
Château Brown 2018

CSPC# 763541

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 2% 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.

Winemaker
Vintage

Jean-Christophe Mau.

2018 Pessac Leognan is the product of a challenging growing season. Like the rest of Bordeaux, the vintage had an auspicious start as the vineyards were underwater. It was not just the non-stop rain that went on for months.

There were hailstorms to contend with as well. And if that wasn't enough, the devastating mildew attacks hit hard, especially in organically farmed vineyards. However, it is important to note that mildew was much more prevalent in the south, in the Graves appellation.

Fortunately, by the middle of summer, everything changed for the better. With the gorgeous sunny, warm and dry weather conditions, the vineyards managed to dry out. In fact, at one point, there was so much water stress due to the dry conditions that young vines in several vineyards were decimated.

Several vineyards began to suffer from hydric stress with so little moisture remaining in the soils. Clearly, Bacchus is a fan of 2018 Pessac Leognan because just when it was needed the most, much needed light rains fell the end of the summer, saving the vintage.

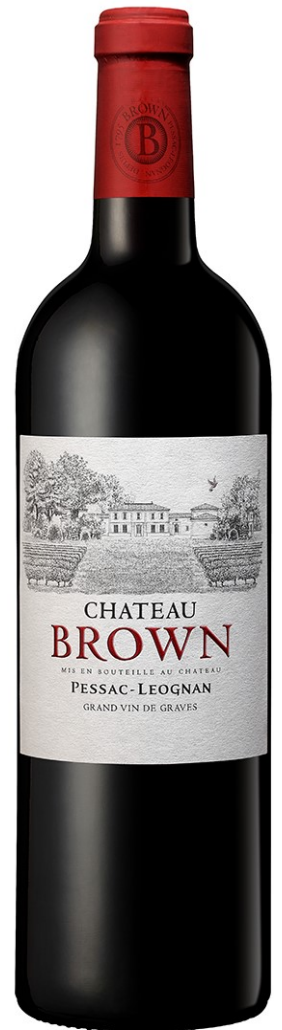
Following the warm, dry summer, September and October remained hot, dry and sunny as well, which was perfect for the red wine grapes. But it was a little too hot and dry for the white wine grapes. Picking of the white wine grapes began in August, allowing the fruit to retain as much freshness as possible.

The red wine grape harvest started as early as September 13 at some estates. While that's a little early, the ability to continue picking until the middle of October, allowing estates to produce the wine of their choice.

The berries were small, thick-skinned and intensely flavored.

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.



Vineyards	The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 7,200 vines per hectare. The vines are on average, 15 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	100% manual in small boxes, with bunch selection on the vine • Double sorting in the winery (bunches and grapes), using vibrating sorting tables
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, 75% in new barrels for 12-16 months.
Tasting Notes	For red varieties, harvests began on 21 September for the ‘old’ Merlot and finished on 8 October with the Cabernet Sauvignon. The red wines are extraordinarily fruity with a deep color, powerful aromas, and silky tannins with a high concentration of polyphenols.
Serve with	Château Rouge Brown is perfect with grilled, roasted, or stewed meats. A successful wine & food pairing with our red could be also with some cheeses such as Saint-Nectaire or with a multitude of Asian dishes and fish-based recipes like tuna. Serve with tender meat and seasonal vegetables: Grilled Bazas beef, Gers spring vegetables, a blackberry condiment, and garlic chive fritters.
Production	4,100 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2032.
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>86-88 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“Sleek, pure and refined, with cassis, damson plum and cherry reduction flavors laced with subtle tar, graphite and mesquite notes. Flashes of anise and red tea on the fine-grained finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2022 through 2032. 4,100 cases made.”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“The currant and blackberry fruit flavors are steeped but also lively in feel, with strands of licorice and sweet tobacco on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Score range: 92 – 95.”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Brown features crème de cassis and baked plums aromas with hints of fried herbs and tobacco. The palate is medium to full-bodied and very chewy with an earthy finish.”</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Blackcurrant, stewed-blackberry, thyme, bark and licorice aromas. It’s full-bodied with firm, fine tannins and a flavorful finish. It really grows on the palate. Layered. Try from 2024.”</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>“58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot. 75% new oak. pH 3.74, TA 3.26 g/l (expressed as sulphuric). Barrel sample. Deepest crimson. Spicily scented cassis and just a touch of cedar. Ripe but fresh fruited. Smooth and very spicy – quite oaky – on the palate, remarkably smooth tannins, velvety texture and lots of spice, and just a little bit of heat, on the finish. Tannins are dense but surprisingly approachable. The alcohol is slightly intrusive at the end but it’s still quite juicy. (JH)”</i> - JH, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>“Just 19hl/ha were picked after the hail and mildew, but Château Brown has done a great job with what it had. There’s a slight bit of heat on the attack but the concentrated fruit and silky texture eats it up, with dark chocolate and liquorice notes coming in strong through the mid-palate. An exuberant, good quality wine with intensity and concentration, and just hugely seductive. Drinking Window 2026 - 2038. Barrel Sample: 92.”</i> -JA, Decanter.com</p>

Reviews *“Wet earth, smoke, thyme, mint and red pit fruits create the nose. On the palate, the wine is medium bodied, fresh, silky and loaded with sweet, dark cherries. This is going to be even better with 3-5 years of age.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2018 Château Brown is well defined on the nose, offering plenty of black fruit laced with hints of espresso and dark chocolate, and just a faint star anise note hovering on the background. The palate is medium bodied with slightly gritty tannins on the entry, fine acidity and nice focus. Though it misses some depth and flesh toward the finish, it does have a spring in its step, and it should drink nicely for 12–15 years. Drinking window: 2023 – 2036”

- AG, *Vinous*
