

Château Haut Brisson 2020

CSPC# 771459

750mlx12

13.80% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

Grand Cru Classé

Website

<https://www.vignoblesk.com/includes/entites/4335/2141/product%20sheet%20%20chateau%20haut-brisson%202020.pdf>

Sustainability

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 visits Saint Emilion every two months and loves French culture.



Winemaker

Jérôme Aguirre. Michel Rolland is a consultant.

Vintage

2020 begins with a mild and wet winter and a spring with lots of rain. The vines therefore begin to bud early. The summer is hot and dry which allows the grapes to reach a very good maturity quickly.

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

September 15th to October 9th

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

With a beautiful garnet colour, the wine opens with discreet notes of smoke, followed by powerful aromas of black fruits, blackberry, blackcurrant, associated with touches of pepper. The attack is pleasant, smooth, the structure shows a nice balance between controlled power and freshness. The finish is tender and long with notes of liquorice.

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

1600 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2023-2040

Scores/Awards

91 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023
90-92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021
93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021
91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021

Scores/Awards **92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023
91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021
88 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021
92 points - Neal Martin, *Vinous* - December 2022
91-93 points - Neal Martin, *Vinous* - April 2021
94 points - Antonio Galloni, *Vinous* - February 2023
92-94+ points - Antonio Galloni, *Vinous* - June 2021
94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023
92-94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021
92-93 points - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2021
92 points - Peter Moser, *Falstaff Magazine* - May 2021
92-93 points - *Vert de Vin* - May 2021

Reviews *"Aromas of cherries, sweet blueberries, spices and licorice introduce the 2020 Haut-Brisson, a medium to full-bodied, ample and fleshy wine with a ripe core of fruit, lively acids and a long, saline finish."*
- WK, *Wine Advocate*

"Composed of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the 2020 Haut-Brisson has an alcohol of 13.8% and a pH of 3.65. It is being aged in French oak barrels, 35% new. Deep garnet-purple in color, it hits the ground running with open-knit notes of baked black cherries, mulberries, and preserved plums, plus suggestions of chargrill, star anise and tar, with a touch of menthol. The medium-bodied palate practically quivers with tension, matched by a firm, grainy texture to support the intense crunchy black fruits, finishing long and savory."
- LPB, *Wine Advocate*

"A linear and fine red with blueberries, lavender, and hazelnut. Some black olives. Medium-bodied. Lovely tension and focus. Lots of harmony to this."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is very linear and tight with beautifully crafted tannins that give a long, intense, and energetic finish. The mid-palate is tight and poised."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Deep ruby red, damson and blackberry autumnal fruits on the palate. A more subdued and serious feel than some. Powerful overall with liquorice and black chocolate, touches of reduction. Almost over concentrated but it lifts up on the finish. An excellently consistent range from Vignobles K - although this one is still made by them but has been owned since 2019 by Bordeaux entrepreneur Stéphane Schinazi."
- JA, Decanter.com

"With a touch of espresso, smoke, cocoa and red fruits, the wine is medium-bodied, fresh, spicy, and fruity with a touch of dust, chalk, and red fruits in the endnotes. Drink from 2023-2027."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Espresso, smoke, earth, incense, and red fruits create the nose. The wine is medium-bodied, fresh, spicy, and fruity with a touch of dusty cocoa that rides along with the cherries and red plums on the palate and the finish. Give this a few years to develop before pulling a cork."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2020 Haut Brisson has a perfumed bouquet with violet-tinged black cherry and blueberry fruits, expressive and with impressive purity. The palate is very well balanced with supple tannins, fine acidity, and a sweet core of fruit, but there is counterbalancing structure and sapidity on the finish. This is a well-crafted Saint-Emilion."
- NM, *Vinous*

"The 2020 Haut Brisson, picked from September 15 to October 9 at 32hl/ha and matured in 35% new oak, is deep in color. The nose is tight at first, then reveals brambly black fruit, pressed iris, and crushed stone, maybe less showy and flamboyant compared to recent vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp tannins. Slightly granular in texture, this is bound together by a fine line of acidity and a sapid finish that is a pure delight. It constitutes one of the best Haut Brisson wines that I have tasted."
- NM, *Vinous*

Reviews *“The 2020 Haut-Brisson is every bit as captivating as it was in barrel. Succulent dark cherry fruit, plum, mocha, licorice, espresso, and spice are beautifully amplified. Creamy and resonant, with terrific depth, Haut-Brisson is super-expressive today. It is a harmonious Saint-Émilion to drink over the next 15-20 years. Terrific. Best after 2026.”*

- AG, Vinous

“The 2020 Haut-Brisson is deep, fleshy, and totally seductive. Inky dark fruit, plum, chocolate, leather, gravel, and cloves all build as this sumptuous, opulent Saint-Émilion shows off its curves. Flamboyant and silky, the 2020 is wonderfully immediate but also has the energy to drink well for a number of years to come. This is one of the most pure, vibrant Haut-Brisson’s I can remember tasting.”

- AG, Vinous

“Coming from dismal yields of 12.5 hectoliters per hectare, the 2020 Château Haut-Brisson is shockingly good and another brilliant Right Bank that’s going to represent a tremendous value. A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc brought up in just 35% new French oak, it has a sensational perfume of red and black cherries, leafy tobacco, chocolate, lead pencil shavings, and liquid violet-like nuances. Full-bodied, concentrated, and flawlessly balanced, it has ultra-fine tannins, remarkable purity, and a great finish. This wine comes from an 18-hectare vineyard that was purchased by Peter Kwok in 1997, only to be sold in 2020 to Bordeaux native Stéphane Schinazi. The soil here is a mix of fine gravel and granular, quartz-rich silt atop a deep clay subsoil. The farming has been certified organic since 2010, vinification spans just over three weeks in stainless steel, and the wine sees malolactic fermentation in tank and four months on lees before being moved into 35% new French oak, 35% second-fill, and the balance in third-fill barrels.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Checking in as 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the 2020 Château Haut-Brisson brings some serious fruit, offering a monster nose of chocolate-covered blueberries, iron, tobacco, and candied violet aromas and flavors. Rich and full-bodied, it has ripe tannins and outstanding length. It pushes on the ripeness scale, yet I’ve no doubt it’s going to show more freshness and elegance from bottle.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Deep ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, faint brightening on rim. Floral background of black forest berry nuances, a hint of cassis and liquorice, some tobacco, candied purple underneath. Medium complexity, ripe cherry fruit, supporting tannins, good freshness, fine nougat on the finish, has ageing potential.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fresh and offers concentration as well as freshness. It reveals notes of small quite ripe/fresh black berries, violet, lily, small notes of cassis associated with touches of wild strawberry, fresh black plum, fine hints of liquorish stick as well as a discreet hint of cardamom and an imperceptible hint of pepper. On the mouth it is fruity, fresh, elegant and offers a nice juiciness, a nice flesh of the fruit, finesse, gourmandize, minerality as well as an acidulous frame. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/bright black berries, bright black plum, small notes of bright/fresh redcurrant associated with touches of acidulous/crunchy raspberry, fine hints of liquorish/liquorish stick as well as a discreet hint of fresh hazelnut and a subtle hint of vanilla. The tannins are precis and discreetly firm. Good length. Presence of a very discreet chew on the persistence.”

- Vert de Vin