



BRANE-CANTENAC

SECOND GRAND CRU CLASSÉ EN 1855
MARGAUX

CHATEAU BRANE-CANTENAC 2019

NOTES PRIMEURS

JEB DUNNUCK - 93 – 95+

The grand vin 2019 Château Brane-Cantenac takes it up a notch, revealing a deeper, saturated purple color, gorgeous notes of cassis, new leather, cedar pencil, and flowers, medium to full-bodied richness, and the elegance and purity that are the defining features of the vintage. It's almost already hard to resist, with beautiful balance and purity, yet still has solid underlying tannins. Again, the balance here is brilliant.

DECANTER - 96

A thoroughly moreish and high-quality Brane Cantenac, this is silky and seductive with impressive extraction of the tannins giving backbone and support to brambled and cassis fruits. Plenty of crushed stone and spice to add a gourmet edge alongside the just-smoked oak. Extremely high quality and one of the best Branes I've tasted at this stage. 3% of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc complete the blend. For the first time, all of the plots for this wine come from the plateau de Brane just in front of the chateau, a reflection of how well this terroir withstood the heat of the summer.

Drinking Window 2029 – 2046 - *Jane Anson*

YVES BECK - 95-96

Pourpre violacé. Ce que le second vin laissait présager est clairement confirmé par le premier. Intensité, complexité et un cri du cœur, un appel à se servir un verre et de projeter le régal, car il est évident que le vin va être bon... C'est en tout cas si l'on s'en tient à ce qu'annonce le nez. Avec une telle richesse olfactive, le côté frais et variétal est indispensable, tellement l'expression fruitée est intense. La mise en bouche est intense de par son impact fruité et de par sa race. Il y a même une touche de salinité qui souligne le côté salivant du vin et qui modère son côté charmant. Ce dernier est d'ailleurs bien relayé par les tanins qui sont suaves et qui se révèlent lentement en fin de bouche. Le vin s'installe lentement et prend ses marques. Il a de la délicatesse, de la finesse et un incroyable désir de s'exprimer. Le seul point qui me surprend actuellement se situe au niveau du corps qui me semble être en retrait d'un point de vue densité mais il faut dire qu'il a à faire à une tension marquante. Une question de « fine-tuning » ! 2015 – 2049.

JEAN-MARC QUARIN - 18

Couleur sombre et très intense, aux reflets pourpres. Nez très aromatique, au fruité mûr, subtil. Nuances de fruits noirs, touche d'encre. Gras à l'attaque, puis savoureux en milieu de bouche, puissant et très minutieux dans la nature de sa texture, le vin se développe ascendant, avec une étoffe tannique dense, supérieure à d'habitude tout en maintenant le style aérien et raffiné de sa stimulation. Longue finale complexe et surtout totalement incrachable. C'est inédit. Bravo ! La grande nouveauté est cet hédonisme supplémentaire sans altération de l'esthétique. Tous les buveurs vont s'y retrouver !

COLIN HAY The Drink Business

Brane Cantenac 2019 (70% Cabernet Sauvignon; 26% Merlot; 2% Cabernet Franc; 1% Petit Verdot; 1% Carmenere; Alcohol 14.1%). Continuing a splendid run of recent form, this is certainly on a par with the 2018 (which I also loved) and very close in quality to the exceptional 2016. But though authentic to its distinct *terroir* (the first wine this year comes exclusively from the *croupe* de Brane itself) and to its appellation, it is very different from both of these wines. As always with Brane, one is struck first by the gorgeous nose – blackberries, with walnuts and lavender and a lovely, energetic, fresh and vivid fruitiness. It does not yet have as much stuffing or concentration as the 2016. But what it does have are the softest and gentlest of tannins and, crucially, enough energy, freshness and acidity to cover the elevated alcohol that is one of the signatures of this vintage. The texture is sublime, the tannins fantastically well-managed (with no pumping over and the use of the innovative R'Pulse system). With a little more time to breathe (the advantage of samples kindly supplied by the Chateau) the wine really starts to blossom, gaining in mid-palate depth and complexity, with notes of griottes and freshly ground Arabica coffee (with its points of acidity). Almost imperceptibly powerful, very gentle and svelte with a lovely long, racy finish. Very pure, almost crystalline – the Pichon Lalande of Margaux (as I have said before).

Baron de Brane 2019 (54% Cabernet Sauvignon; 45% Merlot; 1% Carmenere; Alcohol 14.2%). This is a really excellent second wine and probably the strongest ever Baron. Lively, racy and very fruit driven, this is actually quite approachable even now. It is fresh and fruit-forward, with pure and focussed cassis and blackberry notes at first and then the herby florality of the appellation, enrobed in the beautiful plump tannins of Brane. Those tannins are just a little more noticeable than in the first wine, but this too has a lovely elegance and a vivid freshness that keeps everything in balance. Nicely poised, very attractive and very much characteristic of its appellation.

CHÂTEAU BRANE-CANTENAC

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