
Château Brown Rouge 2015

CSPC# 763541

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot

Appellation

Pessac Léognan

Classification

Grand Vin de Graves

Website

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

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

Vintage

2015 Pessac Leognan is easily the best red wine vintage for the appellation since 2010. 2015 Pessac Leognan springs from a mild winter and a dry, sunny and warm spring. Bud break took place in the middle of April and the flowering that occurred at the end of May was fast and easy. 2015 Pessac Leognan was like the rest of Bordeaux during the summer as June and July were hot, dry months. Very little if any rain fell in the region. The lack of water blended with the hot, dry conditions in some vineyards caused stress to the vines, which in turn shut down their growth cycle to protect themselves. While this was not a replay of 2003, it looked like the drought was going to cause problems for the growers.

However, the late July rains saved the day for 2015 Graves and Pessac Leognan wines and things began returning to normal. The weather in August was cooler than usual, helping preserve the aromatic potential of the grapes. The rain that fell August 3 and August helped produce grapes that were perfectly ripe and healthy. August ranged from warm to cool temperatures during the day with cold nights, helping the grapes gain much needed freshness. It is also important to note that in Pessac Leognan, the months of September and October were drier than much of Bordeaux, especially in the northern Medoc. In fact, Pessac Leognan actually received much less precipitation than usual on an annualized basis.

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	The red grapes were harvested early, starting around 20 September with our very dark Merlot grapes, and ending on 12 October with our Cabernet-Sauvignon. Harvesting was an intensely satisfying moment; the fruit we picked with meticulous care was highly concentrated, very ripe, deep and almost black in colour.
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 month/s
Tasting Notes	Punchy, juicy and rich. Jagged, tongue-coating tannins which hit you before the fruit. When it comes, the fruit is bold and black. Spirit-y, boozy finish.
Production	7500 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2018-2032.
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>88-91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>88 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2016</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>16 points - Bettane & Desseave (score only) - April 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Bright and fresh, with a floral edge out front, followed by black cherry and red currant fruit. Light tar and licorice accents add range on the finish, staying pure and well-balanced. Drink now through 2027. 7,500 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Light and fresh, featuring gentle cassis bush and bay accents amid a core of cherry and raspberry fruit. A little shy on depth but pretty, with a silky finish. Score range: 88-91."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The medium garnet-purple colored 2015 Brown has loads of crushed black berries and red currants notions with notes of tilled loam, dried herbs and meat. Medium-bodied, firm and chewy in the mouth, it has a lively backbone and herbal lift to the finish."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Château Brown has an opulent bouquet with sensual red cherries, crushed strawberry and raspberry preserve aromas. The oak here is nicely integrated. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, a fine thread of acidity, and impressive weight and body in the body. It needs to develop a little more nuance and complexity on the finish, yet it is harmonious and feels lithe. A seductive Château Brown for sure, one that will give at least a decade of pleasure and will probably be more approachable than some of its peers."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Aromas of black olives, blackberries, blueberries and lightly toasted walnuts. Full-bodied, layered and gorgeous with such beautiful fruits and polished tannins. A beautiful thing. So drinkable now but be patient. Try in 2021."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"90–92. Barrel Sample. This balanced wine is soft and ripe yet fresh, with medium acidity. Juicy blackberry flavors lend a richness to the palate, framed by soft tannins."</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"Dark crimson. Very heady, opulent nose. Quite a charmer! Very sweet and seamless with just a tiny bit of greenness on the end but this should please many."</i></p> <p>- JR, JancisRobinson.com</p>

Reviews *“Silky but taut tannins – a superb example from this château. Vanilla bean oak spice and no trace of dryness; elegance and balance with a sexy flourish. Medium drinking, great pleasure. 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot.”*
-JA, Decanter.com

“Fresh, ripe, soft fruits, medium-bodied and refined on the palate, this wine could definitely improve once it's in the bottle.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
