

# Château Haut Brion 2021

CSPC# 848994

750mlx3

13.8% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety** 50.3% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11.7% Cabernet Franc  
**Appellation** Pessac-Leognan  
**Classification** Premier Grand Cru Classé  
**Website** <https://haut-brion.com/#/wines>

**Sustainability** The protection of the environment is an ancient practice rooted in the preservation of the terroir, which has been passed down from generation to generation. This involves the respect of the soils and their characteristics, the limitation of interventions and the use of sexual confusion diffusers instead of insecticides. A gentle management of wooded areas and the plantation of hedgerows are two elements helping to reinforce biodiversity. After the pruning, the vine shoots are sorted to remove the ones that could bear diseases before being shredded and used to fertilize the soils. The continuous work of all the teams committed to the protection of the terroir has been rewarded by the estate obtaining dual certification: High Environmental Value (HEV) since 2018 and ISO 14001 since 2019, within the collective framework of the first association for the EMS (Environmental Management System) of Bordeaux wines.

**General Info** 1st classified growth in 1855. Haut Brion was founded in 1525 by Jean de Pontac and since then, many illustrious personalities have succeeded each other as owners. The lasted among them was Clarence Douglas Dillon, American financial minister under the Kennedy government. Today, the continuity and presence of the Dillon family are ensured by Prince Robert of Luxembourg who watches over the destiny of Domaine Clarence Dillon S.A.S., having joined the management of the Company in June of 1997 and succeeding his mother Princess Joan de Mouchy as President at the end of July 2008. Haut Brion is the sole 1st classified growth from the 1855 classification which is outside of the Medoc appellation. Its terroir may be compared to the one of Latour. Even if it is not the more concentrated wine, Haut Brion is the noblest wine of Pessac Leognan, and its longevity is incomparable. The silky structure of the tannins is always exceptional. Classed Premier Cru of the Gironde in 1855, and Cru de Graves in 1953, Château Haut-Brion was also classed thus in 1973, and although this latest classification only concerned the Médoc whilst Haut-Brion is located in the Graves appellation, the minutes of the 1973 classification meeting state: The jury, considering the situation of Château Haut-Brion and its long traditional connections with the Médoc Premiers Crus, and taking into account this tradition, the customs and practices on the one hand, together with its very eminent virtues on the other, has deemed it to be worthy of featuring alongside the Médoc's Premiers Crus Classés

**Winemaker** Jean-Philippe Masclef

**Vintage** The mildness of winter 2021 causes budburst to start early on 1st March. In spring, the month of April is marked by a severe incidence of frost in the Bordeaux region. The position of Haut-Brion's vineyard once again shows its inestimable value, as the frost spared the large majority of the plots. Heavy rain during the months of May and June has little impact on the vines. In keeping with spring, the beginning of summer is wet and quite cool, so the vine develops slowly. 2021 is a winegrower's vintage, one in which the vineyard requires a lot of attention. In early August, meteorological instability makes way for hot, dry weather, with cool nights that are propitious for the grapes' development, in terms of their technological ripeness, as well as their aromatic characteristics. A month of fine weather enables us to reach harvesting time serenely, with grapes of superb quality. In the end, ripeness is attained, with tremendous freshness in the grapes and lower degrees of alcohol than in past years, reminding us of classic Bordeaux vintages of the 1990s.

**Vineyards** Vines have been cultivated here for at least six centuries, in a vineyard once surrounded by pasture and parkland, now by suburban houses. Despite the encroaching reality of the 21st century, within the walls of the Haut-Brion there lies an excellent *terroir*, typical of Bordeaux, in that it revolves around two gravel *croupes* -



<b>Vineyards</b>	the same can be said for many of the leading estates of the Médoc. These gravelly mounds rise to the heady altitude of 15 metres, a lofty summit compared to much of the surrounding land, providing two south-east facing slopes perfect for the vine. The soil includes ancient stones washed down from the Pyrenees over many millennia, Gunzian gravel peppered with quartz and related minerals, hardened conglomerates of stone and flint. All in all, there are just over 51 hectares of vines which are cared for by vineyard manager Pascal Baratié, who also looks after the vineyard of neighbouring La Mission Haut-Brion.
<b>Harvest</b>	From 13th September to 8th October
<b>Maturation</b>	73% in new barrels for 20 month/s
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The colour is a beautiful, dark purple. The first nose is very aromatic, fine, compact, and fruity. On swirling, fruitiness is predominant, pure, fresh, and delicate. The first taste is short, rich, and delicious. The sensations of powerfulness and delicacy merge and rouse interest. Then the wine develops, full and continuous. The structure is plump, fresh, and fruity. It gives a sensation of pleasure. The wine stretches out on the finish, leaving a lovely feeling and a sense of thickness. Haut-Brion 2021 is definitely a great success.
<b>Serve with</b>	Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Haut Brion is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta.
<b>Production</b>	unknown
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2030 through 2065
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>97 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>97-98 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>97-99 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2022</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p><b>19+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p><b>97-98 points</b> - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p><b>96-97 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"The 2021 Haut-Brion confirms its fine showing en primeur, cementing its status as one of the wines of the vintage. Its complex bouquet of dark berries and cassis mingled with notions of cigar wrapper and burning embers unfurls in the glass. Full-bodied, deep, and velvety, it's concentrated and layered with a multidimensional core of fruit, sweet tannins, and lively acids, concluding with a long, penetrating finish. Reflecting the timeless elegance of Haut-Brion's from cooler years, the 2021 will delight Bordeaux purists."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A candidate for the title of wine of the vintage, the 2021 Haut-Brion unwinds in the glass with aromas of rich red and black fruit mingled with notions of cigar wrapper, licorice, black truffles, loamy soil and burning embers. Full-bodied, deep, and concentrated, it's elegant and multidimensional, with superb depth at the core, lively acids, and ultra-refined tannins. Combining the classical proportions of the vintages of two decades ago with the viticultural and winemaking of today, it's a timeless classic in the making, but it's difficult to find an obvious analogy with an older vintage. When pressed, Jean-Philippe Delmas suggests a superior version of the 2014 vintage, and to me, a more concentrated, serious version of the 2012 vintage also comes to mind. What is clear, however, is that this is one of the real high points of 2021. The blend is 50% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Cabernet Franc, and it attained 13.8% alcohol—a percentage point or so lower than in 2020 or 2019."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p>

**Reviews** *“A very structured young Haut-Brion with blackberry, blackcurrant, black-olive and mushroom character. Medium to full-bodied with a driving balance of firm and ripe tannins and gorgeous fruit.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“97–99. Barrel Sample. This is a magnificent wine. It is the epitome of great white Bordeaux. Its texture and spice give an alluring touch to the lime, apricot and kiwi flavors that come through the toast. This is a classic.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Bright crimson-purple. Fragrant berry-fruit notes as the wine opens. Smooth and refined on attack, the mid palate full and generous swathing powerful but integrated tannins. Impressive length and drive. Quite a powerhouse for such a complicated year. Huge potential. 18/20 points.”*  
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

*“One of the absolute stand out wines in 2021 with an electric appeal almost unrivalled in the vintage. Blackcurrant leaf, dark chocolate, cocoa powder, rose petals, sweet cherries, and bramble fruits on the nose. Incredibly lively and energetic on the palate with a burst of sharp, sweet, and sour fruits that just fills the mouth coated by chalk, slate and pencil lead mineral tannins that give an intensity while the fruit persistency lingers above and through to the long finish. Such delicacy, yet multi-layered and full of concentration, clear ripeness, and power, though delivered with suaveness and style. Tannins are firm and robust, mouth filling, no doubt about that, but they give the structure and frame to the plush and plump fruit which also has such a crystalline purity to it. I love the intensity and also these spicy bitter dark chocolate and liquorice elements on the finish which give nuance.”*  
- GH, Decanter.com

*“A classical balance, reflecting a vintage that is fairly strict in its aromatic expression, exceptionally successful on this spot. Soft cassis bud, rose petal and rose stem, subdued power that gently builds over the palate. Unquestionably a different architecture to Haut-Brion than over the past few years, and there is a sculpted feel to the cassis and bilberry fruits, still with concentration and weight through the palate, expertly constructed. Feels like a window to the past and is delicious. Harvest September 13 to October 8, with no Petit Verdot used this year. 73% new oak.”*  
- JA, janeanson.com

*“Flowers, tobacco wrapper, chocolate, burning wood, ash, cigar box, currants, black cherries, and spice. On the palate, the wine is fresh, bright, vibrant, lifted, and floral. The wine is elevated, refined, soft, and silky with a refreshing, silky edge to the fruits in the finish. There is richness and waves of fruit on the palate, but the waves are small and continuous. This is a good example of a modern classic Haut-Brion. The wine blends 50% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Cabernet Franc, 13.85% ABV. Harvesting took place September 13, finishing October 8, making this one of the longest harvest periods for Haut Brion. 48 hectoliters per hectare, with 43% of the harvest placed into the Grand Vin. Drink from 2027-2060.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2021 Haut-Brion has a very pure bouquet, quite complex with a mixture of blueberry and black cherry fruit, iris flower and violet, hints of sea spray in the background. This is more engaging than the 2021 La Mission Haut-Brion at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins, good fruit concentration considering the vintage, commendable salinity and a harmonious, sapid finish that is classic in style. I suspect this may well close down for a period of time before re-opening. Excellent.”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“The 2021 Haut-Brion has a more extravagant, charming bouquet compared directly with the La Mission at the moment, offering copious blackberry, black truffle, undergrowth and menthol scents. The palate is very well balanced, harmonious, and poised, with fine-grained tannins and an almost pixelated finish. This Haut-Brion seems to have reveled in the cooler growing season, and at 13.8% alcohol, there is almost a degree less than recent vintages. Jean-Philippe Delmas has fashioned a contender for wine of the vintage.”*  
- NM, Vinous

**Reviews**

*“The 2021 Haut-Brion is all class, all finesse. Naturally the overt intensity of recent vintages is replaced by a more understated style in 2021. Silky tannins caress a core of dark cherry/plum fruit. Hints of lavender, new leather, cloves, and menthol gradually open. The trademark Haut-Brion aromatics are going to need a number of years in bottle to develop.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“In comparison to its sibling La Mission Haut-Brion, the 2021 Château Haut-Brion is firmer and much more masculine, with an impressive, almost austere style in its smoky red and black fruits, salted meats, graphite, tobacco, and crushed stone-driven aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied, beautifully concentrated, and elegant on the palate, it picks up density and suppleness with time in the glass and has plenty of tannins, a seamless, layered mouthfeel, and a great finish. It's clearly in the fresher, elegant style of the vintage, yet this brings a serious, age-worthy style that will benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age and evolve and drink brilliantly over the following two decades. The blend is 50.3% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 11.7% Cabernet Franc, hitting 13.8% alcohol, with the élevage in 73% new French oak.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“As with the Clarence, the 2021 Château Haut-Brion is a darker, richer, more powerful wine. Currants, smoked black cherries, graphite, chocolate, and tobacco notes all define the nose, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a straight, focused, beautifully precise mouthfeel, gorgeous yet substantial tannins, and a great finish. It's going to hit maturity in 7-8 years and have 30 years of longevity or more.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“This is the darkest of the four reds from Domaine Clarence Dillon, and it is the richest and most indulgent, too. The oak is carefully judged, and while the tannins are powerful and command the entire back end of the experience, there is a lot of fruit up front. Unlike La Mission, it is allowed to stroll around on the palate relatively unhindered. The fruit is sublime, and the weight and tenderness in the mid-palate are heavenly. The balance and freshness are thrilling, and the touches of exoticism and variety of red and black fruit notes are kaleidoscopic.”*

- Matthew Jukes

*“Vivid ruby, with real depth of colour at the core and purple hues on the rim. Fine cassis, black cherries, a touch of noble wood, a hint of nougat. Good complexity, dark wild berries, fine fruit sweetness, ripe, integrated tannins, elegant and endowed with good length. Full of finesse, fresh and very accessible; a great food companion.”*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is elegant, subtle, complex and reveals a nice depth, harmony, a certain richness, a nice airiness in its richness as well as energy. There are notes of ripe/fresh citrus fruits (yuzu, mandarin...) and more lightly of zest combined with touches of racy minerality, lychee as well as delicate notes of verbena, peach blossom, and discreet, almost fresh pepper. The palate is fruity, mineral and reveals freshness, delicacy, suppleness, suavity, a fine airiness in its definition, harmony, roundness, lightness/finesse, fine airy creaminess, and thoroughness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fresh kumquat, ripe/juicy lemon and more slightly acidic white peach combined with delicate touches of ripe/sweet tangerine, exotic berries as well as discreet toasted/vanilla notes. Good length and persistence.”*

- Vert de Vin

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