

Château Brown 2012

CSPC# 779696

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

50% Cabernet Sauvignon 46% Merlot 4% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Pessac Léognan

Classification

Grand Vin de Graves

Website

<http://www.chateau-brown.com/en/chateau-brown-rouge/>

General Info

Standing at the gateway to Bordeaux, Château Brown stretches between three towns: Gradignan, Villenave-d'Ornon and Léognan. The proximity of these towns gives the estate a mild climate ideal for the ripening of fruit and thus conducive to making high-quality wines. Set in the oldest Bordeaux wine region (the northern Graves) Château Brown is to be found right at the heart of the world-famous Pessac-Léognan appellation. Château Brown, as its name suggests, bears testimony to the close links that have always existed between the Bordeaux region and the Anglo-Saxons. Founded in the late Middle Ages when Aquitaine belonged to England, Château Brown owes its name to the wealthy Scottish wine trader John Lewis Brown, who settled in Bordeaux in the late 18th century. An enthusiast of wines and art, this epicurean passed on not only his name but also his passions to his grandson, the animal painter John Lewis Brown. The owners came and went at Château Brown over the centuries and the estate alternated between glory and neglect. It was not until the late 20th century that the estate was fully restored to its former eminent position under the impulse of Bernard Barthe, the master of the château for the last decade. In December 2004, he decided to place his life's work in the hands of a famous dynasty of wine traders: the Mau family, in partnership with the Dutch Dirkszwaiger family. Stéphane Derenoncourt is the consultant for Brown Rouge.

Vintage

Finally arriving after a crisp winter, Spring 2012 was relatively cool and damp in Bordeaux, with budburst coming later than usual and flowering proceeding unevenly under the light rains. August and September saw warm, dry conditions with significant temperature variations and September helped redress the balance. In the final days the rain hurried the final ripening process and did cause a few grapes to break (thin skins on some of the Merlots), but the consequences for Brown were minimal. Fortunately, Pessac-Leognan was one of the appellations which was least affected by this year's higher-than-average rainfall.

Vineyards

Average vine age is 20yrs, in gravel with clay subsoil

Harvest

picking by hand with trays – double sorting. Merlot: 09/10/2012 - 22/10/2012; Cabernet Sauvignon: 10/10/2012 - 22/10/2012; Petit Verdot: 10/10/2012

Vinification/

Maturation

Pre-fermentary maceration at 6° for around 4 days – alcoholic fermentation in 100 hl stainless steel vats – post-fermentary maceration at 30° for around a week – running-off after tasting each vat – vertical pressing. Malolactic fermentation: one-third in new barrels. Ageing in French oak barrels, 33% in new barrels during 14 month/s

Tasting Notes

The 2012 Brown red vintage has a higher acidity than usual, a very fruity nose, a mouth with moderate amplitude, and a silky tannic structure. This vintage has a deep colour, and a beautiful acidity, with a medium alcohol level in the Bordeaux's wine style. Fresh and delicate in the nose. The bouquet develops scents of black fruit such as burlat cherry along with pleasing smoky notes thanks to a carefully controlled maturing process. On the palate the attack is big and smooth. This is a massive, long-lasting wine with fine, supple tannins. It will reach its peak in a few years' time.

Production

6415 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2022

Scores/Awards

91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015

86-89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013

89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015

87-89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013

87-88 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com (score only)



Scores/Awards **90 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2015
92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - October 4, 2013
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only)
90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)
87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
87-89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 25, 2013
85 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2016
14 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)
17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
Silver Medal - International Wine & Spirit Competition 2015
Silver Medal - International Wine Challenge 2015
Bronze Medal - Decanter World Wine Awards 2015

Reviews *"Nicely packed, with energetic flavors of blackberry cobbler, blueberry paste and boysenberry coulis, carried by a brambly structure and pushed by anise and ganache accents on the finish. Shows solid grip and should do well with cellaring. This has added some weight since the barrel tasting. Best from 2017- 2022. 6,415 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Open-knit, with a mix of red cherry paste and plum sauce lined with singed cedar and tobacco. Slightly shy on stuffing through the finish though, without the flesh of the top examples. Score range: 86-89"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"A nice, straightforward, chunky white Graves made from 66% Sauvignon and 34% Semillon, this wine shows plenty of caramelized citrus as well as touches of tangerine, fig and grapefruit. Medium-bodied, dry, fresh and quite lovely, it should be drunk over the next 4-7 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted from a barrel sample at en primeur. The Chateau Brown Blanc has a nicely composed bouquet with light apricot and peach scents that emerge with aeration. The palate is quite light on the entry with dried lemon peel and orange zest, but it does not quite follow through on the mid-palate that needs to show more expression and vigour post-bottling. Hopefully it will "fatten out" during maturation. Tasted April 2013."
- NM, Wine Journal

"This wine is dark, textured and full of ripe fruit. Not yet balanced, it still shows more wood than fruit, but all elements are coming together to give a full-bodied, wood-aged wine. Drink from 2020."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"92-94. Barrel sample. Ripe black currant and firm tannins combine well in this structured wine. It has a fine depth of a dusty texture, a wine that shows fine acidity, not heavy but full of fruit."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Smoke, earth, spice, tobacco and licorice aromas blend well with the medium-bodied, soft, silky and spicy red and black fruits, round textures and forward style. 87-89 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.co

"Bright red fruits such as cherries, red currant and blackberries. Easy to enjoy red with nice balance and length. Well made in this difficult vintage. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (11-Apr-2013)"
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"A big, broad-shouldered wine, the 2012 Brown hits the palate with serious intensity and slightly rough contours that are going to need time to settle down. The high presence of Merlot (70%) and pushed, ripe style adds to the wine's considerable personality. A rush of black cherry, plum, smoke, tobacco, licorice and incense leave a positive last impression."
- AG, Vinous
