



Chateau Haut-Brion

A stately and finely layered Grand Vin, the 2018 Haut-Brion delivers remarkable depth, generosity, and age-worthy harmony from a solar yet balanced vintage.



Pessac Léognan 2018

Bordeaux, France

Region and Vineyards

Château Haut-Brion, located in the **commune of Pessac**, is the oldest of Bordeaux's First Growths and the only one situated outside the Médoc. Its vineyards, in the heart of the **Pessac-Léognan** appellation, are rooted in deep gravel and clay soils that provide ideal conditions for ripening Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon with complexity and elegance.

The **2018 vintage** began with a stormy spring and a severe hailstorm on May 26th that briefly slowed the growing season. Despite this, the vines recovered quickly, aided by a warm and stable June that supported even flowering. Summer was hot and dry, allowing for steady, stress-free ripening. A period of high pressure in **September** created ideal harvest conditions, with fruit picked at optimal ripeness between **September 6 and October 2**, resulting in a crop of excellent health and concentration.

Winemaking

The 2018 blend consists of **49.4% Merlot**, **38.7% Cabernet Franc**, and **11.9% Cabernet Sauvignon**. This composition reflects a vintage in which Merlot and Cabernet Franc both thrived, yielding expressive, aromatic, and structurally refined wines. Grapes were sorted and vinified parcel by parcel to preserve their individual terroir signatures.

The wine was matured in **62% new French oak barrels**, allowing subtle oak integration while preserving fruit purity and complexity. With an alcohol level of **14.5%**, this vintage balances richness and ripeness with superb textural precision. Bottling took place between **June 26 and July 3, 2020**, after nearly two years of carefully monitored élevage.

Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Dark, intense garnet with deep ruby edges.
- **Aroma:** Highly complex with ripe black fruit, sweet spices, and earthy undertones. Notes of graphite, cedar, and black cherry emerge with air.
- **Palate:** Begins supple and velvety, then builds into a broad, full-bodied mid-palate supported by fine-grained tannins. The finish is long and refined, offering richness without heaviness and freshness without austerity.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 49% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc



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Did you know?

The **2018 vintage** features **one of the highest proportions of Cabernet Franc** in recent decades at Haut-Brion, accounting for nearly 39% of the blend. This reflects both the grape's outstanding performance that year and the estate's growing confidence in its ability to bring floral lift, mid-palate precision, and aromatic complexity.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roasted squab with wild mushroom risotto** – the earthy depth and supple tannins pair beautifully with game and umami.
- **Beef tournedos with foie gras and black truffle** – a luxurious match for the wine's richness and spice.
- **Lamb shoulder confit with rosemary and olives** – complements the wine's Mediterranean hints and fine tannic backbone.
- **Aged Morbier or Beaufort** – enhances the wine's structure and savoury nuances.



Robert Parker (RP) : **100 Points** (2018)

The 2018 Haut-Brion is composed of 49.4% Merlot, 38.7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 11.9% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple in color, the wine needs a lot of swirling before it begins to release a whole complex melody of notes, one at a time to begin: tilled earth, followed by pronounced licorice, then crushed rocks, then the preserved plums. Eventually, it all comes together into a fascinating crescendo of intense crème de cassis, rose oil, wild blueberries and kirsch notes, giving way to quiet, persistent leitmotif scents of cinnamon stick, truffles and redcurrant jelly. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers all this and more, revealing tightly wound black fruit, red berry and exotic spice layers within a solid, wonderfully plush frame and seamless freshness, finishing with epic length and loads of earth and mineral sparks.



James Suckling (JS) : **99 Points** (2018)

Aromas of currants, leaves, fresh mushrooms, oyster shell, tobacco, and dried flowers, following through to a full body, yet ever so refined and polished and it grows on the palate. Lovely, energetic finish. Subtle and driven at the end of the palate. Drink in 2026 and onwards.



Wine Spectator (WS) : **98 Points** (2018)

Waves of cassis, cherry puree and blackberry paste roll through in this showstopper, with notes of tea, sandalwood, iron and anise providing an entourage for the fruit. A subtle warm earth accent underscores the finish without intruding on the texture. A large-scaled yet eminently refined wine. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2025 through 2045.



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