

# Château Cantenac Brown 2010

CSPC# 744982

750mlx12

13.6% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**General Info**

66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot  
Margaux

Cantenac-Brown estate once formed part of Boyd-Cantenac, founded by Irishman Jacques Boyd in 1754 and later passed on within the family to Scottish socialite John Lewis Brown - who unfortunately became bankrupt. Designed by Brown in a traditional Tudor style, the château was host to the grand parties the owner was renowned for, highlighting his love of good wines. Sold in 1843 to a banker (Gromard), the owner in 1855, when the estate was granted a Grand Cru classification. Cantenac-Brown, also building the striking brown-brick château. Hard times were around the corner (phylloxera, war, depression) and by 1968, the estate was quite ready for the overhaul the Du Vivier family gave it. Rejuvenation continued under AXA Millésimes (they bought in 1998) and is ongoing today under British businessman Simon Halabi. 150 years later the Simon Halabi family has given new impetus to the estate with the ambition of raising it to the highest echelons.

**Vintage**

The 2010 growing season was marked by a dry climate throughout the country. The winter was very cold, with temperatures 2 to 3 ° C below average thirties. The campaign began with a very mild April, May was then much cooler. Subsequently, the climate was broadly fees for the second consecutive year, morning frosts occurred at the time of harvest, October 18. The global exposure of the 2010 season is important and close to that of 2009. The highlight is the exceptional duration of sunshine in April, which was almost summer. 2009 and 2010 are two seasons of strong sunlight, with exposure times greater than the reference year 2005.

**Vineyards**

The 54-hectare Bordeaux wine vineyard of Cantenac Brown sits on gravel and sandy soils. Planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the average age of the vines are 35 years of age. The current blend in the vineyards shows an increase in Cabernet Franc. The terroir is gravel and sand. The vines are planted to a density of 8,500 vines per hectare. Yields are high, averaging 55 hectoliters per hectare. The estate takes a sustainable approach to their Left Bank vineyard farming techniques. This approach means only plant-based fertilizers are used.

**Harvest**

The grapes are hand-picked and screened on site before being transported in trays to stainless steel temperature-controlled vats. Between the destemming and crushing procedures, the grapes are screened once again on a vibrating table before being taken into the vat house. The weather, fine until the end, was our best ally. Autumn gave us a beautiful Indian summer with cool nights and sunny afternoons and soft. Plots harvested faster changing foliage color than the others, as if they let themselves go after having given everything. The Merlot was picked Sept 29, 30, Oct 1, 5 & 6. The Cabernet Franc was picked October 7, and the Cabernet Sauvignon was picked between 13-20 October.

**Maturation**

Alcoholic fermentation lasts for around ten days and is followed by the Malolactic fermentation in the barrels and vats. The plots are vinified separately according to grape variety and age, which allows for great precision in selection when Château Cantenac Brown is finally blended. After blending, the wine is aged for 12 to 15 months in oak barrels (made of split oak staves from the forests of central France). 60% of the barrels are new whilst the remaining 50% are 1 year old.

**Tasting Notes**

Like Brane-Cantenac, Cantenac Brown is one of the big outperformers in Margaux this year. Is it better than the 2009? It is probably more a question of taste. The 2010 wine is characterised by ripe black fruits well woven together into a sweet



**Tasting Notes** oak framework. This is a classic 'silky' Margaux but with very present refreshing acidity. Good length. A really successful wine this and with Brane-Cantenac surely a must buy in this vintage

**Production** 11,000 cases made

**Cellaring** Drink 2023-2063

**Scores/Awards** **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013

**91-94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011

**94+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013

**92-94+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011

**92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2013

**91-93 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011

**95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2013

**93-95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011

**94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013

**91-94 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011

**16 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011

**17.5 points/4 stars** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011

**94 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2012 (no review)

**94+ points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012

**92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 13, 2013

**92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 1, 2012

**90-92+ points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011

**Review only** - Alex Lallos, JJBuckley Wines - April 2011

**Review only** - Eddie Wolwolski, JJBuckley Wines - April 2011

*"Very fresh, with a bold display of dark blueberry, loganberry and plum fruit aromas and flavors that push ahead, followed by singed spice, black licorice and toasty vanilla bean notes. Displays a polished feel on the finish, kept honest by a buried charcoal accent. Shows plenty of length for the cellar. Best from 2014 through 2028."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Very focused, with a taut beam of red currant and crushed damson plum fruit, backed by very fine-grained, supple tannins. A twinge of iron weaves through the increasingly fleshy finish. This has power, but also lots of finesse. Score range: 91-94"*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The greatest Cantenac Brown I have ever tasted, the 2010 is one for the ages. Dense purple, with an extraordinary nose of sweet forest floor, blackberry jam, pen ink and graphite, this wine soars from the glass, giving it an aromatic dimension and intensity, I have never seen from this estate. The tannins are present, as they are in most Cantenac Browns, but the wine's sweetness, broad, skyscraper-like mouthfeel, dense, purple color and spectacular length (close to a minute) make this a giant classic and a fabulous sleeper of the vintage that still remains under-priced, considering how great its potential may be. This is a wine for those with cold cellars and youthful DNA. It is going to need at least a decade of cellaring and should last for 20-40 years. A classic!"*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"One of the finest Cantenac Browns made in the last half century, the 2010 may be even more impressive than the 2009. Sweet, fat notes of blackberries, forest floor and earth emerge from this inky/purple-colored beauty. The tannins are slightly more serious and elevated than in the 2009, but the big, bold, full-bodied 2010 represents a remarkable turnaround for this estate, which has now produced three straight top-flight vintages. It should drink well for 25-35 years."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

**Reviews** *"Tasted at the UGC tasting in London. Keep an eye on this fast-improving Margaux estate. The Cantenac Brown has a powerful nose of blackberry, tobacco and graphite - perhaps slightly autumnal in nature. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, plenty of ripe black, mineral-rich fruit and fine precision on the finish. This is a sophisticated, understated Margaux that should not be overlooked. Tasted November 2012."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Merlot, the Cantenac Brown has a ripe, showy nose with succulent blackberry, cassis and plum fruit, a world away from du Tertre's more conservative style (tasted just before.) The palate is very appealing with silky smooth tannins, a lot of vanillary new oak to seduce primeur but very composed with sufficient fruit on the finish to support it. This is a seductive Cantenac Brown, very Margaux in style, floral and feminine. I cannot remember this estate producing such a fine Margaux. Tasted April 2011."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"One of the finest wines to come from Cantenac Brown for many years, this is powerful and dense, dominated by Cabernet Franc tannins and fruits. The structure has a smooth, polished character that locates it firmly in Margaux, giving elegance and discreet fruitiness. Age this fine wine for many years."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"93-95 Sweet new wood and fruit are laced with the freshest acidity. The tannins build up behind all this ripeness to give richness and balance."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"A wine with firm tannins that are polished and reserved yet there's an underlying richness of fruit. Plums, blueberries and citrus character. Some tar too. Juicy and delicious to taste. Try in 2016."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"(66% cabernet sauvignon and 34% merlot) Inky-purple. Initially reserved nose opens with air to reveal pure, vibrant scents of crushed black cherry, violet and minerals. Juicy and tight in the mouth, with penetrating flavors of black cherry, cassis, smoke and coffee and showing very good balance. A dense but weightless wine with wonderful energy and terrific lift. Finishes intensely minerally and long, with broad, mounting tannins that dust the palate. Cantenac Brown has been on a roll of late."*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Owned by the technical manager of Devise d'Ardilly. Bright crimson. Scented. Very gentle, almost sweet and burgundian. Aeriennne. Nicely done"*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Coffee bean, oak, olives, blackberries and bitter chocolate, the wine is soft, ripe and round, but there is a dusty quality to the tannins in the finish of this blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Merlot."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Licorice, black cherry, mint and coffee bean scents open to a supple, polished, fresh, medium bodied, round, chocolate covered cherry wine"*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Plenty of matière going on, taking full advantage of the powerfully ripe fruits that the vintage gave winemakers, and some thrilling acidity to send the black fruits on a search and rescue mission through your palate. The alcohol takes over just a little too much for me on the finish, but this continues a wonderful run of vintages for Cantenac Brown, dating back to 2008 for me. 92-93+/100. Drink 2018-2030."*  
- JA, The New Bordeaux

*"Well-extracted depth of cassis fruit, ripeness and length and more elegance than robustness than usual from this chateau. Drink 2015-25. (17.5 points)"*  
- SS, Decanter.com

**Reviews** *“Deep and saturated; fragrant and attractive, violets; quite plush, feels like fine Margaux; perfumed; palate attractive with some blackcurrants, violet notes again with some rosehip; some grip here but nicely done. Elegant and intense. Much better than 2009. Excellent 91-93+ Tasted 5 April 2011 [Second tasting] Deep and intense; more concentration and intensity on the nose than Brane; riper and full; some violest; good density on the palate, quite unctuous and worked palate; quite thick palate with chew and extraction. [66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot 13.6 alc] 90-92+/100 Tasted 7 April 2011 UGC”*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

*“65% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot, and 5% cabernet franc planted on mostly gravel soils. Aged in 50% new oak. The gorgeous nose displays green olive tapenade along with boysenberry, kirsch and charcoal. Red fruit on the palate hints at framboise, and this full-throttle and well-structured effort still shows nice freshness and purity. Most of all, it has terrific integration of tannins - almost drinkable right now. Yet, this is an age-worthy, medium-bodied to full-bodied effort that will drink well for two plus decades.”*  
- AL, JJ Buckley

*“66% cabernet sauvignon, 34% merlot. Aged for 14 months in 60% new oak. Ruby rim with a deep core. A bouquet of zesty berry and Indian spice leads into a plush and velvety mouthfeel. Notes of succulent black cherry and berry open up alongside espresso bean, cassis, and a hint of cedar. Great structure with caressing tannins, this should integrate nicely with short-term cellaring and should be keep well for 20+ years.”*  
- EW, JJ Buckley

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