

Château de Braude 2018

CSPC# 848123

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot

Appellation

Haut Medoc

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

Website

<http://vignobles-bernaleau.fr/en/our-wines/chateau-de-braude/>

General Info

Estate of 7.5 hectares created in 1983 and located in Macau in the South of the Haut Médoc appellation; a few kilometers away from the Margaux AOC and a few hundred meters from the famous "Route des Châteaux". Located between Chateau Cantemerle and Chateau La Lagune two 1855 Grands Crus Classes from the Haut Médoc appellation.

Starting from a small Margaux established vineyard inherited from his father in 1980, Régis Bernaleau has expanded his two properties to 19 hectares composing over two domains. Their winery includes a vat room with wide thermo regulated vats, ensuring temperature control during vinification. The air-conditioned cellar equipped with 450 French oak barrels made by 10 different coopers ensures complexity and quality of the wine when maturing.

Winemaker

Régis Bernaleau

Vintage

With 2018 Bordeaux, in the Left Bank, clearly the success stories of the vintage are found in the northern part of the Medoc, and in the better terroirs. While it appears obvious, there are several reasons for this. The properties located in the better terroir had the financial ability to react quickly when it came to defending against the strong, rapid mildew attacks.

The growing season was also difficult for many estates. The vintage can be divided into two parts. The winter and spring brought a torrent of almost non-stop rain. Following one of the wettest initial growing seasons, 2018 Bordeaux was next in the middle of a long, warm, sunny drought, with temperatures that have not been seen since 2003!

These are difficult conditions for soils not able to retain ample water resources, as the vines can shut down and the grapes are unable to achieve full maturity. If that wasn't enough to contend with, in the southern part of the Haut Medoc, they also experienced violent hailstorms, which completely decimated Chateau La Lagune, who was unable to produce any for the second vintage in a row.

With all that in mind, quality levels, character and style vary widely with 2018 Haut Medoc wines. That being said, there are some very nice 2018 Cru Bourgeois wines and others from the Haut Medoc in 2018. You just need to know where to look.

This is a good thing because all of these wines sell for very consumer friendly prices and most will be ready to drink on release, or with just a year of two of aging.

Vineyards

Planted on a gravelly terroir from the Garonne area dating from the tertiary period, this estate produces a blend of 60% cabernet sauvignon and 40% merlot. Yield is 45 hl/ha. Age of the vines 25 years.

Harvest

Harvests by hand & by machine

Maturation

Cold maceration. Alcoholic fermentations in stainless steel thermo regulated vats followed by micro-oxygenation. Malolactic fermentations in vats
Blending before ageing in barrels. 100% French oak barrels, medium roast, fine grain. 8 different coopers, 45% new oak for 14-18 months.

Tasting Notes

Intense dark purple opaque colour. Some balsamic notes with prune, cassis, and ripe fruit blends with some oak and mild spices. The palate is still youthful with a slight austerity and tannic bite, high acidity, primary fruit flavours, some oak and smoke notes followed by a medium to long finish. An ambitious effort needing time to settle.

Serve with

Chateau de Braude perfectly accompanies the most refined dishes and brings sparks to the simplest meals. Its modest vintages still impress by their delicacy and its best by their incomparable grace.



Cellaring Will reach maturity in 5-7 years. Château de Braude can be laid down for 15 years.
Drink 2023– 2028.

Scores/Awards **90-92+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019
91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2021
15.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - December 2020
85 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019

Reviews *“The deep garnet-purple colored 2018 de Braude is scented of blueberries, kirsch, earth and florals with a waft of herbs. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is firm and grainy with good concentration and expression, finishing long and vibrant.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

Reviews *“The vineyard is situated just west of Château Mongravey. Firm tannins are derived both from wood and fruit, giving this wine power and potential. Black fruits are beautifully perfumed from the wood aging. This wine should develop well. Drink from 2024.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Cru bourgeois. 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot. Fragrant vanilla and dark-fruit aromatics. Juicy with plenty of freshness but there is a slightly dry, bitter edge to the tannins. May improve with a little more flesh.”
- JL, JancisRobinson.com
