

Château Cantenac Brown 2018

CSPC# 848992

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Margaux
Classification	Third Growth. Troisieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.cantenacbrown.com/en/
General Info	<p>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.</p>
Vintage	<p>“2018 A TOUGH MIRACLE ...Before 2018, « oceanic climate » was a broad meteorological concept made of different nuances. In 2018, from spring to the beginning of summer, this oceanic climate joined the vineyard to remind us of its main characteristic: high humidity spread over the entire season. A-er a complicated start of the season, nobody would have thought we would get such an amazing vintage. Once again, our job has been rewarded. For many years now, we are very active in the vineyard, and we opt for preventive measures, debudding, leaf removal and removal of secondary shoots. Everything is set up to work in good conditions. In 2018, we had to work harder than usual and double our teams to keep it up. In 8 days, we had to de-bud and remove leaves from more than 500 000 vines. Mid-July, grapes were perfect and were only waiting for the sun to start ripening. The heat from the end of July to the end of August, given the water resources present, allowed evolution without stress. The veraison was slowly homogeneous, the maturity was smooth. 2018 is an unprecedented vintage of great quality, all varieties showing a perfect maturity, mixing concentration, roundness, and balance.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The 54-hectare Bordeaux wine vineyard of Cantenac Brown sits on gravel and sandy soils. Planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot & 10% Cabernet Franc, the average age of the vines are 35 yrs of age. 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.</p>
Harvest	<p>Before the harvest, the contrast of hot days and cold nights was wonderful favoring aromatic and phenolic concentration. In a few words: a dream harvest! More than 4 weeks of idyllic conditions and plots with perfect maturity. Berries were small. Thick and matured skins released a deep color. The maturity of the pips, brown almost dark, round, long and fresh tannins show how great this vintage is. Merlot: September 18th-28th, Cabernet Franc: October 1st, Cabernet Sauvignon: Oct. 2nd-11th.</p>
Maturation	French oak barrels 60% new oak barrels 40% one-year-old oak barrels
Tasting Notes	2018 is an unprecedented vintage of great quality, all varieties showing a perfect maturity, mixing concentration, roundness, and balance.
Production	10,000 cases made



**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2023-2036
94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021
94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019
92+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021
91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021
93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019
95 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2021
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019
16 points - Tom Parker, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020
16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019
94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021
94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019
94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021
93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019
92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021
95 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2019
18 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - April 2019
17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2019
17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

Reviews

"Shows a touch of dark earth out front, with a mix of smoldering tobacco, espresso crema and singed alder notes before the core of warmed plum and blackberry reduction flavors finally starts to unwind. Just a touch burly for a Margaux, but certainly lots to like here and ample range and length. Time will likely add that last bit of refinement. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2023- 2036. 10,000 cases made."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Winey and dark in profile, with steeped currant, plum and blackberry fruit, buttressed by ganache, smoldering tobacco and warm earth notes. Accents of bay leaf, alder and mineral are in reserve. Delivers a beguiling feel despite the concentration. A very strong showing. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2018 Cantenac Brown has a medium to deep garnet-purple color, wafting gently out of the glass with fragrant scents of redcurrant jelly, Morello cherries, plum preserves and fresh blackcurrants, plus suggestions of red roses, cedar chest and pencil lead. The medium-bodied palate (13.5% declared alcohol) has a sturdy frame of grainy tannins and plenty of freshness supporting the delicately styled red and black fruit flavors, finishing savory."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2018 Cantenac Brown is deep garnet-purple in color and a little coy to begin and then, with coaxing, opens out to lovely red roses, black tea, violets and underbrush scents with a core of warm red and black currants and chocolate-covered cherries. Full-bodied and laden with perfumed red and black fruit layers, it has a firm frame of fine-grained tannins and a long, fragrant finish. Barrel Sample: 91-93."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Rich and polished aromas of blueberry, lavender, dark chocolate, hazelnut and sweet tobacco. It's full-bodied with firm, velvety tannins. Creamy layers of ripe fruit and wood. Long and caressing. Lovely ripe fruit in the center palate. Try from 2024."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This CB has an extremely energetic palate with beautiful elegance and power. Pure and bright. Really lively. Firm and chewy tannins."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Ripe black fruits shine through this balanced wine, showing strongly against a backdrop of rich, generous tannins. This estate is one to watch as it achieves the form the vineyard deserves. Expect this wine to be ready to drink from 2026. *Cellar Selection*"*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

- Reviews** *"This is a rich wine, full of generous black fruits and ripe tannins that give it both a powerful yet stylish nature. Its weight comes from the fine black fruit flavor, with fine acidity to the cut fruitiness. Barrel Sample: 95-97."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Deep ruby. Pencil shavings and black fruit on the nose. Fresh, fragrant fruit on the palate with quite sappy tannin. Suitable for the medium term but needs a little more oomph from the fruit. (TP)"*
- TP, JancisRobinson.com
- "69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc; 60% new oak. Barrel sample. Deepest black cherry colour. Sweet small black berries, blackcurrant, and elderberry. Pretty chewy on the palate, the freshness accentuating the tannins at the moment, but the components are well matched if not yet integrated. (JH)"*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "This is delicious, silky in texture and filled with luscious black fruits, exotic spiced liquorice and sweet blackberry. Touches of grilled cedar and just a trace of heat appears at the final furlong, along with a hint of menthol. The tannins close their fist around the fruit, reflecting the small berry size in the Cabernets, the percentage of which is slightly up this year as new plantings have come online. It's an impressive construction, a little less elegant than the 2016 but with a ton of personality and a sense of bursting out of its borders, not yet fully tamed - and hugely appealing as a result. 60% new oak barrels. Drinking Window 2027 - 2042."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Concentrated, lush, voluptuously-textured, perfectly ripe, deep, dark opulent fruits are all over the place in the nose and on the palate. Full-bodied, velvet textured with intensity, length, and richness, give this at least 7 or more years of aging and this will be a gorgeous wine for the following 2 decades."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Flowers, Maraschino cherries, smoke, espresso and thyme on the nose piques your interest. On the palate, however, it is the silky, polished, vital, spicy red fruits that hit the spot. Part of this allure comes from the higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in this year's blend. This wine is going to need at least 6-8 years of aging before it even begins to ready itself for drinking. Produced from blending 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, the wine reached 13.6% alcohol and the harvest took place September 18 to October 2."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The 2018 Cantenac Brown was deeply impressive when I tasted it from barrel. Now in bottle, it has a splendid, sophisticated bouquet of black fruit, light tobacco notes and a touch of violet and crushed stone; there is wonderful delineation. The palate is medium-bodied and very cohesive from start to finish, with fine-grained tannin's, superb mineralité and a disarming sense of tension that lingers on the aftertaste. This is a benchmark Cantenac Brown that comes highly recommended. Drinking window: 2024 – 2048"*
- NM, Vinous
- "The 2018 Cantenac Brown is powerful, deep and super expressive, with striking persistence and terrific overall balance. The interplay of fruit intensity, aromatic depth and structure is compelling. In the 2018, the Grand Vin has a bit more Cabernet Sauvignon than in the past, plus drops of Franc, that give an added touch of energy. There is plenty of density and richness, but my impression is that the wine is also a bit less extracted than it has been in the recent past. Tasted three times."*
- AG, Vinous
- "A classic, elegant Margaux based on roughly 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot (I don't know the exact blend), the 2018 Château Cantenac Brown offers up a pretty perfume of red and black currants, sandalwood, dried flowers, and cedar pencil. It's not the most powerful or concentrated wine in the vintage, yet it has fine tannins as well as a wonderfully balanced, classical style. I suspect it will benefit from just short-term cellaring and keep for 20-25 years."*
- Jeb Dunnuck
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