
Château Brown Rouge 2014

CSPC# 779696

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot
Pessac Léognan
Grand Vin de Graves

<http://www.chateau-brown.com/index.php?act=,,,,,,en>

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 Dirkzwager family. Philippe Dulong is the consultant for Brown Blanc.

Vintage

Spring was promising, bringing generous flowering, but the sun proved to be somewhat timid in July and August, causing the colour-change process to be long and painstaking.

The fine end to the season revived the fortunes of the 2014 vintage, however, with non-stop sunshine from 20 August onwards. Harvesting of the Sauvignon-Blanc started on 5 September. The harvest was in perfect condition with acidity levels that were a little high, although interesting for the structure of the wines and their ageing potential. The Semillon grapes were brought in quickly and required stringent sorting, keeping only the very best. For the reds, harvesting spanned 21 days - a record at Brown - with the Merlot grapes being picked between 1st and 13 October in warm, radiant sunshine. We moved on to our superb Cabernet-Sauvignon immediately afterwards, when they were perfectly ripe, which was quite incredible after the stress of the summer. The 2014 harvests finally came to an end on 21 October.

Vineyards

The 25 hectare Pessac Leognan, Bordeaux vineyard of Chateau Brown is planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot for the production of red wine. Chateau Brown also maintains small plantings of 4.5 hectares of Bordeaux white grape varieties which consist of 70% Sauvignon Blanc and 30% Semillon. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 7,200 vines per hectare. The vines are on average, 20 years of age. The terroir is gravel based, with some clay, sandstone and iron deposits in the soil. The Merlot vines are as you would expect, planted in the areas with the most of clay in the soil.

Harvest

Merlot October 1-13; Cab October 14-21.

**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, 40% in new barrels during 14 months

Production

6500 cases made



Cellaring	Drink 2018-2032
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017</p> <p>90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015</p> <p>90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 13, 2017</p> <p>90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015</p> <p>16.75 points/89 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2015</p> <p>88-89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 24, 2015</p> <p>91-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015</p> <p>15 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>89 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p> <p>15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Very solid, with a core of gently steeped black currant and plum fruit that shows ample depth, while notes of bay, loam and bramble run underneath. A loamy edge echoes longest, thanks to well-embedded acidity. Best from 2019 through 2028. 6,500 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Very racy, with delicious raspberry coulis and red licorice notes that are already stretched out. The finish picks up spice, bramble and sweet toast details. Score range: 90-93"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The Château Brown 2014 is bestowed with red rather than black fruit on the nose with violet and iodine scents rendering this quite Margaux-like in style. The palate is medium bodied with soft ripe tannin, good acidity, plush in the mouth with quite a soft, lightly spiced finish that has just the right amount of dryness to beg another sip. Good effort. This should drink well for at least a decade."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A solid red with dark berry, chocolate and spice character. Full body, chewy finish."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"90–92. Barrel Sample. This château in the middle of Bordeaux suburbs is now on good form, producing a wine that is firm and structured, with dark tannins and ample acidity."</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"One of the warmer terroirs in the appellation, getting closer to the city, favours the red wines produced here over the whites. As owner Jean-Christophe Mau has now sold Château Preuillac up in the Médoc, all of his attention is focused on this lovely often great value property. This is contemporary in style, high powered extraction, just about managed to keep those tannins astringent rather than bitter, but it is walking the line. Good Pessac typicity in terms of balance of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grapes, with a touch of Petit Verdot that gives, when combined with the oak ageing, high octane cassis and liquorice. Good freshness on finish, polished."</i></p> <p>- JA, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"Licorice, smoke and sweet blackberry scents open the perfume. This wine is soft, forward, medium-bodied, approachable and finishes with a blast of ripe, black cherries. 88-89 Pts"</i></p> <p>- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"A dark, explosive wine, the 2014 Brown hits the palate with tons of intensity and breadth. Black fruit, smoke, mint, leather and tobacco wrap around the huge, structured finish in a wine that brings together intense fruit with an equally imposing sense of structure. Consulting winemaker Frédéric Massie continues to do impressive work at Brown, a historic estate in Pessac-Léognan that seems to be on the rise. There is a lot to like and look forward to. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot."</i></p> <p>- AG, Vinous</p>
