

Les Demoiselles de Larrivet Haut Brion Rouge 2010

CSPC# 791487

375mlx12

14.00% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pessac-Leognan

Classification

Grand Vin de Bordeaux

Website

<http://www.larrivethautbrion.fr/index.php/en/>

General Info

What we know of today as Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion came into being with the original name of La Rivette. This took place during the 1800's. In 1874, the estate began calling itself Chateau Haut Brion Larrivet by the new owner, Ernest Laurent. This was much to the consternation of Chateau Haut Brion. Although it took decades until an official lawsuit was filed to remedy the situation. In 1893, the property was sold to the Canolle family who were already experienced in the Bordeaux wine trade as they also owned Chateau Belair in St. Emilion . At that time, the property was much larger than it was today. For various reasons having to do with needing money, portions of their vineyards for Larrivet Haut Brion were sold to other neighboring properties like Chateau Haut Bailly .

In the late 1800's, the estate was sold to Thomas Conseil. It was Thomas Conseil who changed the name of the chateau in 1949. The name change came about due to a lawsuit filed by the owners of Chateau Haut Brion. The estate was allowed to retain Haut Brion in their name, provided it followed at the end of the title. This was easy enough. From that point forward, the wines were sold under the name of Larrivet Haut Brion.

Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion changed hands again when it passed to Jacques Guillemaud. Jacques Guillemaud began to replant the vineyards which had become dilapidated. In fact, only 3 hectares of vines were planted when he took over the property. Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion is quite a popular wine these days. In fact, I think it is safe to say that their wines are probably the best known of the unclassified wineries in the appellation. Today Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion is managed by the Gervoson family who took over the property in 1987.

The property also makes a second wine , Les Demoiselles de Larrivet Haut Brion, which was named to honor their three daughters, Charlotte, Emily and Valentine. In 2013, the daughters and the estates second wine were both honored when they became one of the few Bordeaux chateau to have a flower named after them. The roses are called, Les Demoiselles Larrivet Haut Brion. Michel Rolland is the consultant.

Needing less ageing than the grand vin, the red Les Demoiselles de Larrivet Haut-Brion is made from grapes specially selected to produce round, fruity wines...

Vintage

A dry year with an arid summer. The weather during the growing season, from early April to September, was the driest since 1949. Total rainfall was just over half the average for the past 60 years:225mm compared to the usual 400mm. The water deficit caused dehydration in the vines, concentrating the grape juice and producing the highest values ever measured, particularly in terms of sugar content. The very cool nights promoted the accumulation of anthocyanins, so the 2010 red wines are the deepest-coloured in recent years.

Vineyards

Location: Léognan

Soil: Deep gravelly and sandy overlying a clay substratum

Area of vines: A total of 72,5 ha, of which 61 ha in red

Grape varieties: 57% merlot, 40% cabernet sauvignon & 3% cabernet franc

Plantation density: 7 700 plants per hectare

Average age of vines: 25 years

Harvest

Mechanical harvester with a selection system and Pellenc optical sorting before crushing



Vinification	The winery is equipped with stainless steel vat with temperature controlled which permit vinification plot by plot. -traditional vinification at high temperature (28-32°C) -with 3-4 pumping, over per day -long maceration (25-30 days)
Maturation	Air-conditioned cellar, traditional racking. 1/3 ageing in big barrels of 27 hl and 2/3 in oak barrels and in vat for 14 months
Tasting Notes	A dark, dense ruby colour. Black fruit aromas on the nose. On swirling the glass, sweet hints of vanilla and milk caramel come to the fore. The entry to the palate is round and creamy with very soft tannins. Juicy in the finish with black fruit and spice flavours showing through. A very fine fruity and fleshy wine to be enjoyed now or within the next eight years.
Production	12,562 cases made
Cellaring	Drink now - 2019
Scores/Awards	89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013 15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
Reviews	<i>"Roasted mesquite and cedar notes surround a core of lightly mulled plum and red currant fruit. The approachable finish lets a sanguine edge chime in. Drink now through 2018. 12,562 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator
