

Château La Mission Haut Brion 2021

CSPC# 848127

750mlx3

13.4% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	47.9% Merlot, 45.8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6.3% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Pessac-Léognan
Classification	Cru Classe de Graves in 1959
Website	http://www.mission-haut-brion.com/#/home
Sustainability	The protection of the environment is an ancient practice rooted in the preservation of the terroir, which has been passed down from generation to generation. This involves the respect of the soils and their characteristics, the limitation of interventions and the use of sexual confusion diffusers instead of insecticides. A gentle management of wooded areas and the plantation of hedgerows are two elements helping to reinforce biodiversity. After the pruning, the vine shoots are sorted to remove the ones that could bear diseases before being shredded and used to fertilize the soils. The continuous work of all the teams committed to the protection of the terroir has been rewarded by the estate obtaining dual certification: High Environmental Value (HEV) since 2018 and ISO 14001 since 2019, within the collective framework of the first association for the EMS (Environmental Management System) of Bordeaux wines.
General Info	<p>Château La Mission-Haut-Brion is the greatest Graves wine after Haut-Brion and in some vintages, is considered the superior wine of the two. La Mission-Haut-Brion is situated just across the road from Haut-Brion in the commune of Talence in the southern suburbs of Bordeaux.</p> <p>Once a rival of adjacent Haut-Brion, La Mission has actually shared ownership with its neighbor since 1983. While just a narrow suburban street divides the two properties, La Mission's wines maintain their distinctive wilder identity: more powerful and more tannic, often displaying a meaty, truffley character with extended time in bottle. The newly constructed tasting room and cellars here, which opened in 2007, are quite impressive.</p> <p>La Mission-Haut-Brion has a long and illustrious history in Graves and in some eyes is the greatest estate in Bordeaux. The estate has an unbelievable record of great wines stretching back over the past century and today has a reputation for pure excellence. Robert Parker believes the quality is that of a First Growth. The vines are planted to 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. Since 1983 the Clarence Dillon family, owners of Chateau Haut Brion have owned and managed La Mission now under the expert guidance of Jean-Philippe Delmas, the third generation in his family to manage the properties of the Dillon Family.</p>
Winemaker	Oenologist and cellar master: Jean-Philippe Masclef
Vintage	Mild temperatures in winter 2021 bring about an early budburst on 1 st March. The incidence of frost on 7 th April, which hits all winegrowing areas in France, spares La Mission Haut-Brion for the most part, thanks to its terroir. Cool temperatures in the following weeks slow down the vine's growth and are accompanied by heavy rainfall in May and June, but this is not actually detrimental to good flowering. Work carried out by the winegrower is crucial during this year 2021. The vines need a great deal of attention. In August, thanks to a warm, dry turn in the weather and cool temperatures at night, eagerly awaited ripeness gradually reaches all the early-ripening plots of La Mission Haut-Brion. Every year, it is a decision-making process that takes into account the grapes' ripeness and weather conditions which determines the date for the start of the harvests. After a season of changeable weather, these two factors reach a fine balance and enable us to pick the grapes serenely. The harvest begins in perfect climatic conditions. The grapes gathered are of extraordinary quality, both in terms of ripeness and aromatic characteristics, for all the grape varieties. Ultimately, 2021 is positively and most definitely a surprising year.
Vineyards	La Mission-Haut-Brion's vineyards (Cabernet Sauvignon 48%, Merlot 45%, Cabernet Franc 7%) lie on a large (up to 18 metres deep in places) gravel bank interspersed with clay. Average vine age is 27 years.
Harvest	from 20 th September to 8 th October



Maturation	The wine is fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless-steel vats and then matured in oak barriques (73% new) for 18 months. The wines of La Mission Haut Brion are rich, oaky, and powerful and need at least 10 years of bottle ageing before they should be broached.
Tasting Notes	Complex, full-bodied and rich... Château La Mission Haut-Brion red invites the most flattering descriptions. The blend adapts according to the vintage, but Château La Mission Haut-Brion red wine always retains its unparalleled charisma. The colour is a bold purple. The nose is aromatic, concentrated and fruity on fragrances of blackberry and vanilla-scented wood. Full on the first taste, it is wide with a superb, predominant flavour of fruit. Then the wine develops on perceptible tannins, but plump, velvety and flavourful. There is excellent, refreshing length. This is a lovely, aromatic Mission Haut-Brion, crafted with superb length on the finish.
Serve with	Chateau La Mission Haut Brion is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau La Mission Haut Brion is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta.
Cellaring	Drink 2035 - 2065
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - Yohan Castaing, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2022</p> <p>17.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>93-96 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>18+ points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>95 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"The 2021 La Mission Haut-Brion unfurls in the glass with a complex, detailed bouquet of plums, cassis, flowers, spices, licorice, and loamy soil. Medium to full-bodied, rich, and concentrated, its fleshy, layered core of fruit is framed by beautifully velvety tannins. In bottle, much as en primeur, this blend of 48% Merlot, 46% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Cabernet Franc is a charming, sensual rendition of La Mission."</i> - YC, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Unwinding in the glass with aromas of dark berries and plums mingled with loamy soil, sweet spices, cigar box and licorice, the 2021 La Mission Haut-Brion is full-bodied, lively, and seamless, with a deep, concentrated core of fruit framed by bright acids and supple, powdery tannins. This charming, sensual rendition of La Mission is a blend of 48% Merlot, 46% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Cabernet Franc, attaining 13.4% alcohol."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A blend of 48% Merlot, 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 6% Cabernet Franc, the 2021 La Mission Haut-Brion is deep garnet-purple colored. Is a little closed to begin, soon revealing notes of crushed blackcurrants, fresh black raspberries, and mulberries, plus suggestions of pencil shavings, roses, and Sichuan pepper. Medium-bodied, the palate is tightly knit with delicate black and red berry layers, supported by fine-grained tannins and bold freshness, finishing long and mineral-laced. 2027-2050."</i> - LPB, Wine Independent</p> <p><i>"Lots of sea-salt, iodine and purple-fruit aromas and flavors to this. Turns to bark and forest floor. Powerful. Full-bodied and muscular. 47.9% merlot, 45.8% cabernet sauvignon and 6.3% cabernet franc."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

Reviews *“The wine has a rich texture and is splendidly fruity. It is structured while juicy and full of complex tannins. This is a wine that sings of fruits that are ripe while never heavy.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“47.9% Merlot, 45.8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6.3% Cabernet Franc. Cask sample. A mix of refined power and elegance. Deep crimson hue. Fragrant dark fruit and cassis notes as the wine opens. Texturally very fine with plentiful tannins that are coated and smooth. Lovely freshness accompanied by persistence and drive. Great balance. Plenty of potential. (JL) 13.4%. Drink 2030 – 2050.”

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

“Rose, violets, and peonies on the nose, with dark chocolate and cassis, smells like liqueur chocolates, perfumed and aromatic. A crystalline quality to the fruit, so driven and pure on the palate. Energetic and lively filled with strawberry, raspberry, red cherry and plum - direct with a vein of exotic spice - cinnamon and clove, as well as touches of orange, bitter grapefruit, dark chocolate, and crushed stone. Such a lot going on here, but so well delivered with intensity and direction with racy acidity that keeps everything lifted the whole way through. Lovely minerality on the tongue, the graphite lingering with the juiciness that is still so mouthwatering even on the finish. Compelling and charming.”

- GH, Decanter.com

“Plenty of classic La Mission finesse and balance, touches of cloves and velvety tannins, this is supremely balanced and elegant, with pumice stone minerality. It is a little taut on the finish in its tannic structure and no question majors more heavily on the cool blue fruit character than we have seen with this property in recent years. Seriously enjoyable, a total masterclass in cool climate fruit delivery. Easy to recommend. 73% new oak, harvest September 20 to October 8. No frost impact here and very little mildew, meaning the overall yield was up to 47hl/h, extremely generous for the vintage.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“Surprisingly deep in color, it takes a bit of effort before finding the cigar box, tobacco, smoke, forest leaf, currants, blackberries, and plums in the nose. On the palate, there is a richness and sweetness to the fruit. But this is not an exuberant vintage. It is reserved, slightly austere, quiet, and discreet. There is finesse to the tannins and flesh to the fruits, but the wine is restrained, building in the mid-palate with air, finishing with chewy currants, leafy, fresh, green herbs, thyme, and dark chocolate. The wine blends 48% Merlot, 46% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Cabernet Franc, 13.4% ABV. Harvesting took place, September 20 - October 8. Yields were 48 hectoliters per hectare, with 40% of the harvest going into the grand Vin. Drink from 2026-2055.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Production across the Dillon Estates is down 10% and the Grand Vins are down 20% on last year. Abvs are all roughly 13.5%. The blend for La Mission Haut Brion is 47% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Cabernet Franc. Deep ruby colour. The nose is led by clove, nutmeg, and allspice, together with roasted plums and fleshy steeped cherries. Dense in structure, with a full, chalky depth wrapping up the red fruit at the middle. Earthy, gravelly tones match sweet kirsch and build towards the finish. Baking spices sit sweetly against the savoury, mouthcoating tannins on the finish. Long and muscular.”

- TP, Farr Vintners

“The 2021 La Mission Haut-Brion is blessed with an ethereal bouquet; subtle touches of wilted iris petal and truffle infuse the black fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannins, perfectly judged acidity, quite compact on the mid-palate with linear and correct finish. Not the most charming La Mission Haut-Brion. You could argue that it is slightly “aloof”, yet intuition tells me it has something up its sleeve for later on. Patience necessary.”

- NM, Vinous

Reviews *“Black raspberries, dried flowers, tobacco, violets, and a beautiful spicy character emerge from the 2021 Château La Mission Haut-Brion, a pure, medium-bodied, incredibly polished, elegant Pèssac-Léognan that has fine tannins, an utterly seamless, graceful mouthfeel, no hard edges, and a gorgeous finish. It plays in the more elegant, fresher style of the vintage yet brings ample depth and richness, has good mid-palate depth, and is already just about impossible to resist. Give bottles just 4-5 years and enjoy over the following two decades.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The 2021 Château La Mission Haut-Brion checks in as a blend of 47.9% Merlot, 45.8% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Cabernet Franc that hit 13.4% alcohol and is still resting in 27% new French oak. Graphite, scorched earth, tobacco leaf, and gorgeous cassis and violet-tinge blue fruits all define the bouquet, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a vibrant, elegant mouthfeel, terrific tannins, and one hell of a great finish. It's a softer, rounder, more layered wine than the Haut-Brion, with a little more sexiness, yet both are utterly brilliant wines.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“There is a big difference between La Chapelle and the Grand Vin as this wine is much more concentrated and more tannic and reticent. The tannins come in early, cloaking the fruit and making this elegant wine more combative and action-packed. The fruit character is superb, and the length is extraordinary given the relative lightness of the overall framework. The fruit is mildly exotic in parts over a plummy core, but the skin elements keep the taste buds buzzing with energy, which surely points to a long and even life ahead of it. While many wines in 2021 seem to want to kick off early, La Mission will take its time to blossom. 18+.”

- Matthew Jukes

“Dark garnet, intensely coloured core, purple hues on the narrow rim. Blackberry fruit, dark cherries, tobacco savouriness, subtle liquorice note, mineral touch. Juicy cherry fruit, hints of plums, vivid tannins, salty minerality, fresh and very persistent; certain ageing potential.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is pretty, elegant, delicate, and crystalline. There are notes of fresh lychee, fresh quenette and, more slightly, starfruit combined with touches of fresh white peach as well as delicate notes of racy minerality, a subtle hint of acacia/acacia flowers and a discreet hint of fresh citrus in the background. The palate is fruity, with minerality, juiciness, acidity, good definition, a nice suavity, a nice iodine/salt/sapidity on the palate, a nice guideline. On the palate this wine expresses juicy/fresh peach, crunchy pear, quenette, fine almost yuzu notes, discrete floral and saline notes in the background, nice definition and freshness, elegance, nice precision and acidic structure, a very discrete almost vanilla note in the background.”

- Vert de Vin
