

## Château Larrivet Haut Brion Blanc 2020

CSPC# 801713

750mlx6

13.9% alc./vol.

CSPC# 888350

750mlx6

13.9% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

83% Sauvignon Blanc, 17% Semillon

### Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

### 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 owned and managed by the Gervoson family who took over the property in 1987. The Gervoson family are better known for producing the popular line of jams and jellies from Bonne Maman.

### Winemaker

Bruno Lemoine. Michel Rolland consults.

### Vintage

The earliest vintage in the past ten years, 2020 began with a mild and rainy winter, favouring bud break three weeks early and an accelerated growth of the vegetation in the spring. The frost of March 27 damaged the buds and impacted the yields of the whites. While heavy rainfall marked the period between late May and early June, the particularly hot month of July was followed by a very dry month of August. The deep rooting of the vines, which are 40 years old on average, coupled with regular ploughing, have made it possible to fight against severe water stress. The lenient weather conditions at the end of August and the beginning of September allowed for the harvest of perfectly ripe grapes in good sanitary condition, 3 weeks in advance, which is a record in the history of the property.

### Harvest

Manual harvest from August 21st to 27th. Vine roots managed to draw water and nutrients from the deep limestone bedrock – the chief creator of quality within our sandy-gravel terroir.

### Vineyard

The vineyard is planted to produce both red and white Bordeaux wine grapes. For the white wine grape varieties, 11 hectares are planted to 60% Sauvignon Blanc and 40% Semillon. Although there are some Muscadelle grape vines planted in their vineyards as well.

The white wine grape vines are kept at an average of 20 years of age. During the mid-1990's, the white wine grapes were planted in an even 50% ratio, which as you can see, has been changed over the years.



<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	Settling for 48 hours in small, temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats. Vinification in new barrels (50%), small wooden foudres (30%) and egg-shaped concrete vats (20%) Ageing: In the same recipients as for the 11-month vinifications with regular stirring to put the lees into suspension, either by bâtonnage or rotation. Fining: Fining with bentonite before a light filtering for the bottling
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	While the first nose reveals notes of fresh yellow fruits (pineapple, apricot, yellow peach) typical of Sauvignon Blanc, the Semillon brings subtle fragrances of dried flowers (lime blossom) and a touch of honey after aerating the wine. The palate seduces with its structure, its purity, its beautiful freshness, and its tangy and persistent finish.
<b>Serve with</b>	The white wine of Chateau Larrivet Haut Brion is a perfect wine to serve with shellfish, sashimi, sushi, all types of seafood, chicken, veal, and cheese.
<b>Production</b>	12,000 bottles
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink now - 2023
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91-93+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2021</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2020</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2021</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin, Quarin.com - January 2021</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p><b>89-90 points</b> - Terres de Vins - May 2021</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France - May 2021</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"The 2020 Larrivet Haut-Brion Blanc is a little closed to begin, soon unfurling to offer notes of fresh yellow apple, ripe Bosc pears and key lime pie, plus subtle hints of paraffin wax and lemongrass. The medium-bodied palate is tightly wound with apple and citrus layers, supported by compelling tension, finishing steely."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A dense, waxy white with sliced apple, lemon rind and some honey character. It's full-bodied and layered. All old-style but shows depth and ripeness."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"A relatively deep colour. Rather a heavy initial impression, which follows through on the palate. You might like a rich, creamy white – in which case, head for this one. But the finish is a bit sudden and overall, it seems a tad rustic."</i> - JR, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"Sweet oak on the aromatics, concentrated with grilled apricot and peach flesh alongside vanilla-edged white pepper spice. There is juice and pleasure here, but it is rich - Sémillon definitely playing an oversized role in the flavour profile. Fermented in new oak barrels. A yield of 30hl/ha. Tasted twice. Drinking Window 2022 – 2028."</i> - JA, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"Honeysuckle, white peach, yellow tropical fruit, waxy lemon, and lawn grass aromas make for a catchy perfume. Sweet, creamy, juicy, and fresh with loads of sweetness and lift in the finish, this will be beautiful to enjoy on release."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"The 2020 Larrivet Haut-Brion Blanc has a vigorous, quite complex bouquet of honeysuckle, jasmine, apricot, and orange zest aromas, all well-defined. The taut, fresh palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity and a waxy texture. A more phenolic dry white Bordeaux compared to its peers, showing fine persistence on the finish. Worth seeking out."</i> - NM, Vinous</p>

**Reviews** *"The 2020 Larrivet Haut-Brion Blanc marries a sweet tropical bouquet with a real feeling of power on the palate. Lemon confit, marzipan, white flowers, and pineapple open in the glass. The 2020 is a potent, explosive Blanc with a lot to say. I loved it."*

- AG, Vinous

*"Pale color, with green reflections. Intense nose, with fresh and ripe fruitiness. Nuance of blood orange, touch of candied chestnut. Delicate on the palate, very silky to the touch, with a taste of very ripe white fruits, but without softness, the wine stretches out on the finish, long, sappy, original in its unfolding and finally unspittable."*

- JMQ, Quarin.com

*"The nose is fresh, juicy and offers some intensity as well as elegance. It reveals notes of fleshy/juicy apple, juicy pear and slight notes of fresh/juicy quince associated with small touches of fresh/juicy yellow berries, slight hints of fresh annas, white flowers, discreet iodized/smoky hints, and a subtle hint of hazelnut (in the background). The palate is fruity, balanced, very discreetly tight and offers juiciness, greediness, roundness as well as smoothness, good definition, precision, fat, and a little precisely controlled richness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy lemon, juicy/pulpy quince, and slight hints of Guenette associated with touches of pineapple, crunchy apple, slight iodized/smoked hints, a discreet hint of butter/ chestnut and hazelnut butter (in the background). Good length. An imperceptible hint of fresh sap on the persistence. Notes of smoke and fat on the finish. ""*

- Vert de Vin

*"Perfumed, musky, very citrus (orange), enhanced by a flattering ageing, round but lively. Very well thought out for pleasure, this immediate white shares the style and expressiveness of Larrivet's red."*

- LRDVF

*"Always a very good level. Airy nose, on marshmallow, jasmine, and white flowers. The mouth is ample, tasty, and enveloped thanks to the Sémillon and an original breeding method. Finale on yellow lemon and controlled liveliness: the wine does not tire the palate and widens its register of use"*

- Terre de Vins June 2020.

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