
Château Cantenac Brown 2014

CSPC# 744982

12x750ml

13.6% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot.
Appellation	Margaux
Classification	Third Growth. Troisième Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.cantenacbrown.com/en/
Sustainability	While the estate has since built a new, highly eco-responsible winery (completed in 2023), the focus of sustainability in 2014 was on vineyard management. These practices were part of a broader philosophy to work in symbiosis with nature and ensure the vineyard's long-term health, leading to the high-quality harvest in 2014
General Info	Cantenac-Brown estate once formed part of Boyd-Cantenac, founded by Irishman Jacques Boyd in 1754 and later passed on within the family to Scottish socialite John Lewis Brown - who unfortunately became bankrupt. Designed by Brown in a traditional Tudor style, the château was host to the grand parties the owner was renowned for, highlighting his love of good wines. Sold in 1843 to a banker (Gromard), the owner in 1855, when the estate was granted a Grand Cru classification. Cantenac-Brown, also building the striking brown-brick château. Hard times were around the corner (phylloxera, war, depression) and by 1968, the estate was quite ready for the overhaul the Du Vivier family gave it. Rejuvenation continued under AXA Millésimes (they bought in 1998) and is ongoing today under British businessman Simon Halabi. 150 years later the Simon Halabi family has given new impetus to the estate with the ambition of raising it to the highest echelons.
Vintage	After quite a warm and rainy winter, an early budburst, and a fast and homogeneous flowering, cautious vine-growers and winemakers experienced a slow «veraison». Once again the weather was good to us: all seasonal vineyard tasks in the first part of the year that are now part of our usual routine (such as getting rid of base bud shoots, leaf pruning, “échardage” (i.e. getting rid of laterals shoots specifically located in the cluster area), green harvest, could not compensate for the cool temperatures of the beginning of the summer. We began to doubt that we could produce a wine as great as vintage 2014. We desperately needed more sun and warmer temperatures... From the end of August, average temperatures came back to normal, and a very hot and sunny September led to mature grapes and soft tannins, thanks to a sound and healthy vineyard. Hence, a harvest of high quality. When the grapes are harvested, the cellar is working on the blend in order to find the best synergy between the vats and the plots.
Vineyards	The 54-hectare Bordeaux wine vineyard of Cantenac Brown sits on gravel and sandy soils. Planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the average age of the vines are 35 years of age. The current blend in the vineyards shows an increase in Cabernet Franc. The terroir is gravel and sand. The vines are planted to a density of 8,500 vines per hectare. Yields are high, averaging 55 hectoliters per hectare. The estate takes a sustainable approach to their Left Bank vineyard farming techniques. This approach means only plant-based fertilizers are used.
Harvest	Merlot: Sept 25th - Oct. 1st Cabernet Sauvignon: Oct. 7th to 15th
Maturation	All grapes have been sorted carefully: First by hand, cluster by cluster, on tables in front of the vat room. Then sorted again, berry by berry, between destemmer and crusher, also by hand or through optical sorting machine. Only good grapes entered into the fermentation vats. We got cheered up by the first pumping overs. First juices were deep colored and had soft tannins. And after ageing and tastings, relief changed to enthusiasm. 50% of the harvest went into the wine. After blending, the wine is aged for 15 months in oak barrels, with 60% new and 40% a year old. The wine is racked 3 to 4 times a year, separating the clear wine from the lees.



Tasting Notes	The color is very deep, almost black, sign of a great substance and a beautiful ripeness. The nose is a blend between red and black fruits, such as blackcurrants or blackberries, cherry or redcurrant. The roasted notes wrap the whole in a savory way. The wine is full-body, opulent and rich. It coats the palate delicately. The length of this wine doesn't have an end, what a fantastic finish! The still very young wine has excellent dispositions to age!
Production	6,665 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2044
Scores/Awards	91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2017 92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 2017 91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015 85 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - Mar 2024 93 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017 92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015 94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2017 17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2018 16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2015 92 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - February 2017 90 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - June 2015 94 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com (score only) - April 2024 92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017 93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - May 2015 90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2015 92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017 91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - February 2019 93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - April 2015 17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2018 17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2017 16.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - June 2017 16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2017
