

Chateau Haut-Brion

A graceful and concentrated Grand Vin, the 2019 Château Haut-Brion reveals extraordinary harmony and aromatic complexity born of a warm and balanced vintage.



Pessac Léognan 2019

Bordeaux, France

Region and Vineyards

Château Haut-Brion is located in **Pessac**, just southwest of Bordeaux, and is the oldest of the five First Growths in the 1855 classification. Situated in the heart of the **Graves** region, the estate benefits from deep gravel soils interspersed with clay, offering ideal drainage and thermal regulation for Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon. These unique terroirs provide power, elegance, and ageability in equal measure.

The 2019 vintage was shaped by a **mild, dry winter** and a cool spring, resulting in a gentle start to the growing cycle. Flowering occurred smoothly, and the vineyards were unaffected by the June storm Miguel. From late June, hot and dry weather settled in, with heatwaves in July pushing the mercury as high as 42 °C. Fortunately, rain at the end of July and cooler August nights preserved the fruit's freshness. September brought dry, continental weather interspersed with timely rains, creating ideal ripening conditions. This enabled the estate to harvest each grape variety at optimal maturity between **10 September and 3 October**.

Winemaking

The 2019 blend comprises **48.7% Merlot**, **43.2% Cabernet Franc**, and **8.1% Cabernet Sauvignon**, an unusually high percentage of Cabernet Franc for Haut-Brion, highlighting the variety's superb performance in this vintage. Each parcel was vinified separately using meticulous sorting and precision fermentation to preserve purity and finesse.

The wine was aged in **79% new French oak barrels**, bringing subtle complexity without overshadowing the wine's aromatics. The alcohol reached a notable **15%**, balanced by freshness and minerality thanks to the vintage's natural equilibrium. Bottling took place between **17 and 20 May 2021**, following élevage that enhanced the wine's seamless integration and depth.

Alcohol :15,00 %

Composition: 49% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep, intense purple with ruby undertones.
- **Aroma:** The nose opens with ripe dark berries and evolves into floral, spice, and graphite nuances. Aromatically both precise and multi-faceted.
- **Palate:** The attack is velvety and delicate, followed by a beautifully controlled, mouth-filling texture. Tannins are tight-grained yet silky, guiding a palate of black plum, crushed stones, and subtle licorice. The finish is persistent, perfumed, and impeccably balanced.

Did you know?

In 2019, **Cabernet Franc played a leading role** at Château Haut-Brion, comprising over 43% of the blend—one of the highest ever proportions in the estate's modern history. This reflects a growing recognition of the variety's capacity to express finesse and structure in warm vintages on gravel-clay soils.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roasted pigeon with red wine jus and wild mushrooms** – complements the wine's earthiness and depth.
- **Veal tenderloin with truffle cream** – mirrors the texture and delicacy of the tannins.
- **Braised beef cheeks with celeriac purée** – enriches the wine's savoury and mineral profile.
- **Aged mimolette or Brillat-Savarin** – enhances the aromatic complexity and long finish.

100 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 100 Points (2019)

The is very refined and elegant with a fine-tannined line running through the center of the palate. It's very intense and precise. Full-bodied with great, tight fruit. This is subtle and complex, then it opens on the palate and shows incredible depth and intensity. Great length, going on and on for minutes. Barrel Sample: 99-100

99

Robert Parker (RP) : 99 Points (2019)

The 2019 Haut-Brion is a blend of 48.7% Merlot, 43.2% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8.1% Cabernet Franc, harvested from the 10th of September to the 3rd of October. The estimated label alcohol degree is 14.5%. Displaying a deep garnet-purple color, it comes off incredibly shy and reticent to begin, needing considerable coaxing to reveal notes of dark chocolate-covered cherries, blackberry preserves, woodsmoke and sandalwood, before launching into a full-scale fireworks display of iron ore, cumin seed, redcurrant jelly, red roses, oolong tea and Sichuan pepper scents plus a waft of cardamom. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers the most exquisitely ripe, finely grained tannins with a lively backbone of freshness supporting the tightly wound, earth-laced black fruit layers, finishing very long and minerally. This is one of the most finely structured, tightly knit wines of the vintage. Given time, I wouldn't be at all surprised if it goes atomic and eventually takes top place for the vintage. Barrel Sample: 97-99+?

Pessac Léognan 2019

Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 98 Points (2019)

The Grand Vin 2019 Château Haut-Brion checks in as a classic blend of 49% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Cabernet Franc. Its deep purple hue is followed by a stunning bouquet of ripe black cherry and currant-like fruit as well as classic Graves cold fireplace, burning embers, tobacco, and cedar pencil. More regal, firm, and classically structured on the palate, this full-bodied beauty has a deep, concentrated mid-palate, building tannins, background oak, and a great, great finish. It's very much in the focused, elegant, yet still concentrated and powerful style of the vintage. It will need a solid decade of cellaring, but it's a brilliant wine. Best after 2032. Rating: 98+