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## Château Brane Cantenac 2006

CSPC# 749539

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

**Grape Variety**

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

Margaux

**Website**

www.brane-cantenac.com

**General Info**

Château Brane-Cantenac was for many years the home of Lucien Lurton - it is now owned and run by his son Henri. Its vineyards are located west of the village of Cantenac in the Margaux appellation. Brane Cantenac was perceived throughout much of the 70s and 80s as an underperforming property. Since Henri took over, there has been extensive investment in the cuverie and chai, as well as vastly improved vineyard management techniques. Consequently, the wines at Brane Cantenac now show more weight and concentration, although they still possess that haunting bouquet and quintessential elegance that characterize the wines of Margaux. It is classified as a 2ème Cru Classé.

Ever eager to gain an even greater understanding of his vineyard, Henri Lurton took on a young agricultural engineer, who carried out an in-depth study of 10 plots of Cabernet Sauvignon throughout the estate. Numerous measures, observations and analyses have enabled him to better understand the subtle mechanisms which link the terroir to the quality of the grapes produced. These observations also enabled us to adapt in a much more specific way the plot by plot selection for vinification and pinpoint the perfect picking date for each parcel. Once again, the vines that are planted on outstanding terroirs have proven to have all the necessary resources to ripen their grapes and produce great wines.

**Vintage**

A slightly complicated vintage, full of surprises, due to startling weather conditions! Off to a good start with a rather hot spring, the shooting and flowering occurred beautifully. But the July heat wave slightly scorched the young vines and halted the growth of the others. A few violent storms at the end of the month brought heavy rainfalls thus enabling some of the vines to continue to grow. Grape colour-change began at the end of July. August was very cool and damp causing great concern among the vintners. When came September, everyone had a different opinion as to what to do and when to harvest. Surprisingly though, the ripeness tests proved interesting and positive and revealed that, in fact, preconceived ideas were erroneous: the Merlots for instance showed high potential alcohol degrees, comparable to those of 2005. Unfortunately, the level of malic acid was also quite high then. The summer resumed and lasted until September 11, giving the bunches a chance to ripen and refine themselves to reach fuller maturity faster than anticipated. The harvest of the great Merlots started on September 18 under the sun, after the rain of the previous week. A very light dilution was corrected by bleeding the vats 10 to 15% of their capacity.

**Vineyards**

Brane-Cantenac's 75 hectares of vineyards are planted with Cabernet Sauvignon (55%), Merlot (40%), Cabernet Franc (4.5%) and Carmenère 0.5%, and lie on fine, gravelly soils.

**Harvest**

The Cabernets were brought in from September 25 to October 6: the great Cabernets were harvested at perfect ripeness during the weekend of October 1...before the rain!

**Maturation**

Vinification includes up to 18 months' wood ageing, using 60% new oak.

**Tasting Notes**

A beautiful deep garnet color. An intense nose with notes of toast, tobacco and white pepper. After swirling, intense floral aromas come forth. A powerful, ample bit which evolves in the mouth making room for a very sturdy structure. A very long finish with dense tannins and aromatic touches of cherry and leather in the end.

**Production**

10,830 cases made.

**Cellaring**

Drink 2012-2025



**Scores/Awards** **90 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2009  
**89-91 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007  
**92 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #181 - February 2009  
**88 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2011  
**88 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2010  
**88-90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2007  
**89-91 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2007  
**91-93 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 31, 2009  
**90 points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2009  
**93 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 21, 2010  
**15.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2007  
**15.8 points** - Decanter.com - September 5, 2011  
**15.25 points** - Decanter.com - February 18, 2010  
**Review Only** - Farr Vintner - March 2007  
**90 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 1, 2014  
**94 points** - Gilbert & Gaillard - December 2, 2008  
**90 points** - Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine (score only)  
**16.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)  
**16.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**16.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**1 star** - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2010

**Reviews** *"Displays plum jam and currant bush on the nose. Full-bodied, with sweet, ripe fruit, soft, round tannins and a long finish. Slightly loose knit at the moment but will come together with bottle age. Builds on your palate. Needs time. Best after 2013. 10,830 cases made."*  
 - JS, Wine Spectator

*"Balanced and pretty, with plum and currant. Medium- to full-bodied, with fine tannins and a medium-long finish. All in finesse. Score range: 89-91"*  
 - JS, Wine Spectator

*"I can't say enough about how beautifully classic, racy, and gracious the wines of Brane Cantenac have become over the last decade. The stunningly elegant 2006 exhibits a sweet, subtle smoke note intermixed with creme de cassis in its medium-bodied style with superb nobility, concentration, and sweet tannin. Possessing a complex, luscious personality with strikingly beautiful, velvety tannins, it should be at its finest between 2012-2025+."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted at the chateau with Henri Lurton. This is very closed on the nose: masculine with cedar and tobacco/smoke notes inflecting the dark berried fruits. Good definition, just a little too serious perhaps? Silky smooth on the entry, this is a very polished 2006, perhaps almost over polished. Seamless tannins, but needing more backbone, leading to a lactic textured, leafy finish with hints of thyme and sage on the aftertaste. Moderate length. This needs more vigour to really satisfy so perhaps it will one day turn around and surprise me? Stand off-ish at the moment. Drink 2014- Tasted April 2010."*  
 - NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted blind at Southwold '06 Bordeaux tasting. The Brane-Cantenac is more understated nose than the Palmer tasted blind alongside, but still it comes across as well defined with good minerality, wild blackberry, a touch of black plum and black olive. The palate has a sweet entry with upfront, plum and cassis-flavoured fruit, but rather attenuated towards the finish just when I wanted it to hold its chin up. Tasted January 2010."*  
 - NM, Wine Journal

- Reviews** *“Tasted at the UGC. The nose is rather muted, faint scents of raspberry leaf with a touch of brown sugar in the background. Ripe, bit lacking some definition. The palate is full-bodied with spicy red-berried fruit, lacking a little freshness and vitality. Tannic, slightly green on the finish. A little underwhelming to be honest. (86-88) Tasted again in London where again the nose took some coaxing before revealing a ripe nose with more cigar box aromas than in Bordeaux. It also has a little more vigour on the palate with tobacco and blackberry leaf on the finish that still has a touch of greenness. (88-90) Tasted April 2007.”*  
- NM, Wine Journal
- “Balanced and pretty, with plum and currant. Medium- to full-bodied, with fine tannins and a medium-long finish. All in finesse.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “91—93 Barrel sample. A firm, but generous wine with well balanced fruit and tannins. It has a solid core, surrounded by ripe, sweet fruit, freshened by acidity.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Deep red. Expressive nose offers black fruits, espresso and musky dark chocolate lifted by an exotic floral component. Juicy, sweet and pliant, with a generosity of texture in the context of the vintage. Has the mid-palate flavor intensity to buffer its tannins and finishes with noteworthy persistence?”*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- “Very dark crimson. Sweet start and then pretty tough and austere. Very chewy indeed on the finish. Pencil shavings. But it was quite succulent and improved in the glass. www.jancisrobinson.com, 21 Jan 2010”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Reasonably deep crimson. Full, meaty, even slightly bloody. Very upfront rather simple sweet fruit and hardly detectable tannin. Certainly, could not be accused of an excess of ambition ... Bit of a wimp really.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Stylish violet, leaf, blackcurrant and cedar aromas. Rich and very meaty style which is well knit and made. Perky with charm and vivacity. Alc: 13%. Drink 2014-plus.”*  
- Decanter.com
- “Well-extracted crushed berry fruit: ripeness and depth Chunky, but good extraction, ripeness, structure and charm. Drink from 2010.”*  
- Decanter.com
- “Under the ownership of the Lurton family, Brane Cantenac remains classically Margaux in style but with a touch more polish than in days gone by. This is a beautifully smooth and supple wine with no hard edges. There is a creamy texture and impressive depth of ripe fruit. Fleshy not forced with hints of mint leaf and a cappuccino finish with sprinklings of milk chocolate.”*  
- Farr Vintners
- “Elegant, medium-bodied Margaux with lovely violet and cedar notes. Still young but just opening up now. Restrained and still tight on the palate with silky tannins. Best after a few more years in bottle.”*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- “Intense colour. Wood and roasted coffee on the nose, lovely fruit quality. Fleshy and ample palate, very persistent, fresh and young. Another vintage with a successful career ahead.”*  
- en.gilbertgaillard.com
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