

Château Haut Brisson 2017

CSPC# 771459

750mlx12

14.5% 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. 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 Treziers said he visits Saint Emilion every two months and loves French culture.

Winemaker

Jérôme Aguirre. Michel Rolland is a consultant.

Sustainability

Chateau Haut Brisson was certified organic in 2010.

Vintage

Clearly, 2017 Saint Emilion will always be remembered as the year of the frost. The nights of April 27 and April 28 hit temperatures of below -4 Celsius. The Right Bank has not experienced this much damage from frost since 1991.

Second generation fruit, the grapes that start growing after the frost, was successful to varying degrees. The results depended on the vineyard, terroir and good luck. The problem with those grapes is, if they reached maturity, it was not at the same time as the main harvest, so the berries needed separate vinifications. It was a lot of work especially since the percentage of second-generation grapes used is quite low.

Another difficulty, or opportunity, depending on the situation was that first-generation grapes are the product of a cooler, dry growing season and the second-generation grapes received more sun, inheriting riper characteristics and higher degrees of alcohol, giving you 2 different wine styles. This is where the magic of blending comes in.

Part of the reason the frost struck with such ferocity was that it hit just after bud-break, when the plants are at their most delicate stage of development. The vineyards which survived the frost were still looking for an early, and hopefully successful harvest.

The wines offer more red fruit character and less alcohol than you find in the more recently heralded, 2016 and 2015 vintages. Most 2017 Saint Emilion wines will also offer fairly early drinking windows.

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 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

Vineyards

stainless steel vats. The wine of Chateau Haut Brisson is aged in 100% new French oak for between, 15 and 18 months.



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	After a meticulous selection on the ground and in the cellars, the sorted grapes are transported to stainless steel tanks or directly in Bordeaux barrels (about 10% of the harvest). These grapes directly sown follow a technical route called "integral vinification" – our cellar team has been trained to open and close barrels at our partner coopers for more autonomy. Fermentation lasts about thirty days; the extraction is carried out in a gentle manner with pigeages in the tank, and barrel sticking.
Maturation	35% new barrels - 35% 1-wine barrels - 30% 2-wine barrels for 15 months
Tasting Notes	Pretty vegetable notes. Generous, flexible, tension, production limited, liquorice. Sanguine, which expresses the limestone of its terroir. Velvet, cherry texture, nice acidity.
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	1,666 cases
Cellaring	Drink now-2022
Scores/Awards	<p>87 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2020</p> <p>90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p>89-91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p>14.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2018</p> <p>89-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018</p> <p>91 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p>88-90 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p>93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2020</p> <p>90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018</p> <p>17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Direct, with soft-edged plum and cherry preserve flavors, supported by vanilla, cedar and tobacco hints. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2022. 1,666 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Haut-Brisson slips seductively out of the glass with notes of warm plums, mulberries and Black Forest cake plus hints of chocolate box and star anise. Medium-bodied, the palate has bags of juicy black fruit and a plush texture with a refreshing lift to the finish. Drink 2020-2032."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Very deep purple black in color, it has a decadent nose of crème de cassis, baked blackberries and black forest cake with hints of licorice, tapenade and roses. The palate is big, rich, full-bodied and full-on ripe with tons of black fruit preserves, spice and savory layers supported by plush tannins and just enough freshness, finishing long."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"This is such a friendly and enjoyable red with crushed berries and chocolate, as well as walnut aromas and flavors. It's full and flavorful with a fine-tanned texture. Success. Drink in 2022, but already a beauty."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This shows a tightness and firmness that is unique for this estate with dark-berry and white-pepper character. Full-bodied, compacted and polished. Very long and polished. This came from only the vineyards on top of St.-Emilion. 50% of normal production."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

Reviews *"With a good depth of color, the wine is round, the textures are soft, the fruit has ripeness, and, in the finish, you'll find sweet cherries, licorice and freshness at its core."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Normally production here is around 45,000 bottles but frost has reduced the 2017 crop to 20,000 bottles. The yield was only 20 hl/ha. This has a very deep colour, with a raw and rich bramble fruit nose that has not quite settled yet from this sample. The palate is plush, round, and plump, with plenty of extract showing notes of damson and fresh fig. The tannins are fine grained however, and do not dominate the finish. Lightly spicy, the oak plays a subtle, supporting role here, rather than dominating the fruit."

"The nose is light and fragrant with bramble and bilberry the start of the palate fresh but there is mid sweetness some ripe fruit. Depth of fruit at the back the fruit sweet and ripe the finish lighter with a mix of fresh fruits. 2025-34"
- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2017 Haut Brisson was cropped at 20hl/ha due to frost and aged in 35% new oak. It has a well-defined bouquet with blackberry, raspberry and crushed stone aromas, a light violet scent emerging with time. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins, fleshy and quite opulent although there is fine acidity on the peppery finish that keep everything in balance. It needs three or four years in bottle, but this is a well-crafted and generous Saint-Émilion. (NM)"
- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Haut-Brisson has a very concentrated bouquet with liquorice and aniseed tinged red fruit, quite high-toned and more floral than the Tour Saint-Christophe, albeit not delivering quite the same degree of delineation. The palate is sweet and powerful on the entry, dense and grippy tannin with layers of black fruit, although I would have liked to see more freshness and poise towards the finish. Drink 2021-2032."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Haut-Brisson possesses striking aromatic presence and freshness to match its mid-weight, sensual personality. Dark red fruit, cedar, tobacco and licorice infuse the 2017 with lovely character and complexity. This is very nicely done. Readers will find a tasty, open-knit Saint-Émilion that can be enjoyed with minimal cellaring."
- AG, Vinous

"The 2017 Haut Brisson is endowed with tremendous depth and plushness. The blackberry, bittersweet chocolate, clove, gravel, licorice and new oak flavors speak with authority. Bold, ripe and texturally intense, with tons of plushness, Haut Brisson shows the more flamboyant side of Saint-Émilion off to great effect. Hail wiped out a considerable amount of the château's vineyards on the plains, so the wine was only made from the parcels on the plateau. In 2017, Haut-Brisson is impressive. Tasted four times. "
- AG, Vinous

"One of the more sexy and voluptuous wines in the vintage, the 2017 Château Haut-Brisson comes from Hong Kong-based financier Peter Kwok, who also owns Tour Saint Christophe and spares no expense when it comes to quality. The vineyard is located on the limestone plateau of St. Etienne-de-Lisse. The 2017 is 90% new. This deep, inky-colored effort reveals beautifully pure blue fruits and hints of strawberries, spice, and loads of floral notes. Rounded, sexy, and impressively textured, give bottles a few years and enjoy over the following decade or more."
- Jeb Dunnuck

"A strongly fruited, quite powerful and dark wine, this is a rich Haut-Brisson with lovely smooth, ripe oak tones which embrace the juicy fruit. It is structured but there are no hard edges here and the length is stunning. Very concentrated and certainly the most impressive vintage of this wine to date, it is the way in which the tannins are managed which makes it so compelling."
- MJ, matthewjukes.com