

## Château Haut-Brisson La Réserve 2009

CSPC# 753463

\$76.89/btle

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc.

### Appellation

Saint Emilion

### General Info

The vines of Château Haut-Brisson were planted by the father of the previous owner in 1945. Peter Kwok, a Taiwanese businessman, bought Château Haut-Brisson in 1997, a 8 hectares vineyard. Then, came the purchase of new plots of land in February 2002 and April 2003. Château Haut-Brisson vineyard counts now 16.00 hectares. Peter is one of these foreigners who likes good wine and French culture. Peter wanted to buy a property to learn how to make wine and pass this knowledge down to his children. Since the purchase of Château Haut-Brisson, all the family has come regularly to learn French, children helping in the vines during their school holiday.

Since, Peter Kwok has wished learning, understanding the culture of wine and winemaking. That is why he decided to invest in Château Haut-Brisson, and spent time and money with the purchase of new plots of land, building a new vats room (tronic stainless steel vats with thermoregulation), two barrels rooms, and went into partnership with two well-known oenologists who are Michel Rolland and Marc Quertinier, both of them has been advising us and guiding us with the wine-making techniques.

Since 2000, our two wines (Château Haut-Brisson and Château Haut-Brisson La Grave) have been rewarded in many challenges. That is why we decided to produce "La Réserve" wine since 2005, a dual selection: our best parcels combined with our best barrels in order to bring out our soils, our know-how and Château Haut-Brisson evolution...

Elaine Kwok, Peter eldest daughter has been taking over by degrees. A new direction: Sandrine Bosc, director and winemaker, Aline Trezieres, business manager. A team of dynamic women, who are willing to develop the sexy, stylish pleasant part of Haut-Brisson wines.

### Vineyards

Average vine age is 40 years old. The 16 hectares of the vineyard lay across three communes: Saint-Emilion, Saint Sulpice de Faleyrens and Vignonet on a gentle slope of sandy topsoil over gravel soil with clinker deeper down. Blending: 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5 % Cabernet Franc with a density of 5,500-6,000 vines per hectare.

### Harvest

Hand-picked harvest, using plastic crates. Three sorting tables for the best selection

### Maturation

Stainless steel vats with thermoregulation: - 8-days long maceration before fermentation to stabilize aromas - 28-30°C alcoholic fermentation to extract phenolic components - 10-20 days long post-fermentation vatting. Daily tasting by our team to decide the frequency of each operation (pumping-over, release, punching of the cap...) Finally skins on the press.

Stainless steel vats with thermoregulation for 3-4 weeks. Aged 24 months in 100% New French oak barrels. Unfined & unfiltered.

### Tasting Notes

The blend for the wine is unusual in that it has 15% Cabernet Sauvignon instead of Cabernet Franc, the traditional blending grape for a St Emilion. The Cabernet Sauvignon provides more balance and power to the wine

### Production

5,000-8,000 bottles made

### Cellaring

Drink 2017-2030

### Scores/Awards

**95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012

**89-92 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010



**Reviews** *“The limited production 2009 Haut-Brisson Reserve ratchets up everything, from the color (inky purple) to the aromatics, flavor profile, and long, full-bodied finish. This is a brilliant St.-Emilion that tastes like it came from one of the great terroirs on the St. Emilion plateau. It is also structured and unevolved and will benefit from 5-7 years of cellaring. Anticipated maturity: 2017-2030.*

*This Chinese-owned estate (Elaine Kwok) has made their two best wines to date. I have liked these wines in the past, and these 2009s are quite an accomplishment, coming from a terroir that is not considered one of the better ones in St.-Emilion, sitting just adjacent to that of Jonathan Maltus’ Chateau Teyssier.”*

*- RP, Wine Advocate*

*“The more tannic, structured, and denser 2009 La Reserve is more of a long-term proposition. It is neither as charming nor fruit-forward as the regular cuvee, and therefore cellaring of 3-4 years is recommended. It’s certainly a bigger wine, but for the difference in price, I am not sure the qualitative differences are that well-delineated at this stage of the wines’ evolution. It should evolve for 15+ years. (Tasted once.)”*

*- RP, Wine Advocate*

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