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## Château Brane-Cantenac 2016

CSPC# 813874

750mlx6

13.6% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Carmenère
<b>Appellation</b>	Margaux
<b>Classification</b>	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.brane-cantenac.com">www.brane-cantenac.com</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Henri Lurton
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>Margaux, which clearly won the prize in 2015 was not quite as lucky this year. While 2016 Margaux is not at that same level of quality, there are several stunning 2016 Margaux wines. Generally speaking, and we all know how far generalities get you, in many cases, 2016 Margaux differs more as a matter of style with 2015, than overall quality. While 2015 produced wines of opulence and sensuality, 2016 Margaux is focused on precision, purity and freshness. Alcohol levels are lower, and acidities are higher with 2016 Margaux as well. What is important to note with 2016 Margaux is that you find great wines at all levels from the top 1855 Classified Growths to Cru Bourgeois growers as well.</p> <p>Margaux is a large appellation in the Medoc, with 1,355 hectares under vine. The size of the Left Bank region goes hand in hand with a naturally diverse array of terroirs. The diversity of soils perforce leads to a lack of homogeneity in the wines. The vineyards with the terroir able to drain the water from the torrential rains, making the region the wettest in decades. We're talking 600-700 mm of water! The terroir was required to handle double duty as the almost, 6 months of rain was followed by one of the longest, dry periods with no rain seen in the region in decades! Add to that, the vintage was running quite late, and it's easy to see what the growers and vineyards were up against. Margaux, which has a slightly, warmer, micro-climate usually competes their harvest a few days earlier than its neighbors to the north. But that was not always the case with 2016 Margaux as some growers did not finish picking until October 18, making this one of the longest harvests in the history of the Margaux appellation.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	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.
<b>Harvest</b>	The Grand Vin represents 40% of the harvest and the picking took place from September 22 to October 17, save for the Carmenère, which was harvested on October 20.
<b>Maturation</b>	18 months in 70% new French oak
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Dense purple. Intense, multi-layered aromas of blackberries, black currants, dark chocolate, coffee and some vanilla. Complex on the palate with well-structured tannins and a long finish. One of the most beautiful wines ever produced on Brane
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Brane Cantenac is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Brane Cantenac is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2026-2060



**Scores/Awards** **90-93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017  
**96-98 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017  
**96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019  
**95-96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017  
**95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2019  
**94-96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017  
**16.5+ points** - Julia Harding JancisRobinson.com - October 2018  
**17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017  
**95 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018  
**94 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017  
**91 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017  
**16+ points** - Farr Vintner - February 2017  
**89-93 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017  
**96 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019  
**93 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019  
**90-93 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017

**Reviews** *"Shows a coffee edge, along with tobacco and bay notes that meld steadily into the core of steeped plum and black cherry fruit. The fleshy finish lets the bay element take an encore. A touch old-school. Score range: 90-93"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The 2016 Brane-Cantenac is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Carmenère picked from 22 September until 17 October (the tiny parcel of Carmenère picked three days later). The yields came in at 51 hectoliters per hectare and it is matured in 75% new oak and 25% one-year-old barrels, the final alcohol level 13.3%. It has a beautifully defined, very detailed bouquet with mineral-rich black fruit laced with cedar and graphite notes, living up to its nom de plume as the "Pauillac of Margaux." The palate is simply the best that I have ever tasted at the estate, without question. This has presence, but also weightlessness, filigree tannin and perfectly pitched acidity, with real intensity and drive. The tension here is outstanding and the persistence is incredibly long. It is not the showiest of all the 2016s by a long stretch, and yet it is everything you could possibly want from a Margaux. Like Beychevelle this year, the 2016 Brane-Cantenac puts recent vintages in the shade, thanks not only to the growing season, but also a new punching down system in their gravity-fed winery that was completed in 2015. The 2016 is a benchmark against which future vintages will be compared."*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"So much ripe and sweet tobacco on the nose with currant and blackberry character. Full body, intense tannins with density and beauty. It's a wine with great structure and panache for this estate. Try after 2024"*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is really strong from Brane-Cantenac this year with toned muscles and beautiful fruit. Full-bodied, chewy and polished. Shows wonderful intensity and density yet remains reserved and very tight. Very impressive from here. Grabs you. One of the best ever from here."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This firm, structured wine is solid with tannins and with the weight associated with the vintage. The fruitiness is as important, an explosion of rich berry flavors that will give pleasure as the wine matures. Drink from 2025."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"While this wine has tannins, they're beautifully integrated with the juicy black-currant flavors to create a smooth texture. This rich and structured wine is built for the long term. (RV)"*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Deep cherry red. Ripe, intense and spicy. Deep-fruited but with a light savoury char with cedar freshness to balance the fruit. Supple texture, chewy, deep and long. (JH)"*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

**Reviews** *“Dark purplish crimson. Neat, unforced, smells fully ripe. Salty finish and a fine spread across the palate. Bone dry, but not too drying, finish. Cool, unforced and sophisticated. Very competent indeed.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“It's clear how well this wine is constructed in 2016. Vibrant cassis and violet notes are joined by a powerful shot of freshness then an austere finish with touches of white pepper, showing poise and power. A touch of Carmenère is now making a regular appearance in this wine. It represents 39% of the estate's production, from a 51hl/ha yield in 2016. Drinking Window 2025 – 2045”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“Gorgeous campsite woodsmoke effect on the nose and the effect, as is so often the case with Brane, is that their use of oak ageing is extremely cleverly thought out. This is a luscious wine with rich, deeply layered fruits and gentle spices, all set against well brushed, caressing tannins. This is a great vintage for this property, so effortless. 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère (now old enough at 10 years, and successful enough due to the late harvest, to finally make it into the grand vin). Excellent. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050”*  
-JA, Decanter.com

*“Rich ripe sweet fruit the nose has depth of flavour the palate the sweetness of ripe black cherry and cassis. Fresh fruit in the middle gives balance lifts the flavours with at the back some rich black fruits. 2025-37”*  
- TA, timatkin.com

*“Quite floral in nature, with the added nuances of tobacco leaf, forest floor, spice, black and red fruits. Silky, soft and on the fresh side, there is a vibrancy to the fruit that combines lift and sweet, pure cherry fruits. This will age quite nicely.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Garnet in color, the wine begins with a dominant spray of flowers followed by the aroma of wet earth, spice box, mint, caramel, espresso and blackberry. Elegant but not light, this is supple, fresh, balanced and energetic with crisp, red berries, easy yet vibrant tannins and spicy notes in the finish. Blending 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Carmenère, this wine reached 13.3% with a pH of 3.69. The Grand Vin represents 40% of the harvest and the picking took place from September 22 to October 17, save for the Carmenère, which was harvested on October 20.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Henri Lurton, the proprietor here, has been working to improve quality in the vineyard with re-grafting of Merlot to high quality Cabernet Sauvignon as they look to keep freshness and structure in the wines. The vineyard is now planted with 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petit Verdot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Carmenère with the remainder Merlot. The 2016 was cropped at 51hl/ha and is 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1%, 27% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc with a dash of Carmenère. Henri Lurton believes this could be the greatest Brane Cantenac they have made with small berries of ripe Cabernet Sauvignon giving superb balance with great acidity, and intensity without weight, and high levels of integration despite the volume of tannins. Deep in colour, there is a fresh nose of crushed red and black berry fruits. Perfumed, floral and smoky with incense. The palate is pure and fine with ripe blackcurrant and hints of violet. Toasty, smoky notes provide complexity from integrated yet spicy new oak. Silky and lifted through the finish, there is great poise and elegance to this long, classic Margaux.”*  
- Farr Vintners

*“Rich ripe sweet fruit the nose has depth of flavour the palate the sweetness of ripe black cherry and cassis. Fresh fruit in the middle gives balance lifts the flavours with at the back some rich black fruits. 2025-37”*  
- Derek Smedley MW

**Reviews**

*“The 2016 Brane-Cantenac has been on a roll of late, under the watchful eye of Henri Lurton. This latest bottled vintage is superb. The divine, pure blackberry and bilberry bouquet develops touches of graphite in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, silky-smooth texture and a superb bead of acidity. This is not a powerful Brane-Cantenac, and it is perhaps less austere than I suspected en primeur, but it should drink beautifully over the next three decades. If you have a penchant for traditional claret, it really doesn't come better than this. Drink 2028-2056.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2016 Brane-Cantenac is very pretty and nuanced. The richness of the year comes through, and yet there is a good bit of freshness and energy as well to balance things out nicely. Brane-Cantenac offers a fine expression of the year in a wine that will drink well with minimal cellaring. Time in the glass brings out an attractive register of floral notes that add to the wine's undeniable appeal. Drink 2022-2046.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2016 Brane-Cantenac is terrific, and also a worthy follow-up to the 2015, although it naturally reflects the very different personality of the year. Dark red and purplish fruit, mocha, spice and leather infuse this super-expressive Margaux. Vivid and intense, but with a perceptible feeling of translucent finesse, the 2016 is wonderfully complete and expressive. It also has quite a bit of potential to grow from there. Tasted three times.”*

- AG, Vinous

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