
Château Haut Brisson 2015

CSPC# 771459

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

Grand Cru Classe

Website

<http://www.vignoblesk.com/en>

Organic

Certified Organic in 2010.

General Info

Chateau Haut Brisson, located in the Vignonet sector of St. Emilion, not far from Monbousquet or Teyssier was purchased in 1997 by Taiwanese businessman Peter Kwok. Peter Kwok, the new owner wanted to discover how far he could push the quality envelop for his Right Bank chateau. Before he could do that, he began increasing the size of their vineyards. When Kwok completed his purchase, the estate was only 8 hectares. Today, Chateau Haut Brisson has a total of 12.77 hectares of land in St. Emilion.

Starting with the 2005 vintage at Haut Brisson, they introduced the small production, 400 case Bordeaux wine, Haut Brisson La Reserve. This higher end cuvee is a selection of the best parcels and the finest barrels. The wine is aged in 100% new, French oak. Both wines drink well young. There is a second wine, Haut Brisson La Grave.

The Chateau is currently being part-managed by Kwok's eldest daughter, Elaine, aged 32, while the 17-hectare Château Tour Saint Christophe, which was previously owned by Castel, will pass to Karen, aged 27, while Château La Patache has been secured for Howard, aged 24.

Kwok splits his time between Hong Kong and the US, although Treziers said he visits Saint Emilion every two months and loves French culture.

Vintage

2015 St. Emilion has it all going on. Frankly, I could sum this article up rather quickly by just saying, "2015 Saint Emilion Rocks!" Across the board, 2015 St. Emilion was lucky. Vineyards in the cool clay soils that harvested late made stunning wines. But so, did the estates on the limestone plateau, in the gravel soils and properties on the more sandy terroir were also quite successful. That does not mean buyers do not need to be choosy. Some estates pushed the pedal to the metal a bit too far. There are overly extracted wines, and wines that are aging in too much new oak. But generally speaking, the level of quality here is homogenous. 2015 St. Emilion is the product of a hot, dry summer, with drought conditions. April was hot. June was hotter. July was scorching, and the lack of water exacerbated those conditions. What made this unique was that this level of heat is usually experienced later in the growing season. That was not the case with 2015. Fortunately, the rains in August arrived in the nick of time, providing enough nourishment to allow the growth cycle to continue.

Vineyards

Chateau Haut Brisson was certified organic in 2010. They are now farming more of the estate using biodynamic farming techniques. The St. Emilion vineyards of Haut Brisson cover 32 acres and sits on mostly sandy soils. The blend for each Bordeaux wine is on average, 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. The vines are close to 30 years of age. Vinification takes place in thermoregulated stainless steel vats. The wine of Chateau Haut Brisson is aged in 100% new French oak for between, 15 and 18 months.

Vinification

After a meticulous selection process on the vines and in the winery, the sorted grapes are filled into stainless steel tanks or directly into Bordeaux barrels (about 10% of the harvest). This follows the method of Vinification Intégrale. Our team is always present at the opening and closing of barrels by our cooper partners for better quality control.



Vinification	The vatting process lasts 30 days, operating a gentle extraction with pigeages in tank and stirring in barrel. The juices are tasted daily in order to protect the expression of our fruit. These tastings allow us to determine the day for the running off and pressing of the grape marcs. The resulting juice is placed then in barrels for malolactic fermentation.
Maturation	35% new barrels - 35% 1-wine barrels - 30% 2-wine barrels for 15 months
Tasting Notes	<p>Château Haut-Brisson 2015 has a deep red colour with violet glints.</p> <p>From the outset the glass is filled with notes of graphite, balsamic and cinnamon. The nose is intense with black fruit and floral aromas of orange blossom. The wood is still present but shows its charming side. In the mouth the attack is fruity on the palate with beautiful hints of strawberry jam.</p> <p>The wine presents a very nice concentration, perfectly controlled, with silky tannins still present at this point but without harshness. A good balance between sweetness and power, the wood is well-integrated.</p> <p>The finish has considerable fruit with a very light minerality</p>
Cellaring	Drink 2021-2033
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Aged for 16 months in barrels, 35% new, the 2015 Haut Brisson is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, it opens with savory smoked meats, sautéed herbs and dusty soil scents plus touches of cedar chest and iron ore over a core of black cherries, red currants and warm plums. The medium-bodied palate is firm and crunchy with a chewy backbone, finishing with great freshness and length."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Until the 2015 vintage, all the fruit from Château Haut Brisson came from down towards Château Teyssier; however, in 2013 Peter Kwok bought a parcel located on the limestone plateau in Saint-Etienne-de-Lisse, which obviously will impact and hopefully improve the quality. The 2015 Haut Brisson is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc cropped at 34 hl/ha and matured in 35% new oak. It has a potent, perfumed bouquet with violet-inked cassis and blueberry fruit that is very well defined. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin. This is a little more structured and classier than previous vintages, though there is some chocolaty oak on the finish that needs to be fully subsumed by the time it is bottled. Give this wine 2-3 years in bottle, because it is a very well-crafted Haut Brisson, though I think even better is to come."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Haut Brisson has a very composed bouquet with redcurrant and cranberry fruit, nicely integrated oak and a touch of Earl Grey tea developing with time in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with chewy tannin on the entry, a solid structure here with a spine of black fruit laced with cedar and mint. Give this Saint-Émilion three years in bottle if possible, just to soften and develop more complexity."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"This is the best Haut-Brisson ever showing ripe dark plums and chocolate on the nose, which is so seductive. The palate is all about the silky tannins and beautiful fruit. Full body, gorgeous fruit and a complex aftertaste. So precise and impressive. Texturally complete. Drink or hold."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *"A wonderful red with beautiful precision and depth. Full body, texture of fine silk. Blackberry and violet character. Hints of walnuts. So persistent. A much more refined style for Haut-Brisson. First year without Reserve bottling. Best ever. From organically grown grapes."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "91–93. Barrel Sample. The new wood flavors are strong here. They go with a minty character and bright acidity. The wine is dry and concentrated, with a firm core as well as juicy black fruits. It is beginning to balance well."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Blackish crimson. Thick and sweet. Not enough lift. More like a heavy syrup than a refreshing wine. Mousy hint on the end."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Spicy, smoky, floral and filled with ripe cherries, you also find incense, espresso and spice box notes. On the palate, the wine is soft, supple, and rich. The finish is all about the juicy plums and a hint of bitter chocolate in the finish. The reduction in the amount of new, French oak barrels used for the aging process has added a lot more freshness and energy to the wine. The first vintage made with their new parcels, and they no longer produce a reserve wine has created the best vintage of Haut Brisson ever made!"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The first vintage made with their new parcels, and they no longer produce a reserve wine has created the best vintage of Haut Brisson ever made! The wine is deeply colored with a spicy, smoky, floral and dark cherry profile. On the palate, the wine is sweet, elegant, fresh and delivers a succulent mouthful of juicy plums and a hint of bitter chocolate in the finish. The reduction in the amount of new, French oak barrels used for the aging process has added a lot more freshness and energy to the wine."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "This wine is more savory with herbal undertones. The fruit is there but in the background behind firm, mineral tannins. Well made, balanced and quite overt - best with 5-7 years of bottle age."*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- "The sumptuous, racy 2015 Haut-Brisson has turned out beautifully. Super-ripe dark cherry, mocha, espresso, licorice, exotic spice and new leather meld together in this effortless, beautifully resonant Saint-Émilion. Readers should expect a bold, full-throttle style. The blend is 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. (AG)"*
- AG, Vinous
- "The 2015 Haut Brisson is powerful, explosive and full of personality. This is an especially dark, brooding St.-Émilion built on full-throttle richness and opulence. But there is also plenty of character, especially for such an intense style. Haut-Brisson is 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc."*
- AG, Vinous
- "Made by Jérôme Aguirre, who previously worked at Christine Péré-Vergé's vineyards in Pomerol, utilizing Michel Rolland as a consultant, the 2015 Château Haut Brisson is a gem based on 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc that was raised in 35% new French oak. This medium to full-bodied, concentrated, intellectual 2015 offers a lifted, perfumed style in its cassis and assorted black/blue fruits, dried violets, Asian spice, and earthy, gravely, mineral nuances. With solid mid-palate depth, a light, graceful texture, fine tannin and impressive length, I'd give bottle 4-5 years of cellaring and enjoy over the following 10-15 years. It's a beautiful wine. Tasted twice"*
- Jeb Dunnuck
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