

# Château Haut Brion 2019

CSPC# 813914

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

48.7% Merlot, 43.2% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.1% Cabernet Franc

## Appellation

Pessac-Leognan

## Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classé

## Website

<https://haut-brion.com/#/wines>

## General Info

1st classified growth in 1855. Haut Brion was founded in 1525 by Jean de Pontac and since then, many illustrious personalities succeeded each other as owners. The last among them was Clarence Douglas Dillon, American financial minister under the Kennedy government. Today, the continuity and presence of the Dillon family are ensured by Prince Robert of Luxembourg who watches over the destiny of Domaine Clarence Dillon S.A.S., having joined the management of the Company in June of 1997 and succeeding his mother Princess Joan de Mouchy as President at the end of July 2008. Haut Brion is the sole 1st classified growth from the 1855 classification which is outside of the Medoc appellation. Its terroir may be compared to the one of Latour. Even if it is not the more concentrated wine, Haut Brion is the noblest wine of Pessac Leognan, and its longevity is incomparable. The silky structure of the tannins is always exceptional. Classed Premier Cru of the Gironde in 1855, and Cru de Graves in 1953, Château Haut-Brion was also classed thus in 1973, and although this latest classification only concerned the Médoc whilst Haut-Brion is located in the Graves appellation, the minutes of the 1973 classification meeting state: The jury, considering the situation of Château Haut-Brion and its long traditional connections with the Médoc Premiers Crus, and taking into account this tradition, the customs and practices on the one hand, together with its very eminent virtues on the other, has deemed it to be worthy of featuring alongside the Médoc's Premiers Crus Classés

## Winemaker

Jean-Philippe Masclef

## Vintage

The mild and dry 2018-2019 winter period led to a rather precocious budbreak, on March 1st. Then, in spring, with the cool temperatures, the vine grew slowly. The flowering was beautiful, with neither shatter nor millerandage. The vine growth was supported by consistent, steady rainfall in June, with the vine developing a very beautiful, uniform surface.

From the end of June, the year 2019 was marked by several heatwaves. The month of July, which was particularly hot, ranks as the third-hottest July on record, after July 2006 and 2013, registering a record-breaking 42°C (107.6°F) on July 23rd. In August, the temperature variation between cool nights and hot days favored the development of anthocyanins (which color the grapes and tannins).

These periods of intense heat resulted in relatively slow ripening, on the cabernet francs and sauvignons in particular, but did not stunt the vine.

Ripening progressed smoothly across all of the white varieties - which were ready in time for harvesting season - as well as on the earliest merlots.

In September, the long-awaited rain arrived on the 9th of the month, returning from the 21st to the 25th, without any consequence on the grape clusters.

In between these two rainy episodes, the dry, hot continental air accelerated the final ripening stage for all the red grape varieties

## Vineyards

Vines have been cultivated here for at least six centuries, in a vineyard once surrounded by pasture and parkland, now by suburban houses. Despite the encroaching reality of the 21st century, within the walls of the Haut-Brion there lies an excellent *terroir*, typical of Bordeaux in that it revolves around two gravel *croupes* - the same can be said for many of the leading estates of the Médoc. These gravelly mounds rise to the heady altitude of 15 metres, a lofty summit compared to much of the surrounding land, providing two south-east facing slopes perfect for the vine. The soils include ancient stones washed down from the Pyrenees over many millennia, Gunzian gravel peppered with quartz and related minerals, hardened conglomerates of stone and



<b>Vineyards</b>	flint. All in all, there are just over 51 hectares of vines which are cared for by vineyard manager Pascal Baratié, who also looks after the vineyard of neighbouring La Mission Haut-Brion.
<b>Harvest</b>	Harvested from September 10th to October 3rd
<b>Maturation</b>	62% in new barrels for 20 month/s
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>The wine is a superb, deep purple-red color. The first nose is at once intense and subtle. It has a ripe fruitiness, and swirling brings out its aromatic complexity. The first expression is incredibly smooth and delicate, expanding and filling the palate without ever “flexing its muscles”. The tannins are precise but not aggressive, and subtly enchanting. The finish is long and fragrant. Once again, Haut-Brion surprises for its ability to enhance the complementarity of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon.</p> <p>This Haut-Brion 2019 vintage is one of the most successful vintages produced after a hot and dry summer. This fine wine has the structure of a 2005, with the freshness of a 2010. A modern, richer version of the 1990 vintage.</p>
<b>Serve with</b>	Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Haut Brion is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta.
<b>Production</b>	unknown
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2024 through 2070
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>96 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>97-99 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p><b>99-100 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>98-100 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p><b>Review Only</b> - Farr Vintners - May 2020</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p><b>98+ points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p><b>98-100 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p><b>19 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>“A beauty, with a remarkably refined feel from start to finish, as the caressing but substantial structure lets waves of steeped plum, mulled raspberry and blackberry preserve roll through repeatedly, picking up singed alder and apple wood, dried anise, and sweet tobacco accents through the finish, where a curl of woodsmoke lingers. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2024 through 2038.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“Wafting from the glass with aromas of blackberries and plums mingled with notions of pencil shavings, burning embers and creamy new oak, the 2019 Haut-Brion is full-bodied, rich and fleshy, with a textural attack that segues into an ample and enveloping core of fruit, concluding with a long, expansive finish. Broad-shouldered and muscular, its rich, powdery tannins are already seamlessly integrated; and though it's labeled at 15% alcohol, far higher than the great vintages of yesteryear, it avoids any sense of over-ripeness. Jean-Philippe Delmas is delighted with his 2019s, and justly so, as this rich, dramatic, and unusually powerful vintage is a great success for Château Haut-Brion (and its neighbor, La Mission Haut-Brion). In the vineyards, a touch more Cabernet Sauvignon is being planted these days, but the evolution is subtle, as the 2019 blend remains very much in line with tradition at this address, at 49% Merlot and 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, with the balance Cabernet Franc. That predominance of Merlot, combined with Haut-Brion's warm mesoclimate, have delivered an above-average alcohol level, labelled at 15%. On the white side of the ledger, we can expect a touch more Sauvignon Blanc in the future, as Delmas notes that Sémillon tends to lose its acidity rapidly in warm vintages. In both colors, the vineyard team are working to mitigate the effects of climate change and minimize the quantities of copper employed in treatments throughout the year. In the cuvier and chai,</i></p>

**Reviews** *winemaking remains very classical, with fermentation in Haut-Brion's proprietary two-tier stainless-steel tanks, designed to maximize the quantity of high-quality free-run juice; malolactic fermentation in tank; and maturation in new oak barrels, some 80% of which are produced in house by Séguin Moreau (complemented by purchased barrels from Demptos and Taransaud). White grapes are whole-cluster pressed with great attention to pH, the musts protected with dry ice, and bottled with some 25 parts per million free sulfites, without much in the way of dissolved carbon dioxide.”*  
- WK, Wine Advocate

*“The 2019 Haut-Brion is a blend of 48.7% Merlot, 43.2% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8.1% Cabernet Franc, harvested from the 10th of September to the 3rd of October. The estimated label alcohol degree is 14.5%. Displaying a deep garnet-purple color, it comes off incredibly shy and reticent to begin, needing considerable coaxing to reveal notes of dark chocolate-covered cherries, blackberry preserves, woodsmoke and sandalwood, before launching into a full-scale fireworks display of iron ore, cumin seed, redcurrant jelly, red roses, oolong tea and Sichuan pepper scents plus a waft of cardamom. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers the most exquisitely ripe, finely grained tannins with a lively backbone of freshness supporting the tightly wound, earth-laced black fruit layers, finishing very long and minerally. This is one of the most finely structured, tightly knit wines of the vintage. Given time, I wouldn't be at all surprised if it goes atomic and eventually takes top place for the vintage.  
Barrel Sample: (97-99) +.”*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“The black cassis comes out of the glass, together with iodine, sandalwood and subtle moss and wet-bark undertones, then turning to violets. The palate is mind-blowing, with a cashmere texture that unravels on the palate and continues on for minutes. It's full of superbly complex, ethereal character and mouth-feel, One of the wines of the vintage. As glorious as it may be to taste now, this is one for your deep cellar. Try in 2029.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“The is very refined and elegant with a fine-tannined line running through the center of the palate. It's very intense and precise. Full-bodied with great, tight fruit. This is subtle and complex, then it opens on the palate and shows incredible depth and intensity. Great length, going on and on for minutes.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Powerful and confident, there is no mistaking this concentration of ripe damson and black cherry fruits, set against coffee, earth, sage and black chocolate. Tons of tannins on display but extremely fine, to the point that you almost don't notice them, then once the wine has left your mouth you suddenly realise how many there are, and how they are still exerting a pressure. Great persistency, slowing everything down and asking you to stop and think.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“A powerful, concentrated, muscular Haut-Brion, full of layers that will take years to fully uncover. Think liquorice, leather, crushed stones, smoked earth, bitter chocolate shavings, ripe and rich through the mid palate, both generous and finessed, with silky tannins that exert their influence without getting in the way of the sappy freshness that runs right through the wine. A seriously impressive vintage at this First Growth, one to put away and not think about for the next decade. Harvest September 10 to October 3.”*  
- JA, Inside Bordeaux

*“Perhaps seeing a 100 Pt score is not a surprise here, but the devil is in detail as every vintage carries a unique signature, and this is the point of tasting and comparing. I am jealous of the younger generation of consumers that will be able to compare the 2018, 2019, and 2020 on maturity, as each vintage has its own strong points and character. The 2019 offers a vibrant, rich, refined, powerful, concentrated, smoky profile with countless layers of roasted, smoked red and black fruits, herbs, spice-box, cigar wrapper, cedar, and burnt leaves. Even though this is incredibly dense and intense, it is also light on its feet. Effortless to drink, with a beautiful, elegant, silky, refined finish that surpasses the 60-second mark, this will be seen by future generations as one of the great vintages of Haut Brion. Drink from 2032-2075.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

## Reviews

*"Blood red ruby in hue, the aromatic profile resonates with a bonfire of cherry wood, tar, cigar box, spearmint, hot rocks, stones, and blackberries. Elegance, refinement, and purity, with all that smoky essence, is not found on any other wine. The supple, polished tannins, the layers of fruit that builds as you play with the wine on your palate is sublime. Here, the energy and vivaciousness in the fruit stand out, expands, and never wants to quit, as the finish is close to 60 seconds! The finish, with its sensual, velvet palate presence, coupled with luscious red fruits needs to be experienced at least once by every wine lover! The wine blends 49% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Cabernet Franc with the harvest taking place September 10-October 3. The wine reached 14.6% alcohol with a pH of 3.85 with 49% of the harvest being placed into the Grand Vin."*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*"Jean-Philippe Delmas describes the 2019 as having the structure of 2005 and the freshness of 2010 - a modern and richer version of the 1990! The blend is 48.7% Merlot, 8.1% Cabernet Franc and 43.2% Cabernet Sauvignon with an estimated alcohol of 14.5%. We were unable to taste the 2019 before release, this year."*  
- Farr Vintners

*"The 2019 Haut-Brion has an intense bouquet of blackberry, raspberry coulis, cedar, mint and black olive aromas vying for attention. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannins that belie the backbone, the arching structure of this Haut-Brion. Very persistent and very precise, showing a little more ambition and breeding than the La Mission this year, and a persistent, graphite-tinged, sapid finish. An opulent Haut-Brion and yet the pedigree is palpable. 14.6° alcohol."*  
- NM, Vinous

*"The 2019 Haut-Brion is completely different to La Mission Haut-Brion, the two compared side-by-side in the course of 24 hours. It was picked from 10 September until 3 October at 53hl/ha. Initially it is riper, more extrovert and luxurious than its sibling, yet returning after four hours (when chatting to Jean-Philippe Delmas) it has transmogrified into a very different wine with intense black fruit, boysenberry, iodine, forest floor and potpourri. The palate is medium-bodied and like the nose, initially comes across quite exuberant. Four hours later it is a much more nuanced wine that begins in understated fashion before a crescendo of black fruit tinged with blood orange and Chinese 5-spice. It fans out and gains volume wonderfully on the finish. This is a sensual and almost flamboyant Haut-Brion. 2029 – 2070."*  
- NM, Vinous

*"The 2019 Haut-Brion is seriously impressive. A dark, virile wine, the 2019 impresses with its vertical energy and statuesque elegance. It's a Haut-Brion that will only reveal itself over many years. Today, the density and resonance are super-impressive and also hugely promising. Classic savory and mineral notes start to emerge over time. I can't wait to see how this ages. Drink 2031-2059."*  
- AG, Vinous

*"A potent, brooding wine, the 2019 Haut-Brion soars out of the glass with magnificent intensity. Its greatness and regal bearing are immediately apparent. Time in the glass brings out a whole range of dark fruit, scorched earth, tar, licorice, and incense overtones that build effortlessly into the deep, eternal finish. The 2019 Haut-Brion is a wine of breeding, structure, and power. It is also very clearly one of the standouts of the vintage. Don't miss it!"*  
- AG, Vinous

*"The Grand Vin 2019 Château Haut-Brion checks in as a classic blend of 49% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Cabernet Franc. Its deep purple hue is followed by a stunning bouquet of ripe black cherry and currant-like fruit as well as classic Graves cold fireplace, burning embers, tobacco, and cedar pencil. More regal, firm, and classically structured on the palate, this full-bodied beauty has a deep, concentrated mid-palate, building tannins, background oak, and a great, great finish. It's very much in the focused, elegant, yet still concentrated and powerful style of the vintage. It will need a solid decade of cellaring, but it's a brilliant wine. 98+."*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

**Reviews** *“Compared to the La Mission Haut-Brion, the 2019 Château Haut-Brion is more backward and mineral-laced, with a dense purple color as well as notes of blueberry liqueur, black cherries, new leather, scorched earth, graphite, camphor, liquid rock-like minerality, and an almost Hermitage-like burning embers character. It doesn't have the overt power of Mouton, nor the sexiness of Château Margaux, yet it builds slowly and incrementally, with flawless balance, full-bodied richness, ultra-fine tannins, and a magical finish. My money is on this being one of the all-time greats from this address, in the same league as the 2009, 2010, 2015, 2016, and 2018. It will need a solid decade of cellaring and have 40-50+ years of prime drinking.  
Barrel Sample: 98-100.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, subtle lightening of the edges. Delicate with caramel and nougat, black heart cherries, a hint of cassis, tobacco notes of precious wood. Juicy, fine red berry fruit nuances, pleasantly sweet, integrated tannins, acid structure rich in finesse, lemony and salty on the finish, shows very good length, already accessible, sure potential for aging. (2025 - 2050).”*  
- Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is elegant, fruity, precise, racy, beautifully built, beautifully complex and offers a juicy/ripe fruit, a beautiful finesse of the grain and a small intensity. It reveals notes of pulpy/juicy lemon, white peach, small notes of lemon flowers associated with fine touches of juicy/fresh mandarin, quenette as well as very fine hints of white flowers, white lilac, a discreet hint of fresh gravels and pepper. The palate is fruity, elegant and offers a beautiful definition/matter, freshness, deepness, complexity, a small almost aerial side, a beautiful racy minerality, delicacy, a beautiful finesse of the fat/suavity as well as a good definition. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy apple, fleshy/juicy pear, small notes of juicy lemon associated with small touches of flowers (lemon blossom, lilac flowers, small white flowers), kumquat, fresh gravels/racy minerality, quenette as well as subtle almost iodine hints, pineapple, toasted almond, an imperceptible hint of sweet spices / toasted (in the background). Good length. A beautiful persistence.”*  
- Vert de Vin

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