

Château Brane Cantenac 2009

CSPC# 749539

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety

53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc

Negociant

Ginestet

Appellation

Margaux

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 characterise the wines of Margaux. It is classified as a 2ème Cru Classé.

Vintage

A dry, sunny early spring. Several streaks of violent weather in May, with hailstorms on the 11th & 14th that spared the Brane-Cantenac vineyards by chance. Ideal weather conditions, with systematical rainfall deficit after the last week of June. In Jun-August temperatures were 2-3 degrees higher than the decade's averages (the summer of 2009 was one of the hottest since 1950). Exceptional & ideal weather conditions in September & October enabled the grapes to ripen perfectly. Cool nights promoted the synthesis of phenolic compounds alternated with midsummer daytime temperatures that lingered around 30 degrees celcius. Virtually no rainfall in Margaux in September and until the end of the harvesting period.

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

September 22nd –October 2nd with the Merlot grapes. Cabernets were harvested from September 30th–October 9th with perfect ripeness, producing aromatic, full-bodied and powerful wines. Yields 48.4hl/ha

Maturation

Vinification includes up to 18 months' wood ageing, a third to a half in new barrels.

Tasting Notes

Ripe and succulent with the lovely perfume of great Margaux, this is concentrated but fresh, supple but structured, and very, very harmonious. Beautifully balanced and with great poise, this wears its 60% new oak like a glove. Henri Lurton mentioned that in 2009 the grape juice before fermentation was so fragrant that the vat room was already then full of the smell of blackberries and raspberries.

Cellaring

Drink 2010-2040

Scores/Awards

89-92 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - April 2010
90+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012
92-94 points - Lisa Perroti-Brown, Wine Advocate In Asia- July 2010
93-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010
93+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012
91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - November 2011
94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010
91 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July 2012
89-92 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010
17.5 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2011
17-18+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010
18 points/5 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010



Scores/Awards **94 points** - Jane Anson, *The New Bordeaux* - April 2010
94-96 points - Alan Duran, *Periodic Review* - March 2010

Reviews *"Blueberries with a chalky, mineral undertone on the nose. Full-bodied, with fine tannins and a fresh finish. New wood already showing strong. Not giving much."*
- JS, *Wine Spectator*

"A spectacular effort from this estate rivaling their 2005, but more flashy/flamboyant, this dark ruby/purple wine has a strikingly intense nose of licorice, flowers, plums and dark berries. Medium to full-bodied, very approachable and silky, this suave, very sexy wine can be drunk early on as well as aged for 20+ years."
- RP, *Wine Advocate*

"A spicy, black cherry and black raspberry scented nose leads to a well-structured palate with a high level of gritty tannins and medium+ acid. Medium bodied, this wine has just enough fruit concentration to give elegant muscle to the bones. Long finish."
- LPB, *Wine Advocate*

"Only 37% of the production made it in to the 2009 Brane Cantenac (slightly lower than most properties because the fruit was so good). This is a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, and 7% Cabernet Franc, with a pH of 3.87 and finished alcohol of 13.2%. It is another offering that reveals no evidence of wood even though 70% new oak barrels were utilized. A dense plum/purple color is followed by a lovely perfume of flowers, boysenberries, black cherries, and black currants. Seamless in the mouth with stunning concentration, a seductive style, an exquisite Margaux delicacy, and levels of richness and intensity I have never before seen in Brane Cantenac, it should drink effortlessly for 30+ years. (Tasted four times.)"
- RP, *Wine Advocate*

"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London. A typical Brane-Cantenac on the nose: introverted, a little herbaceous, composed, timid but beautifully composed. Not a showstopper, but then again, Brane-Cantenac never is. With further aeration there is just a touch of black tea. The palate is very refined with a slight greenness on the entry, firm in the mouth with tertiary tannins, long on the finish with just a touch of austerity. Subtle bell pepper notes decorating the finish. I think the 2010 will prove to be the better wine, but this is very pleasing, and it seems to grow with each sip. Tasted October 2011."
- NM, *Wine Journal*

"This has a very precise nose with blackberry, cedar, sandalwood and a touch of mint, but returning after 20 minutes, boy does this open up with some lovely sweet raspberry and coffee aromas developing. The palate is medium-bodied, a little disjointed at first but coalescing beautifully over half an hour. Good acidity cutting through the fruit: soft raspberry and strawberry mixed with a hint of dark chocolate, veering towards a savoury finish. This wine only shows its true colours after some serious aeration. A second sample at the UGC was similar on the nose, but there were some vegetal notes coming through towards the finish that were not previously present. This is difficult to work out this Margaux at this stage, but the way it harmonizes gives me optimism. Tasted March 2010."
- NM, *Wine Journal*

"Aromas of blueberries and minerals with hints of spearmint and mint. Full bodied, with a fresh herb and lightly toasted oak with green coffee bean character. Racy and refined but a little lean. Try in 2017."
- JS, *JamesSuckling.com*

"Warm and rounded, this spicy wine has wood flavors just showing through the ripe fruit. It is already delicious, with rich blackberry flavors right up front, although its aging potential is evident with the concentrated, deep structure."
- RV, *Wine Enthusiast*

"92-94 Barrel sample. A richly structured wine, smoothed with wood, but based mainly on solid black berries and a firm fruit skin texture. It is big and very fruity."
- RV, *Wine Enthusiast*

Reviews *“Good deep red. Pretty cassis and floral aromas. Silky, subtle and fresh, with sound acidity framing the pungent dark berry and lightly herbal flavors. Very nicely balanced wine with an elegant finish featuring suave tannins, an intriguing saline quality and subtle persistence.”*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Aromas of spicy plum, stony minerals and herbs are currently a bit subdued. Suave and fine-grained, with a light touch to its rather wild flavors of blackcurrant, licorice, minerals and violet. Finishes with easygoing tannins that turned a bit dusty with air, as well as a touch of heat. This will need plenty of bottle age to pull itself together and develop complexity and flesh. But I like the way this wine expresses its appellation clearly in this very ripe year.”

- ID, International Wine Cellar

“Scented and sweet. Rather a heady perfume. Then sweet and sour on the palate – not especially harmonious or integrated, and there is some greenness about the acidity. Serviceable rather than thrilling.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“This is aromatically very different to the 2010. The elegant fruit has moved into a more tobacco-tinged character, with sous bois, dried leaves, a little tinge of cigar to match. There is still plenty of primary fruit here though; this is not overly advanced. The flesh here is unsurprisingly more pronounced than in 2010, and certainly represents the vintage very nicely, but it is perhaps more restrained than some other 2009s. It remains very harmonious and reserved on the palate, and then in the finish there is a sudden wave of exotic fruits and spices, and a flourish of ripe tannins too. Very nicely balanced. Really long and fresh despite the flesh of the vintage. More energy here than in the middle. More substance too. 17.5/20 (October 2011)”

- CK, The Wine Doctor

“Very attractive, stylish fruit here on the nose, with a dark character, quite lifted, perfumed with violets. The same lifted style on the palate, supple texture, perfumed, with fresh fruit. Ripe and substantial tannic frame, just a touch dry in the finish. A wine of substance here. Well done. 17-18+/20 (March 2010)”

- CK, The Wine Doctor

“Fine purple red, beautifully fragrant Cabernet nose, lovely expression of Margaux fruit, textured and dense, lifted and distinctive, both fleshy and classy, long and harmonious, very good.”

- SS, Decanter.com

“Good soft tannins that build up in presence in the mouth. This is very attractive, continuing a few years of ever improving performance from this château, owned by Henri Lurton. The blend is 53% cabernet sauvignon, 40% merlot and 7% cabernet franc, with 60% new oak. Lovely length, highly velvety and seductive. A very successful year for this property.”

- JA, The New Bordeaux

“Deeply coloured, very aromatic, with almost a leafy, green pepper note here. On the palate, this is stylish and well balanced, showing the elegance and poise you expect from a Margaux. The wine has as sweet core of fruit, nicely enveloped by tannins and underpinned by acidity. A great buy and one of the best wines in the commune in 2009. 15+ years.”

- TA, timatkin.com

“This is a stunning achievement by Henri Lurton! It is a beauty, offering an opaque ruby-purple hue followed by white flower perfumes, crushed-pencil dust, plum/cherry liqueur, a la plancha meat juice, and wet-stone that reveal extraordinary purity. There are thrilling plum liqueur flavors, a medium to full body, an elegant mouthfeel and a mass of fruit that reveals such length. This wine grips the palate with extract and gorgeous flavor that has to be tasted. Delicate precision is the hallmark of this nuanced, intellectual wine. A remarkable Brane-Cantenac for the next 25 years! Maturity 2015-2038”

- AD, Periodic Review