

# Château Larrivet Haut Brion Blanc 2021

CSPC# 888350

750mlx6

13.32% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

78% Sauvignon Blanc, 22% Semillon

## Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

## Classification

Bordeaux Blanc

## Website

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

## Sustainability

Vitiforestry – agroforestry within a viticultural landscape – is a key part of the answer as the presence of trees in the vineyard itself improves the air quality, soil biodiversity, enhances microclimatic effects through humidity variation, cold air currents, and temperature fluctuation, as well as storing carbon, and promoting biomass.

“Our most significant risk in building this parcel of the future is planting trees between the rows of vines,” Charlotte Mignon, director of development having joined as Cellar Master in 2020 said. “We are sacrificing 10% of wine production potential to grow trees and flowers in order to uphold our commitment to preserving this ecosystem.”

The trees, *Paulownia elongata*, were carefully chosen due to their ability to affect the microclimate and co-exist with species that are already present. Although not endemic to the area (they are native to Asia and are found widely across China), they are not invasive and have properties that are believed will benefit the vines and encourage a better microclimate in the vineyard. For example, they are one of the fastest growing trees in the world (reaching 10metres in five years) with broad leaves that will protect the vines from overexposure in very hot weather, without providing too much shade. They also absorbing ten times more carbon dioxide than the standard for other trees and are very resistant to drought.

## 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.

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

Mild winter. Very cold start to spring, with an episode of frost on April 7 and 8, mainly affecting the Merlot plots. Rainy May, hot and dry period at the end of May, allowing flowering in excellent conditions. From mid-June to mid-August stormy and unstable climatic conditions. Mid-August, dry weather.



<b>Harvest</b>	Manual harvest from September 9th to 21 <sup>st</sup> . Vine roots managed to draw water and nutrients from the deep limestone bedrock – the chief creator of quality within our sandy-gravel terroir.
<b>Vineyard</b>	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.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	The grapes, pressed in pneumatic presses, delivered clean and fresh juices which led us to practice very light settling. Fermentation took place fairly quickly with cool temperatures to preserve the aromatic potential of the year as much as possible. The first tastings confirmed our idea of starting the rolling of the barrels very early in the season with a resuspension of the lees twice a month from mid-November. The bâtonnage period, strictly speaking, was therefore brief. Freshness of the vintage is quickly balanced with the fat provided by the regular resuspension of the lees: the wine takes on volume while retaining its freshness, we are very attentive to this.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Bright, light and gold. The first nose is dominated by citrus notes (yellow and pink citrus peel) revealing the freshness of the blend. On aeration, it becomes more complex with warmer notes of melon and pastry spices, the finish releases linden and honey. Fresh and svelte on the palate, long and mineral, balanced by a velvety texture in the making
<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>	1,000 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink now - 2030
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2023</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Yohan Castaing, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Sarah Jane Evans, Decanter.com - April 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Vert de Vin (score only) - July 2022</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Shows grapefruit peel and lemon curd notes set against a backdrop of salted butter and hay. Tasty. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2024. 1,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Blanc, a blend of 78% Sauvignon Blanc and 22% Sémillon, is showing well after its bottling, evoking aromas of pear, spices, caramel, and orchard fruits. Medium-bodied, supple, and seamless, lively, and fresh, it possesses bright acids and a juicy mid-palate that concludes with a fresh, ethereal finish."</i> - YC, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Larrivet Haut-Brion Blanc exhibits aromas of confit citrus, crisp orchard fruit and pastry cream, followed by a medium to full-bodied, satiny, and incisive palate that's textural but tensile, concluding with a saline finish. A maturing vineyard combined with winemaking that emphasizes plenty of lees has delivered an excellent result this year."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Larrivet Haut-Brion Blanc rolls out with expressive notes of white peaches, green mango, and cedar, plus suggestions of coriander seed and wet pebbles. Medium-bodied, the palate delivers impressive intensity and a satiny texture with stone fruit and mineral layers and a long finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Independent</p>

- Reviews** *"This is solid with dried pineapple, grapefruit, and apple character. It's full-bodied with fantastic structure and depth. Phenolics are all there. Serious. 86% sauvignon and the rest semillon."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Grass, elderflower, green apple, lime, and floral notes on the nose. Gently driving on the palate, this builds from start to finish with a creamy, crushed stone aspect that marries apricot, peach and pear notes and a lifted salted-lime finish. This feels precise with clarity of fruit and an expansiveness in the mouth. You also get terroir markers in the slate and crushed stone texture and flavour. Not the most exuberant but direct, persistent, and characterful. A brilliant effort."*  
- SJE, Decanter.com
- "Clear richness through the palate, creamy oak notes with white peach and pear fruit, and leaning into the vintage where the fresh acidities are translated as precision and carefully-carved out structure."*  
- JA, janeanson.com
- "Waxy lemon peels, green apples, spice, vanilla, orange peel, and lemon curd aromas pop in the nose. On the palate, the wine is loaded with sweet, ripe, pineapples, tangerines, lemons, and white peach skins, all wrapped up in a nice, racy bow. Drink from 2024-2034."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The nose is just great with all of its pineapple, white peach, honeysuckle, mango, orange rind and waxy lemons in the perfume. Fresh, crisp, and energetic, with a bit of chalk to accompany all the yellow fruits in the finish. Drink from 2023-2030."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The 2021 Larrivet Haut-Brion Blanc has a composed bouquet with red apple, lime and light stem ginger scents that gradually unfurl in the glass. The palate is well-balanced with a crisp entry. There's something a little Alsace-like about this white Bordeaux, in a positive sense. It's tensile with a clever reduction that plays out on the finish. This is the one to go for, rather than its red counterpart."*  
- NM, Vinous
- "The 2021 Larrivet Haut-Brion Blanc is one of the most distinctive dry whites in Bordeaux. Intensely aromatic and tropical, the 2021 is captivating right out of the gate. Lemon confit, tangerine peel, mint, pineapple, jasmine, and passionfruit give the 2021 tons of character. Bâtonnage in élevage builds texture. This is seriously impressive, not to mention quite delicious."*  
- AG, Vinous
- "The 2021 Larrivet Haut-Brion Blanc is bright and effusive, with lovely texture to play off a core of apricot, ripe pear, and lemon confit fruit. Nicely layered and creamy in the glass, the 2021 is shaping up to be a jewel of a wine."*  
- AG, Vinous
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