

Château Brown Blanc 2013

CSPC# 763540

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

51% Sauvignon Blanc, 49% Semillon

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

The cool and rainy weather that ruined the growing season for Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot created ideal conditions for developing floral and mineral flavours among the whites. It also brought greater acidity and structure than many recent vintages.

Vineyards

Average vine age is 15yrs, in fine gravel

Harvest

picking by hand with trays – double sorting on the vine. Yield 38 hl/ha.

Sauvignon Blanc from Sep 23-26, 2013. Semillon from September 17-20, 2013.

Vinification/

Vinification: maceration on the skins under cold conditions for around 10 hours –

Maturation

pressing of the grapes whole – alcoholic fermentation in barrels. Malolactic fermentation: one-third in new barrels. Maturing: 8 months – in French oak barrels, 50% of which are new – on the fine lees with stirring

Tasting Notes

The bouquet is powerful with citrus scents of grapefruit, bergamot and mandarin orange. Mango and passionfruit are in there too, set off delicately by oaked hints of vanilla and fresh spices such as cardamom, along with vegetal aromas of straw and fresh mint.

Freshness dominates on the palate, but the attack is powerful and rounded, harmoniously balanced between torrefaction aromas and a variety of fruit, with the slightest hint of carbonic gas leading into the vivacity that is characteristic of this vintage, and a lingering finish somewhere between gentle warmth and tangy freshness. A lovely wine, just as is, but one that should also age well thanks to its acidity and aromatic power.

Serve with

Fish, shellfish & seafood, poultry and pork.

Production

1,441 cases made

Cellaring

Drink from 2012

Scores/Awards

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 30, 2015

90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014

93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 1, 2015

91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com (score only)

16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only)



Scores/Awards **15.75 points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 11, 2014
17 points - Chris Kissak, Wine Doctor - September 7, 2015
16-17 points - Chris Kissak, Wine Doctor - September 2014
15.5 points - Bettane et Desseauve - February 17, 2014
14 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
Gold Medal Trophy - Decanter World Wine Awards 2015
International Trophy White Blend over £15 - Decanter World Wine Awards 2015
French White Trophy - Decanter World Wine Awards 2015
Gold Medal/White Champion - International Wine Challenge 2015
Silver Medal - Concours General Agricole de Paris 2015
Silver Medal - Vinalies International 2015

Reviews *"Gorgeous Jonagold apple, dried pineapple, heather and toasted macadamia nut aromas and flavors meld, with a long brioche note underscoring the finish. Very flattering, but also shows sneaky cut and length. Impressive. Drink now through 2018. 1,441 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Tangerine, nectarine, fennel and yellow apple flavors give this a broader, slightly bolder feel, while melon rind and blanched almond notes add texture and definition to the finish. Very solid. Score range: 90-93"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"This sophisticated wood-aged wine comes from a fine year for whites in Pessac-Léognan. Subtle wood supports the rich tropical and yellow fruits as well as the crisper acidity. The texture, with its minerality, is still developing, with good potential. Drink from 2017.

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Quite full colour and good long fruit."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Gorgeous, subtle oaky nose with youthful quince aromas to the fore and elderflower, orange blossom and green apples in the background. Creamy, round and intense, the palate is bursting with toasty, spicy fruit which has lovely weight and concentration. Classy and delicious, but will get even better (13.5%)

A five-way francophone final tasting here, with a classic white Bordeaux 'Château Brown' winning out over contenders from Provence, Languedoc and the Rhône and another from Switzerland's French-speaking Valais region.

The judges enthused about the quintessential style of this Pessac-Léognan, praising its great balance of fruit and acidity along with the richness and depth that are hallmarks of this region's great white wines. They also remarked on its youth and great ageing potential. "

- Decanter

"This wine has a pale-yellow brightness in the glass, certainly showing some confidence here. The nose is delightfully classic in its style for Graves, with a scent of creamed-corn richness over fruit notes of passion fruit and lime, and the suggestion of a sandy, crystalline succulence. Indeed, the palate feels cool and polished, succulent even, with a sweet, lightly candied fruit intensity, following the lead of the nose with notes of lime again here. It has fine structure, a lovely pithy bite, certainly very vibrant and fresh. With great sweetness of fruit and texture, set against a deliciously bright frame of acid, this must surely be top tier in this appellation in this vintage."

- CK, Wine Doctor

"A very fine purity to the fruit on the nose here, ripe Sauvignon fruit, pear especially, with an overlay from the smoky, sandy-gravelly minerals of Léognan. The palate is lovely, showing the flesh of the ripe fruit, with bright citrus and apricot fruit complexity, with vibrant energy from the acidity, which sits very nicely within the substance of the wine. Very good indeed."

- CK, Wine Doctor
