

Château Haut-Brisson La Réserve 2012

CSPC# 753463

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

98% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc.

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

Grand Cru Classe

Website

<http://hautbrisson.com/>

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 thermo-regulation: - 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

This attractive wine is very perfumed, full bodied, complex and well-structured with a long finish. Nose of black fruits, blackberries and vanilla. It is a brilliant Saint-Émilion which is comparable to wines from the great terroirs on the Saint-Émilion plateau.

Production

250 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2030



Scores/Awards **83 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015

93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015

91-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013

90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013

89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 26, 2013

Reviews *"The core of dark plum and blackberry fruit is heavily coated with coffee and bittersweet cocoa notes, turning a bit blunt and overwhelming in the end. Drink now. 250 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"A beautiful wine from the Chinese Peter Kwok family, Haut Brisson's 2012 La Réserve (98% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc) has an inky purple color, wonderfully sweet black cherry and black currant fruit, with some judicious toasty oak in the background. The wine cuts a broad, full-bodied (14.8% alcohol) swath across the palate and builds incrementally into a long 30- to 35-second finish, while the tannins are ripe and integrated, as is the new oak. This is a beauty and a tribute to the dedication of the Kwok's. Drink it over the next 12-15 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2012 La Reserve comes from a 7.5-acre parcel that produces a slightly different style of wine. Composed of 98% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc, it is slightly riper at 14% natural alcohol. Yields were slightly lower at 30 hectoliters per hectare, and Michel Rolland, the consulting winemaker for all of Kwok's properties, appears to have fully exploited the potential of this estate located on the "wrong" side of the main road bisecting the appellation of St.-Emilion. This fruity, medium to full-bodied, opulent 2012 can be enjoyed over the next 10-15 years.

The energetic Hong Kong finance magnet Peter Kwok, who owns Haut-Brisson, continues to build a burgeoning empire on Bordeaux's Right Bank, having purchased Tour St.-Christophe and Cornaline. All of Kwok's vineyards either have been or are in the process of being converted to organic farming, and Haut-Brisson has won accolades from this publication since his first vintage."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"From 98% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc, the wine offers red berries, silky tannins and a forward, dill, oak and cherry finish. 89-91 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
