvesting conditions for the Merlots were particularly beautiful and warm. The perfectly ripe, sugar-rich grapes yielded wines that are rich, structured, and generous on the palate.

For their part, the Cabernet Francs were picked after a period of rainfall that did them good. This grape variety is surprising for its level of aromatic and gustatory maturity, as well as for the silken quality of its tannic matter. September rains also proved particularly beneficial to the Cabernet Sauvignon grape variety,



<b>Harvest</b>	allowing it to attain perfect maturity. The red yields were also generous, with a high quality for all three red grape varieties, on par with the 2009 vintage.
<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>	The wine is a beautiful deep purple-red. The nose is intense, with hints of raspberry and blackberry. What is striking as it swirls in the glass is its ripe fruitiness. The vanilla and delicately spicy, woody notes marry perfectly without dominating. The first expression is round, full, and ample, leading into a dense and flavorful mid-palate. Black fruit and licorice notes dominate the taste, followed by a juicy and velvety tannic structure. Since the start of the barrel aging process, this incredibly charming wine has gone from strength to strength and immediately reminds us of the outstanding 2000 vintage, but with more density. A 2000+!
<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.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2023 - 2038
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>98-100 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p><b>99-100 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>98-100 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p><b>Review Only</b> - Farr Vintners - May 2020</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p><b>97+ points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p><b>19 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Captures the essence of the vintage as well as possible, with a lovely swath of cassis, plum puree, and cherry compote flavors that glides along, showing just enough buried spine in the form of alder and iron notes to give this form. Features alluring red tea and savory details that add range on the lengthy finish. Approachable already, but there's no rush here. Best from 2023 through 2038."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2019 La Mission Haut-Brion unwinds in the glass with aromas of inky berry fruit, wild plums and cherries mingled with notions of warm spices, burning embers and creamy new oak. Full-bodied, deep, and layered, it's rich and concentrated, with a deep core of fruit, bright acids, and fine, powdery tannins. Powerful and tightly wound, this is less sumptuous and demonstrative out of the gates than its sibling Haut-Brion, but I suspect it possesses even greater potential. (WK)."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Very deep purple-black in color, it slowly unfurls in the glass to reveal a beguiling perfume of violets, Black Forest cake, wild blueberries, and kirsch with nuances of star anise, cast-iron pan, pencil lead and crushed rocks plus a waft of wild sage. The full-bodied palate is densely laden with layers of black fruit, earth, and floral-laced flavors, framed by exquisitely ripe, finely grained tannins and compelling freshness, finishing with great length and loads of mineral sparks. A wine of impeccable breeding, both decadently flamboyant and provocatively graceful, this is already a prodigious wine of indisputable beauty."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

## Reviews

*“Blackcurrants and crushed stones with violets and roses. Earthy and black truffle notes, too. Medium to full body with firm, silky tannins that are layered and attractive, in a muscular and toned fashion. Iodine, ink, earth, and bark with wet-vine undertones to the fruit at the end. Reserved and impressive. Best after 2025.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“A tight and structured La Mission that takes you deep into the glass with super intensity and power. The tannins are omnipresent and envelop the palate. It’s full-bodied yet agile and complete. Iodine, sweet-tobacco, and blackberry character. It seems never to finish. Another WOW wine that reminds me of some of the great classics of this estate, such as the 1955.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Showing a stylish face to the world, this wine has a wonderful combination of dark fruits and rich tannins. It is full, with ripe Merlot revealing a dense structure and opulent potential. The wine is set for a long, slow aging. Barrel Sample: 96-98.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Wonderful, sweet fruit and floral aromatics. Great freshness and life here, tannins are present, chalky and consuming but in a great way. The mouthfeel is excellent and really stands out - the deep cherry, plum and blackcurrant fruit pulsing underneath the tannins with a cooling menthol, mouthwatering freshness on top so you get power and lift! One of the more open wines at this point with so much charm. Approachable and showing off but still a lot more to give in time. A brilliant wine. 53% Merlot, 39.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7.5% Cabernet Franc. Drinking Window 2027 – 2047.”*  
- GH, Decanter.com

*“Wonderful depth of flavour, a signature of this château that is just so elegant but is always happy to oblige in delivering delightfully sappy, seductive, gently spiced fruit. Cigar box and tobacco notes, floral peony, and iris aromatics. Great second wave of aromatics that is striking and increases the density and width of the palate. Oak already feels integrated even at this early stage (JA)”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“Fully knitted down but already showing its class, with a nuanced, complex mix of cassis, blackberry and black cherry fruits shot through with bitter orange peel, crushed stones, and sage leaf. The most gorgeous juicy freshness runs through the muscular tannins, with the same violet flower freshness that was found in La Chapelle this year. Just so full of enticing campfire and gunsmoke on this finish, this is a wine that will go for years. Love it, one of my wines of the vintage. Bottled May. This is an up score.”*  
- JA, Inside Bordeaux

*“A serious, age-worthy vintage of La Mission Haut Brion here. With a deep, dark, rich hue, the wine pops from the glass with its smoky essence made even better by its layers of black currants, black plums, tar, herbs, cigar box, and tobacco accents. The palate is full-bodied, powerful, rich, intense, mouth-filling, and long. Everything is in balance, meshing power with precision, purity, freshness, length, and complexity. Like all the great vintages of La Mission Haut Brion, this is going to demand time in the cellar before it unfurls and displays all it has to offer. Drink from 2036-2060.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Inky ruby in color, the wine blasts off with smoke, tar, hoisin sauce, oyster shell, thyme, black currants, and plum aromas. The palate is full-bodied, powerful, rich, intense, mouth filling and long. The wine coats your palate, but there is nothing heavy about it. Everything is in balance, meshing power with precision, purity, and depth with a finish of more than 60 seconds! This is one of the great vintages for LMHB! Created from a blend of 53% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14.6% alcohol with a pH of 3.9. Picking took place September 11 through October 2. The Grand Vin was produced from 50% of the harvest.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

## Reviews

*"Jean-Philippe Delmas compares the 2019 to the 2000 with more density - "a 2000+!" The blend is 53% Merlot, 39.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7.5% Cabernet Franc, with an estimated abv of 14.5%. We were unable to taste the 2019 before release this year."*

- Farr Vintners

*"The 2019 La Mission Haut-Brion was picked from September 11 until October 2 and matured in 78% new oak. This has a fragrant nose, very well defined and neatly disguising the 14.6° alcohol. It comes across just a little closed compared to other vintages, perhaps due to tasting in December. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, fresh and vibrant. This has a gorgeous texture and real tension toward the finish. Intense rather than powerful, it fans out wonderfully, gaining depth with aeration. An audacious La Mission Haut-Brion, but perhaps not quite within the very top rank of this estate. (NM)"*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2019 La Mission Haut-Brion is fabulous. There's no doubt about that. When it might actually be ready to drink is another matter! Soaring aromatics are so alluring. On the palate, though, the 2019 is incredibly reticent. Readers should be in no rush. Today, La Mission is a wine of huge potential. Dark red cherry, rose petal, incense, iron and gravel hint at what is to come."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2019 La Mission Haut-Brion is a powerful, brooding wine done in a grand scale. Scorched earth, tar, licorice, gravel, and dried flowers infuse the 2019 with striking depth and dimension. A wine of somber, brooding beauty, the 2019 is going to need the better part of a decade to start unwinding. Readers will find a La Mission of virile power and breadth."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2019 Château La Mission Haut-Brion is Merlot-dominated, checking in as 53% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Cabernet Franc. It's a more opulent wine compared to Haut-Brion, and the Merlot is front and center here, with ripe, sexy black cherry and redcurrant fruits as well as licorice, scorched earth, cedar pencil, and graphite aromas and flavors. Rich, exuberant, and straight up sexy on the palate, it's full-bodied, has a deep, layered mid-palate, building tannins, and a heavenly finish. Just a prodigious, powerful, off-the-charts expression of this terroir, it actually reminds me slightly of the 2005 (or 1998?) with its mix of sexiness and opulence. This is one of the few 2019s that will make your eyes roll back in your head. It will need 10-15 years of cellaring, but it's a sensational wine on every level and will have 40+ years of prime drinking."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, subtle lightening of the edges. Fine herbal spices, black wild berries, fresh cherries, a hint of lime zest, fresh bouquet. Juicy, structured, ripe heart cherries, integrated tannins, mineral-salty finish, already well developed, delicate style that encourages drinking, characterized by freshness and precision."*

- Falstaff Magazine

*"The nose is fruity, elegant, racy and offers freshness, a beautiful definition, a beautiful finesse, and intensity. It reveals notes of fresh/juicy lemon, crunchy nectarine, small notes of fresh lychee associated with small touches of fresh kumquat, racy minerality, very discreet hints of white flowers/lilac as well as a subtle hint of exotic fruits, small fresh citrus, and an imperceptible hint of sweet spices (in the background). The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers a juicy/acidulous frame, a good definition, juiciness, silkiness as well as gourmandize, tension, a very beautiful finesse, a beautiful grain, and a very fine richness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy lemon, juicy nectarine, small notes of juicy kumquat associated with touches of juicy peach, quince as well as fine hints of white flowers, lilac/elderflower, a racy minerality/flint as well as fine hints of toasted, crushed almond and an imperceptible hint of sweet spices. Good length. Gourmandize and a very imperceptible chew on the persistence. A very discreet iodine/fresh gravel on the finish. Good persistence."*

- Vert de Vin

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