
Château Haut Brisson 2016

CSPC# 771459

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

Grand Cru Classé

Website

<http://www.vignoblesk.com/en>

Organic

Certified Organic in 2010.

General Info

Chateau Haut Brisson, located in the Vignonet sector of St. Emilion, not far from Monbousquet or Teyssier was purchased in 1997 by Taiwanese businessman Peter Kwok. Peter Kwok, the new owner wanted to discover how far he could push the quality envelop for his Right Bank chateau. Before he could do that, he began increasing the size of their vineyards. When Kwok completed his purchase, the estate was only 8 hectares. Today, Chateau Haut Brisson has a total of 12.77 hectares of land in St. Emilion.

Starting with the 2005 vintage at Haut Brisson, they introduced the small production, 400 case Bordeaux wine, Haut Brisson La Reserve. This higher end cuvee is a selection of the best parcels and the finest barrels. The wine is aged in 100% new, French oak. Both wines drink well young. There is a second wine, Haut Brisson La Grave.

The Château is currently being part-managed by Kwok's eldest daughter, Elaine, aged 32, while the 17-hectare Château Tour Saint Christophe, which was previously owned by Castel, will pass to Karen, aged 27, while Château La Patache has been secured for Howard, aged 24.

Kwok splits his time between Hong Kong and the US, although Trezieres said he visits Saint Emilion every two months and loves French culture.

Winemaker

Jérôme Aguirre. Michel Rolland is a consultant

Vintage

2016 St. Emilion did not get off to a good start. Frankly, the initial part of the growing season started off wet, and cloudy. The massive amount of water in the vineyards and cooler temperatures set things back. Vignerons already knew 2016 Saint Emilion would be a late vintage. Bacchus must love Bordeaux because at the beginning of June, the rain stopped, the sun came out and the flowering took place during one of the few breaks in the rain. At least now, growers had a glimmer of hope. The quantity was going to be there, but would the quality come as well?

The official start of summer changed everything. The rains were gone and sunny, warm summer days with the all-important shift to cold, nighttime temperatures arrived. Now, growers needed to decide how much, or even if they should deleaf. The vigneron that were careful not to remove too many leaves, for fear of too much sun made the right choice. Indian summer conditions continued. But as the summer wore on, the extreme dryness of the 2016 Saint Emilion vintage began to have an effect on the vineyards. Young vines shut down or died. The older vines were in danger of shutting down their growth cycle as well, to avoid starvation. But September 13 and September 14 brought about 44mm of rain, the perfect amount of moisture was delivered to the thirsty vines, and at the exact, opportune moment! The continued cold nighttime temperatures kept everything in check and growers were able to wait as long as they wished, for the grapes to achieve full maturity. Another shot of rainfall took place the night of September 30, or the morning of October 1, (depending on your point of view) and it was off to the races! The 2016 St. Emilion harvest conditions could not have been better. Some growers reported 125 days of hang time. Other produces reported spending 4 weeks picking their fruit. And why not as conditions were perfect with warm sunny weather and an extended growing season.

Vineyards

Chateau Haut Brisson was certified organic in 2010. They are now farming more of the estate using biodynamic farming techniques. The St. Emilion vineyards of Haut Brisson cover 32 acres and sits on mostly sandy soils. The blend for each Bordeaux



Vineyards	wine is on average, 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc. The vines are close to 30 years of age. Vinification takes place in thermoregulated stainless steel vats. The wine of Chateau Haut Brisson is aged in 100% new French oak for between, 15 and 18 months.
Harvest	picked from 5-15 October
Vinification	After a meticulous selection process on the vines and in the winery, the sorted grapes are filled into stainless steel tanks or directly into Bordeaux barrels (about 10% of the harvest). This follows the method of Vinification Intégrale. Our team is always present at the opening and closing of barrels by our cooper partners for better quality control.
Vinification	The vatting process lasts 30 days, operating a gentle extraction with pigeages in tank and stirring in barrel. The juices are tasted daily in order to protect the expression of our fruit. These tastings allow us to determine the day for the running off and pressing of the grape marcs. The resulting juice is placed then in barrels for malolactic fermentation.
Maturation	35% new barrels - 35% 1-wine barrels - 30% 2-wine barrels for 15 months
Tasting Notes	A soft, immediately approachable classic Saint-Emilion. Notes of raspberries, strawberries, plums, balanced with gentle acidity and rounded off with sweet fine-grained oak. A perfect wine to drink with a special dinner.
Serve with	Chateau Haut Brisson is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Production	5,000 cases
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2034
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2019</p> <p>92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>87-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>90 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>89-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>91 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Bramble, black cherry, red currant and damson plum fruit flavors combine into a juicy and energetic core, while light dried anise, rooibos tea and mineral notes skitter through for added range. Has chalky minerality for spine and fresh acidity driving all the elements along. Best from 2021 through 2033. 5,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Blended of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the deep garnet-purple colored 2016 Haut-Brisson is quite oaky on the nose with underlying plum preserves, baked cherries and dried mulberries plus wafts of bay leaves, damp soil and cigars. Medium to full-bodied, it has firm, rounded tannins, seamless freshness and plenty of muscular fruit going long in the finish. 5,000 cases produced."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Haut Brisson is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc was cropped at 42 hectoliters per hectare picked from 5-15 October, matured in 35% new oak. It has a rich and slightly heady bouquet with intense black cherry and crème de cassis notes, although I find that the Tour St Christophe, which is also owned by Peter Kwok, has far more detail. The palate is full-bodied with dense ripe tannin, quite intense with a touch of dried blood infusing the black fruit with a structured, gently grippy finish. I would just like to see more finesse come through once this is bottle."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"This has great clarity of ripe red plums and mulberries, as well as attractive, floral nuances, leading to a very focused feel on the palate that offers a succulent and fluid array of ripe red fruit that holds fresh and even. Ever so fine tannins. Try from 2022"</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *“Soft and velvety wine with blackberry, blueberry and raspberry character. Full body, a dense center palate and a long and pure finish. Another winner.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Deep crimson. Scented and peppery on the nose and then gently sweet on the palate. Much less drying than most. Charming!”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “With a strong sense of minerality, silky tannins, lush, salty fruit and pepper, this wine is smoky, fresh, concentrated and packed with ripe pit fruit. The wine was produced from a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14.4% alcohol with a pH of 3.8.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “The fruit on the nose is sweet and ripe the start of the palate has a rich mix of red and black fruits. Fine tannins in the middle the fruit towards the back is fresher light and bright with savoury sweetness on the finish. 2024-35”*
- Derek Smedley MW
- “The 2016 Haut-Brisson has a classy bouquet of dark-chocolate-tinged black fruit, white pepper and a touch of red plum. The well-balanced palate is focused and direct, featuring supple tannin, a fine bead of acidity and a judicious dash of spice toward the finish. Drink this well-crafted Saint-Émilion over the next decade. Drink 2020-2030”*
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2016 Haut Brisson is juicy and flamboyant, with succulent red cherry and plum fruit pushed forward. A wine with striking inner sweetness and no hard edges, the 2016 will appeal most to readers who enjoy the opulent, full-throttle side of Saint-Émilion. (AG)”*
- AG, Vinous
- “The 2016 Château Haut Brisson was outstanding on both occasions I was able to taste it. A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc brought up in 35% new oak, this medium to full-bodied, plump, sexy Saint-Emilion offers loads of spiced black fruits, truffle, tobacco, and incense. It has rock solid ripeness, a rounded texture, and delivers pleasure. Drink it any time over the coming 15-20 years.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck
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