

Château Haut-Brion



PESSAC-LEOGNAN, BORDEAUX

Millésime 2008

Domein: Château Haut-Brion

De wijngaard van Château Haut-Brion is gelegen in Pessac, enkele kilometers ten zuidwesten van Bordeaux. Deze oudste wijngaard van de Bordeaux, werd opgericht in 1533 door Jean De Pontac. In 1934, werd Château Haut-Brion eigendom van Domein Clarence Dillon.

Oppervlakte: 51 ha

Druivensoorten: 41% Merlot
50% Cabernet Sauvignon
9% Cabernet Franc

Bodem: klei- en zandbodem

**Dichtheid van de
beplanting:** 9 000/ha

**Gemiddelde leeftijd
van de beplanting:** 36 jaar

Vinificatie:
Oogst vond plaats tussen 8 september en 7 oktober.

Rijping:
18 à 22 maand op houten vaten waarvan 100% nieuw.

Alcoholgehalte: 14%

Beschikbare volumes: 0,75L

Verpakking: Caise Bois 6

Château Haut-Brion



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Domaine: Château Haut-Brion

Le vignoble du Château Haut-Brion est situé sur la commune de Pessac, à quelques kilomètres au sud-ouest de Bordeaux. Château Haut-Brion a été créé et structuré dès 1533 par Jean Pontac, ce qui en fait le plus ancien vignoble de Bordeaux. En 1934 le Château Haut-Brion est propriété du Domaine Clarence Dillon.

Superficie: 51 ha

Cépages:
41% Merlot
50% Cabernet Sauvignon
9% Cabernet Franc

Sol: argilo-sableux

Densité de la plantation: 9 000/ha

Âge Moyen des vignes: 36 ans

Vinification:

Les vendanges ont eu lieu entre le 8 septembre et le 8 octobre.

Elevage:

18 à 22 mois en 100% de bois neuf.

Taux d'alcool: 14%

Volumes disponibles: 0,75L

Conditionnement: Caisse Bois 6

Château Haut-Brion



SCORES - 2008

20/12/2011 • Jamsuckling.com (James Suckling) : 94 / 100



What a finish here. It starts off slowly and then builds. Full bodied, but in reserve with a sweet tobacco, berry and light dark chocolate character. Bright acidity and a chewy finish. So classy. Production was tiny in 2008. Try after 2014.

15/12/2011 • Wine Spectator (James Molesworth) : 92 / 100



This has racy acidity well-buried in the core of damson plum, cherry pit and red currant notes, all backed by fine-grained tannins and subtle sanguine and iron shadings. Tar and lilac hints chime in on the finish, where the appellation's typical tarry note shows some atypical polish. Impression. Drink now through 2020.-J.M

31/05/2011 • Wine Advocate (Robert Parker) : 96 / 100



This is profound! 2008 Haut-Brion: The extraordinary 2008 Haut-Brion is a candidate for -wine of the vintage.- Composed of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc, it reveals more evolution and complexity in its large-scaled perfume. The dense purple color is followed by a sweet nose of creosote, asphalt, blueberries, black currants and jammy raspberries, sweet tannins, a savory, fleshy mouthfeel and a stunning finish. This incredibly pure, noble wine was produced from one of the estate-s smallest crops (only 7,000 cases produced versus the usual 12,000 cases). It should drink well for three decades or more. Drink 2011-2041

30/06/2009 • Falstaff : 92-94 / 100



41% ME, 50% CS, 9% CF) 13,7%, dunkles Rubingranat, jugendliche Reflexe, zarter Wasserrand. In der NÄse noch etwas verschlossen, feines dunkles Beerenkonfit, zarte tabakige Nuancen, gibt im Bukett noch nicht viel preis. Am Gaumen kraftvoll, sehr mineralisch, zeigt eine gute Komplexität, seriöser Wein mit einer passenden Strenge, feste Tanninen, feine Waldbeerenfrucht und zart nach Orangen im Abgang, bleibt gut haften, sicheres Entwicklungspotenzial, frische rote Sommerkirschen im Nachhall.

Château Haut-Brion

SCORES - 2008

28/05/2009



- Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar (Stephen Tanzer) : 92-95 / 100
- (50% cabernet sauvignon, 41% merlot and 9% cabernet franc) Deep ruby, darker than La Mission. The closed nose is classic Bordeaux, with ripe cassis and graphite aromas nicely lifted by violet and mineral, and showing an obvious presence of high-quality cabernet franc. Rich and opulent on the palate, with loads of ripe black fruits framed by bright but harmonious acids and extremely smooth tannins. With its very long, sweet finish, this is one of the best wines of the vintage. In 2008, Haut-Brion's larger vineyard area (43 hectares, vs. 21 for La Mission) gave it more to choose from for the grand vin than was possible at La Mission. According to estate manager Jean-Philippe Delmas, there were some particularly fine cabernets picked this year at Haut-Brion, such as the old vines from the Arcachon parcel, which are two-thirds cabernet sauvignon and one-third franc.

6/05/2009



- Wein Wisser (René Gabriel) : 19 / 20
- 35 % Grand Vin. 50 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 41 % Merlot, 9 % Cabernet Franc. Sattes, tiefes Granat-Violett, rubinroter Rand. Verhaltene Bouquet mit viel Tabak, Teer, Rauch und schwarzen Beeren, wirkt reserviert, zeigt aber eine geniale Tiefe. Im Gaumen fleischig, aber zurzeit weniger fein als einem ganz grossen Haut-Brion angemessen wäre, mehlig Zunge, umfassende Adstringenz, im Finale jedoch geniale Aromen. Womöglich niemals ein Fruchtvergnügen, aber als mittelgewichtiger, tiefschürfender Pessac in 15 Jahren sicher in bestechender Form. Der beste Wein der Appellation – und sicher auch der Teuerste. 2015 – 2035

30/04/2009



- Wine Advocate (Robert Parker) : 95-97 / 100
- Production for the 2008 Haut-Brion represents only 35% of the grapes harvested, and while production can be over 12,000 cases in an abundant vintage, 2008 will be one of their smallest ever, with only 7,000 cases produced from a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, and 9% Cabernet Franc. The 2008 reminds me of a hypothetical blend of the 1996 and 1998. It is a classic, elegant, but substantial Haut-Brion with a dense ruby/purple color as well as crushed rock, spring flower, blueberry, and black currant characteristics presented in a vivid, vibrant, full-bodied style that cuts an ethereal feel across the palate. Haut-Brion is somewhat akin to Cheval Blanc in that it can be seemingly light on the palate, but very intense in flavor. That is the case with the 2008. There is plenty of tannin, but it is very ripe. This impressive, deep wine requires patience, and a ten year wait is mandatory. This formidable Haut-Brion should have a 40-50 year lifeline.

29/04/2009



- La Revue du Vin de France : 18,5-19,5 / 20
- Depuis 1988, on n'avait pas vendangé aussi tard (on a même fini après certains Médocains), ni aussi longuement : pour chaque pied de vigne nous sommes passés quatre fois. On a attendu longtemps et goûté régulièrement les grains de raisins pour être sûr d'avoir le fruit maximum et des tanins les plus mûrs possibles", nous dit Jean-Philippe Delmas, le directeur du château. Et il est vrai que l'on a rarement eu autant de fruit à Haut Brion. Nez somptueux, raffiné, mûr, richement fruité et minéral pour ce Haut-Brion 2008 à la bouche dévoilant une trame dense, un beau grain de tanins, un fruit pur et une très longue finale fraîche.

Château Haut-Brion

SCORES - 2008

23/04/2009 TAST : 18,5 / 20



**bettane
+
desseauve**

Admirable classicisme d'arôme et de forme, vin retrouvant la consistance et l'élégance de forme des années de type 1988 (en plus corsé) ou 1998 après quelques vins splendides mais plus exotiques. Clarence de Haut-Brion possède absolument toute la race et le tempérament exotique du grand vin avec simplement un peu plus de raideur dans son tanin et moins de générosité de texture. Mais aucun autre second vin ne l'approche !

22/04/2009 • Wine Advocate (Neal Martin) : 94-96 / 100



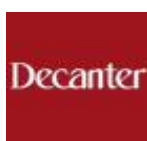
A blend of 41% Merlot, 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Cabernet Franc. The nose is very expressive, ripe redcurrants, wild strawberries, a touch of gravel and a little wild hedgerow and black plum. The bouquet appears to be more expressive than recent vintages. The palate is very well balanced and slightly grainy, very fresh, lots of energy on the finish with a minerally undertow. The focus is very impressive: one feels this is an Haut-Brion that will blossom after bottling, for unlike the nose, the palate feels as if it is holding something back. Firm tannins, traces of earth and bay leaf on the finish. Excellent – but patience is necessary. Tasted April 2009.

21/04/2009 • Jancis Robinson (Jancis Robinson) : 18 / 20



Much deeper colour than La Mission 2008. Really powerful dark purple colour. Minerals and lightness of touch on the nose. The most solid red from this stable but a little muted at this stage. Very firm, even slightly austere Cabernet tannins and pretty drying on the finish. Far from opulent. Needs, like La Mission, to put on a bit of flesh. Medium persistence. Impressive purity of fruit – the opposite of tarted up. Drink 2018-34

14/04/2009 • Decanter Magazine (Steven Spurrier) : 19 / 20



(50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc; final blend represents 35% of the crop.) Fine black-red, really lovely, seductive small berry fruit, already satiny in texture on the palate with great precision of fruit, but also quite fleshy in a restrained sense, a wine of great breed and class that will show the earthy/taffeta style of Haut-Brion to perfection. Drink 2020-40.

6/04/2009 • Wine Spectator (James Suckling) : 93-96 / 100



A very complex wine, with black licorice, sweet tobacco, blackberry and earth. Full-bodied and long, with big, juicy tannins and lots of bright fruit, mushroom, earth and decadent fruit flavors. The most powerful wine of the vintage. Only 35 percent of the total production (normally this is 50 percent or 55 percent). Shows the selection.

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Millésime 2010

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Beschikbare volumes: 0,75L

Verpakking: Caise Bois 12

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Millésime 2010

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Château Haut-Brion



SCORES - 2010

31/08/2013 **Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar (Stephen Tanzer) : 98 / 100**

Good full ruby-red. Complex, expressive, very showy aromas and flavors of cassis, menthol, smoke and tobacco complemented by violet, milk chocolate and sweet spices. Fat, sweet and concentrated in the mouth, with an almost liqueur-like ripeness to its highly concentrated, palate-saturating flavors. Finishes ripe and savory, with huge but plush tannins and lingering notes of blueberry and minerals. 98 (+?) points

1/07/2013 **Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar (Stephen Tanzer) : 98 / 100**

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31/03/2013 **Wine Spectator (James Molesworth) : 99 / 100**

Sappy, tongue-coating pastis, blackberry coulis and loganberry fruit starts this huge wine off, followed by a parade of licorice snap, violet, tar, black tea, roasted alder, wood spice and steeped black cherry fruit notes. A beam of pure cassis drives through this version, and the finish pulls everything together with a mouthwatering brambly edge that should soften slowly over time. A riveting display of brawny power, unbridled energy and high-level terroir. Best from 2020 through 2040.—J.M.

31/03/2013 **Wine Spectator (James Molesworth) : 99 / 100**

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Château Haut-Brion

SCORES - 2010

1/03/2013



Wine Advocate (Robert Parker) : 100 / 100

As for the 2010 Haut-Brion, it does not have the power of Latour's 2010 or the intense lead pencil shavings and chocolate component of Lafite-Rothschild, but it is extraordinary, perfect wine. It has a slightly lower pH than the 2009 (3.7 versus the 2009's 3.8), and even higher alcohol than the 2009 (14.6%). The wine is ethereal. From its dense purple color to its incredibly subtle but striking aromatics that build incrementally, offering up a spectacular smorgasbord of aromas ranging from charcoal and camphor to black currant and blueberry liqueur and spring flowers, this wine's finesse, elegant yet noble power and authority come through in a compelling fashion. It is full-bodied, but that's only apparent in the aftertaste, as the wine seems to float across the palate with remarkable sweetness, harmony, and the integration of all its component parts – alcohol, tannin, acidity, wood, etc. This prodigious Haut-Brion is hard to compare to another vintage, at least right now, but it should have 50 to 75 years of aging potential. Anticipated maturity: 2022-2065+. Kudos to the team at Haut-Brion and to the proprietors, the Dillon family, who are now represented admirably and meticulously by Prince Robert of Luxembourg. He has made some changes, and all of them seem to have resulted in dramatic improvements to what was already an astonishing group of wines.

11/02/2013



Wine Advocate (Neal Martin) : 96 / 100

Tasted at Chateau Haut-Brion. The first impression is that the aromatics upon the Haut-Brion almost cower compared directly against the ebullient, vivacious La Mission. It is probably an unfair comparison. Over time in the glass, it unfurls a little to reveal understated mineral-rich black fruit, tar and cigar box aromas. After 30 minutes and interchanging with an empty glass, it really opens up with hints of black olive and sea foam. The palate is very refined: a real class act. The tannins are fine but firm, initially a little austere and bashful but opening to reveal a sensual Haut Brion with just a touch of leafiness, allied with sublime freshness and delineation. It is keeping its secrets close to its chest at the moment, although the finish is very persistent and focused. It will require a decade cellaring. Tasted November 2012

3/02/2013



Jamessuckling.com (James Suckling) : 97 / 100

This is very spicy with dried mushroom aromas with dark fruits and plum undertones. Sweet tobacco as well. This is full-bodied, with lots of tannins that are chewy and firm. This is muscular for HB and flexing it. Try in 2020

31/05/2011



Wein Wisser : 19 / 20

57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 20% perfekter Cabernet Franc, Ertrag : 39hl/ha. Sehr dunkles Purpur mit lila Reflexen in der satten Mitte. Feinduftiges Bouquet, rote Pflaumen, blaue Beeren und schwarze Fruchtnoten, nach und nach mit den klassischen Gewürznoten von Havanna, Zeder, Mokka und dunklen Edelhölzern. Erstaunlich saftiger Gaumen mit feinem, fast zartem Stoff, schwarze Kirschen und Lakritze, gebündeltes, harmonisches Finale mit viel Rückaromatik. Schon präsenter als La Mission, aber

mit erwartung. Reifezeit: 2022-2050

Château Haut-Brion

SCORES - 2010

31/05/2011 **Wine Advocate (Robert Parker) : 98-100 / 100**



2010 Haut-Brion: Following a harvest that finished on October 10, Haut-Brion produced a 2010 that should turn out to be one of its all-time greats ... an amazing feat given what they have accomplished over recent vintages. A blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc that came in at 14.6% alcohol, the 2010 boasts an opaque purple color as well as a gorgeous perfume of scorched earth/burning embers, blueberries, black currant liqueur and crushed rocks. Full and opulent with nobility, finesse, purity and elegance, this amazing effort possesses extraordinary levels of extract as well as formidable, but sweet, well-integrated tannins. It requires 8-10 years of cellaring and should drink well for 50+ years. Drink 2019-2069

31/05/2011 **Wine Advocate (Neal Martin) : 96-98 / 100**



A blend of 23% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Cabernet Franc, this has a quintessential Haut-Brion nose with that trait of fresh black olives defining the nose straight out of the blocks. It is a little less opulent than La Mission but with slightly better clarity at this stage. The palate displays very fine, succulent tannins and like the La Mission there is a Pauillac-like personality thanks to the graphite imparted by the ripe Cabernet Sauvignon. Wonderful definition towards the finish. This is a superb Haut-Brion. Tasted March 2011.

24/05/2011 **Asian Palate (Jeannie Cho Lee MW) : 98-100 / 100**



Deep ruby purple in colour, the Haut-Brion offers a hedonistic nose of cedar, violets, blackberries, blackcurrant, and spices. This is a rich mouth-filling wine that will take at least a decade to come around. Reserved, aristocratic, very dense with velvety tannins and lovely layers of complex flavours, this very classy wine has a finish that just goes on and on. There is not much Merlot compared to other years, but the 20% Cabernet Franc has added spices, herbs and complexity that come through in the finish. A phenomenal wine.

12/05/2011 **Le Point (Jacques Dupont) : 18,5-19 / 20**



Fermé, fruits noirs, minéral, tabac, bouche dense, pleine, voluptueuse, épicée, tannique, finale relevée. L'élevage devrait lui redonner plus de chair et de moelleux, le vin est un peu resserré sur lui-même aujourd'hui. O=2019 G=30 ans

30/04/2011 **Decanter Magazine (Steven Spurrier) : 19,5 / 20**



Stunning aromas of beautifully concentrated red fruits, already expressive, even exuberant, a taffeta-like finesse hides great strength for the long term. Drink 2020-45. (19.5 points)

Château Haut-Brion

SCORES - 2010

30/04/2011

Jamessuckling.com (James Suckling) : 97-98 / 100



Château Haut-Brion Pessac-Léognan CountryFranceSub RegionBordeauxVarietalVintage2010Score97-98Tasting Notes Wonderful aromas of dark fruits with sweet tobacco and lilac character. Blackberries too. Amazing nose. This is tight and powerful with beautiful tannins and a racy structure. It lasts for minutes. Super refined yet muscular style of Haut-Brion due to a much lower percentage of Merlot in the blend. I like the 2009 better. Its more typical. This is 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc

30/04/2011

TAST (Bettane & Desseauve) : 19-19,5 / 20



Monumentalité propre aux domaines Dillon dans un millésime favorable à des vins de grande envergure, tannin plus dense que Mission, un peu plus d'austérité en finale mais dans la moindre agressivité, sensation de concentration de matière impossible à traduire en mots, vin grandiose mais qui demandera peut être un demi siècle pour prendre une forme moins intimidante!

25/04/2011

The Wine Cellar Insider (Jeff Leve) : 98-100 / 100



Haut-Brion From a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, this unique blend is made from one of the highest concentrations of Cabernet Sauvignon in the history of the property. In 2010, the wine reached 14.6% alcohol with a pH of 3.63. This combination allows for more ripeness as well as greater freshness. The effective yields are lower in 2010. Only 42% of the crop was included in the Grand Vin. For those that like statistics, 2009 Haut Brion is slightly lower in alcohol at 14.2 % alcohol with a pH of 3.9. . 2010 Chateau Haut Brion is deep ruby with a purple rim that shines in the glass. The wine is filled with smoke, earth, hot stones, spice, blackberry, cassis and hints of licorice. Full bodied and concentrated with multiple layers of spicy, fresh, rich dark fruit and cassis flavors that fill your palate, this elegant, regal wine builds in the mouth. From the first touch on your palate, it's difficult to imagine the incredible length found in this wine. I timed the finish twice to make sure I had not lost track of the time. I shook my watch to ensure it was running correctly. This incredible wine remains on your palate for close to 80 seconds! Balanced, harmonious and regal, this will be an amazing wine to experience at maturity. 98-100 Pts

12/04/2011

Jancis Robinson (Jancis Robinson) : 18 / 20



23% Merlot, 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc. 7,800 cases, not 10,000+ as in 2009. 42% grand vin (compared with 57% in 2009). Full, opulent nose in which the classic Haut-Brion aroma is well masked by lots of slightly austere fruit. Very fine tannins – very drying finish. An extremely slow burner. Much drier than La Mission, and at the moment not desperately expressive. Its lips are pursed at the moment, and so are mine tasting it. Unusual to come across such a long-term wine even here. This may not make a massive impact en primeur because it is keeping so much in reserve. I think it will eventually make a great wine but it's surly at the moment. Drink 2028-2045 (18++ points)

8/04/2011

Wine Enthusiast (Roger Voss) : 95-97 / 100



Very firm, tannic and structured, the wine is very tough and dry, with a concentration of flavours in a dark, brooding framework.-R.V.

Château Haut-Brion

SCORES - 2010

31/03/2011 Wine Spectator (James Molesworth) : 96-99 / 100



Sappy, dense and packed, with layers of kirsch, melted licorice snap, anise and black tea. Just as dense, if not more so, on the finish, with extra tar, violet and blackberry confiture. There's massive grip on the back end, but this is velvety and caressing. Easily the most backward of the first-growths at this stage. Tasted nonblind. —J.M.

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Alcoholgehalte: 14%

Beschikbare volumes: 0,75L - 1,5L

Verpakking: Caise Bois 6 en 12 - 0,75L
Caise Bois 6 - 1,5L

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Millésime 2011

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Âge Moyen des vignes: 36 ans

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Elevage:
18 à 22 mois en 100% de bois neuf.

Taux d'alcool: 14%

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Conditionnement: Caisse Bois 6/12 - 0,75L
Caisse Bois 6 - 1,5L

Château Haut-Brion



SCORES - 2011

15/03/2017 Wine Advocate (Neal Martin) : 94 / 100



Tasted blind as a vintage comparison at the Valandraud vertical, the 2011 Haut Brion has always been an excellent Pessac-Léognan, though recent encounters suggest it does not have the potential of the 2012. It has a gentle and caressing bouquet full of copious dark cherry and raspberry fruit, a touch of saddle leather and a seam of dark chocolate emanating from the oak regime, which needs more time to integrate (though it is not an Haut-Brion that is going to demand years and years in bottle). The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin and feels gentle in the mouth. It is very well balanced, although perhaps the oak comes through too strongly on the finish, when frankly there is no need. Nevertheless, this is a classic Pessac-Léognan - maybe "mild mannered" and a little conservative compared to more ambitious recent vintages, yet there is no doubting its class and pedigree. Tasted December 2016.

31/08/2014 Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar (Ian D'Agata) : 92 / 100



Deep ruby. Complex, soil-driven aromas of redcurrant, dark cherry and raspberry are complicated by exotic notes of Oriental spices and soy sauce. Rich, tactile and sweet, offering intense, elegant dark fruit and spice flavors lifted by a saline nuance. Finishes with sweet tannins and lingering saline and smoky notes. This is deeper and fleshier than the La Mission.

2/05/2014 Wine Advocate (Robert Parker) : 95 / 100



The unbelievably superb 2011 Haut-Brion (a tiny production of 7,600 cases from a blend of 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, and 19% Cabernet Franc) exhibits a classic nose of subtle smoldering embers, warm rocks, black currants, new saddle leather, spice box and high quality, unsmoked cigar tobacco. The color is a dense ruby/purple to the edge, and the wine cuts a serious as well as broad swath across the palate. The most amazing aspect of this terroir is that the wine, despite all its power and richness, literally dances on the palate, as if it were a 90 pound ballerina. This brilliant 2011 should evolve quickly, hitting its prime in 7-8 years, and drink beautifully for 20-25 years.

31/03/2014 Wine Spectator (James Molesworth) : 95 / 100



This packs some serious density for the vintage, with layers of braised fig, blackberry pâte de fruit and dark currant paste, all inlaid with lively briar, tobacco leaf and roasted apple wood notes. Shows lots of energy through the finish, with the grip generating a mouthwatering feel. One of the stars of the vintage. Best from 2018 through 2035.

Château Haut-Brion

SCORES - 2011

19/02/2014 **Jamessuckling.com (James Suckling) : 96 / 100**



Lots of subtle redcurrant and berry character, with flowers and sweet tobacco on the nose. Full body, super-integrated tannins and a light shaved-chocolate, berry and cedar character. A decadence and beauty to this that wakes you up. Better in 2018.

31/05/2012 **La Revue du Vin de France : 16,5-17,5 / 20**



Haut-Brion se montre plus dense que la Mission, avec un supplément de chair et de densité apporté par de très beaux cabernets. La part plus importante de cabernet franc (19%) nuance davantage la marque du terroir. 10% de la récolte sont passés dans un troisième vin et la totalité de la production de Haut-Brion est inférieure de 5% à celle du 2010. Dans un esprit plus mûr (fruits noirs), l'ensemble est délicieusement enrobé et charnu en milieu de bouche. S'il dévoile des tanins serrés en finale, son corps est dense et plein.

17/05/2012 **Le Point (Jacques Dupont) : 17,5-18 / 20**



Fruits noirs, terre, sousbois, bouche vive, charnue, frais, élégant, d'une grande finesse, arrondi et fin, tendu mais enrobé, long, finale épicée. O=2020 G=20 ans

12/05/2012 **Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar (Ian D'Agata) : 92-94 / 100**



(46% cabernet sauvignon, 35% merlot and 19% cabernet franc blend; 3.61 pH): Dark ruby-red. Big, rich and creamy on entry, then tighter and a bit austere in the middle, showing pure cassis, red berry and mineral flavors that carry through nicely on the rising finish. Very fine-grained Haut-Brion with a lingering cocoa nuance. Technical director Masclef noted that the team did shorter cuvaisons of about 15 days, vs. a typical 21, and at slightly lower temperatures too. I think the high-quality cabernet franc here has helped this wine gain a measure of refinement that is not always there in vintages with higher proportions of merlot. Another potentially great Haut Brion, more austere and less fleshy than recent efforts but very classic.

30/04/2012 **Decanter.com : 18,5 / 20**



Deep velvety red, wild roses bouquet, taffeta smooth texture, great precision and clarity, restrained and aristocratic. Drink 2020-2040.

Château Haut-Brion

SCORES - 2011

30/04/2012 Wine Advocate (Robert Parker) : 92-95 / 100



Like its stablemate La Mission-Haut-Brion, Haut-Brion's 2011 production was small, only 7,600 cases, which is nearly 3,000 fewer cases than in 2009. A blend of 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 19% Cabernet Franc, it is interesting to taste the 2011 Haut-Brion next to the more open-knit, seductive 2011 La Mission Haut-Brion. The former wine is more firm, backward and earthy with a more formidably structured style. Undeniably elegant, distinctive and original, it exhibits notes of mulberries, plums, blueberries and raspberries. Jean-Philippe Delmas told me that in many ways the 2011 reminds him of the 2008 from an aromatic and structural profile. There is plenty of tannin, and the 2011 has 25-30 years of aging potential. It may be more reminiscent of a vintage such as 1988, but it is better made as well as being the product of a far stricter selection process.

TAST (Bettane & Desseauve) : 19-19,5 / 20

30/04/2012



Encore une fois un monument de classe naturelle, liée au terroir et de savoir-faire humaine : corps considérable, somptueux socle tannique, ferme mais très élégant dans sa texture, admirable construction en bouche. Le vin de Bordeaux dans toute sa splendeur. Très longue garde prévisible.

30/04/2012 Wein Wisser (René Gabriel) : 19 / 20



46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc. Extrem dunkles Purpur mit lila und violeten Reflexen. Florales Bouquet, dunkelviolette Rosen, schwarze Beeren, wie beim Mission etwas Teer und Herbsttrüffel. Während die Nase wenig hergibt, ist im Gaumen schon sehr viel Aromatik da, alles im schwarzbeerigen Bereich, Finessen und Dicthe, mittlere Power, klingt lange nach. Charaktervoller Haut-Brion, der aber auch recht viel Weibliches zeigt. Der vielleicht beste Premier des Jahrgangs. 2024-2055

27/04/2012 The Wine Cellar Insider (Jeff Leve) : 94-95 / 100



From a blend of 46.3% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34.8% Merlot and 18.9% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.3% alcohol. With a beautiful ruby hue, the wine offers espresso, burnt earth, boysenberry, floral, cassis and truffle. This polished, classic, fresh, sweet, ripe, cassis loaded wine has the tannins to age and will require time. 94-95 Pts

27/04/2012 Wine Advocate (Neal Martin) : 94-96 / 100



The Haut Brion is a blend of 34.8% Merlot, 18.9% Cabernet Franc and 46.3% Cabernet Sauvignon. The bouquet has a little more thrust than the La Mission with a little more opulence, although perhaps not the same degree of clarity and showing slightly more alcohol (but nothing to get concerned about.) It has good weight, firm rigid tannins and a weightier framework than La Mission. It is concentrated and generous with very good focus, a crescendo of flavours towards the finish and very good grip. A masterful Haut-Brion that is more voluminous than La Mission at present. Tasted April 2012

Château Haut-Brion

SCORES - 2011

20/04/2012 Asian Palate (Jeannie Cho Lee MW) : 93-94 / 100



There is wonderful density and depth in this wine, but also a firm wall of tannins that make Haut Brion much less expressive at this stage than La Mission. There are many wines in this tannic vintage like Haut Brion that deserve to be re-tasted before bottling when a better sense of its true personality will emerge. The cedar box, earthy, dried Chinese red date flavours are restrained and the flavours are very tightly wound. The wine is promising with a long length, but patience will be required for this wine.

20/04/2012 Jancis Robinson (Julia Harding MW) : 18,5 / 20

Drink 2020-2040 34.8% Merlot, 18.9% Cabernet Franc, 46.3% Cabernet Sauvignon. Berries not as ripe as 2010 so they extracted shorter and faster to get tannins from skins not from seeds. The optical sorter came into its own, rejecting 5-7% of fruit across the board, in addition to all the other manual sorting that preceded it. There were different coloured berries on the same bunch and some rot at the end of September. Deep black cherry colour. Warm sweet cherry fruit, with the most chocolate-smooth (and in no way thick) tannins but also the acidity of fresh fruit too, fresh cherry. Very fine, intense and aromatic red fruit with just a touch of graphite. There's density and richness on the middle but such amazing softness though the tannins give tension underneath like closely packed bed springs. Like falling into a deep feather cover on a firm bed. So long. (JH) 13.3%

10/04/2012 Wine Spectator (James Molesworth) : 93-96 / 100



Manages to harness the angularity of the vintage extremely well, almost burying the acidity in the core of cassis, black cherry skin, plum pit and maduro tobacco flavors. This is typically among the most backward wines of the vintage when young, and it's still tight and primal, but with admirable length and density already. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Tasted non-blind.—J.M.

6/04/2012 Wine Enthusiast (Roger Voss) : 94-96 / 100



An impressively silky wine. Dry yet intensely fruity, the palate shows big fruit, smooth tannins and a perfumed character. —R.V.

1/04/2012 Jamsuckling.com (James Suckling) : 94-95 / 100



Complex aromas of brown sugar, sweet tobacco and dark fruits. Turns to hints of prunes and cocoa. Full-bodied, with ultra fine tannins and a wonderful length. Refined and silky. Beautiful balance. Such wonderful length. Turns chewy yet very polished.