

Château Haut Brisson 2018

CSPC# 848126

750mlx6

14.6% 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

2018 Saint Emilion was not an easy vintage for producers. The winter months were easy, but the spring is one of the wettest in history. Depending on where you located in St. Emilion, during the initial 6 months of the year, between 550 mm to 600 mm (21"-24") of rain soaked your soils. This is more than the normal amount of rain the region experiences in a year!

From there growers fended off violent attacks of mildew, which struck fast and furious. 2018 Saint Emilion was saved by the hottest, driest, sunniest vintage conditions since 2003. Barely any rain fell from July to harvest.

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.

Harvest

October 1st to October 5th. Picking took place under warm, sunny, and dry conditions. On average, production was down 10-20% for many vineyards. Conditions were so good between late September and mid-October; vigneron were able to pick at their chosen level of maturity. Harvesting took place from mid-September to mid-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. 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

40% new barrels - 40% 1-wine barrels - 20% 2-wine barrels for 15 months



Tasting Notes	Peppery nose, liquorice, ripe black fruits, and peony scents, sprinkled with fine cocoa notes. Black chocolate and cherry aromas, juicy carried by a good acidity. Savory texture, round tannins, wide and concentrated mouth melting into spices. Beautiful length and richness that augurs you a good ageing potential.
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 made
Cellaring	Drink now-2028
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2021</p> <p>91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2021</p> <p>90-92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>89-92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p>90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p>95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p>92-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - January 2019</p> <p>15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This red sports a lively mix of blackberry and black currant preserve notes contrasted by savory and tobacco details. Everything knits nicely through the anise-accented finish. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2028. 1,666 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2018 Haut-Brisson is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and has 14.6% alcohol. It was aged for around 18 months in oak barrels, 35% new. Deep garnet-purple colored, it prances out of the glass with flamboyant scents of Black Forest cake, blueberry preserves and Christmas pudding, plus touches of black truffles, licorice, and fragrant earth. The full-bodied palate is chock-full of spicy black fruit preserves, framed by soft tannins and a racy backbone of freshness, finishing on a lingering earthy note."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2018 Haut-Brisson comes from Vignonet and Monbousquet in Saint-Étienne-de-Lisse, from the lieu-dit Laroque. It is blended of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and has 14.6% alcohol. It is aging in 35% new, 35% one-year-old and 30% two-year-old barrels for an anticipated 18 months. It has a deep garnet-purple color and comes charging out of the glass with baked black cherries, warm blueberries, and preserved plums with touches of pencil shavings, kirsch and chargrilled meat plus a waft of Indian spices. Full-bodied, the generously fruited palate has a lovely plush texture and just enough freshness, finishing with a menthol lift."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Aromas of blueberry and chocolate with some walnut and blackberry, following through to a medium-bodied palate with a solid core of fruit, creamy tannins and a flavorful finish. Nice cedar and sandalwood undertones. Refined and polished. Try after 2024."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is a very powerful and structured Haut-Brisson, showing incredible depth and richness. Full-bodied and layered with incredible depth and purity. Layers of fruit and tannin. Best ever."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"One of the bigger St-Emilion wines this year, silky but concentrated with powerful and pure dark cassis fruit. It's juicy and intense, with good extraction giving chewy but well-structured tannins. It has good ageing potential. A 41hl/ha yield in 2018 from 22ha. Ageing in 40% new oak. 3.7pH"</i></p> <p>- JA, Decanter.com</p>

Reviews *“Dark fruits, a little sombre right now, but with plenty of juice and a slate feeling keeping interest through the finish. Drinking Window 2023 – 2034.”*

- JA, Decanter.com

“Incense, cherries, plums, licorice and smoke combine well with the soft, silky, textures to create a medium-bodied, fresh, ripe, juicy, kirsch filled wine.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Soft silky and juicy with sweetness, lift and elegance, give this a few years of aging to allow for all the complexity to develop. The wine was produced from a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2018 Haut-Brisson has a very opulent bouquet, although unlike some others, it maintains adequate definition and freshness, allowing you to enjoy the lush red cherry and blueberry fruit. The palate is medium bodied with succulent tannins. There is very good depth here, creamy in texture with a caressing, quite deep and luxuriant finish. “

- NM, Vinous

“(90-93) The 2018 Haut Brisson is an absolutely gorgeous wine. Radiant and plush, with striking fruit density, the 2018 captures all the best the vintage has to offer. Dark cherry, plum, mocha, chocolate, dried flowers, and menthol build in a creamy, sensual Saint-Émilion loaded with near and medium-term appeal. Haut Brisson is especially fine in 2018. The blend is 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, with new oak at 35%. Tasted three times.”

- AG, Vinous

“Based on 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the 2018 Château Haut Brisson is a pretty, floral wine delivering crunchy red and blue fruits, lots of spring flower and damp earth aromatics, medium to full-bodied richness, and present, firm, yet ripe and polished tannins. It's beautifully done, with an exotic, age-worthy vibe, it's going to benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age and keep for two decades. Rating: 93+.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The deep, saturated purple/plum-colored 2018 Château Haut Brisson checks in as a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc from a 22-hectare vineyard of fine gravelly and quartz-rich soils sitting on top of deep clay. Still aging in 35% new French oak, this rich, medium to full-bodied Saint-Émilion offers a nicely layered and beautifully balanced style as well as complex notes of blue and black fruits, spice box, blood orange, and violets. It has an exotic edge, ample mid-palate depth, and the sexy yet pure style of the vintage. It's a smoking good Saint-Émilion to drink any time over the coming two decades.”

- Jeb Dunnuck
