

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ EN 1855

CHÂTEAU

BRANE - CANTENAC

MARGAUX

2020

HENRI LURTON

2020 vintage

Utter concentration

OWNER'S REMARKS

2020 was characterized by capricious weather that necessitated ceaseless vigilance in the vineyard. The exceptional terroir of the Brane plateau combined forces with meteorological conditions that suited it perfectly to produce an extraordinary Château Brane-Cantenac.

The dry weather of recent years has required our teams to constantly observe the vineyard in order to adjust our methods to the needs of our vines on a daily basis. These tactics, along with a precise approach in the vineyard and the cellars, foster even greater character and depth in our wines. This is especially true of the wines produced from the grapes grown on Terrace IV. Composed of gravelly soil that contains a larger portion of clay, these plots yield wines of remarkable breadth and utmost elegance, and the 2020 vintage is no exception.

For the last twenty years we have pursued meticulous methods in the vineyard, where we seek to adapt the most advanced techniques to the needs of our vines. These efforts have proved quite successful on the terroirs dedicated to Baron de Brane, in cultivating the young vines from which Margaux de Brane is produced and in the vineyard where we grow grapes for our white wine, the last of which yielded superb grapes for its second harvest.

Exceptional and utterly concentrated, the 2020 vintage is the product of an outstanding terroir. I feel very proud to share it with you.

Henri LURTON

	CS %	CF %	MERLOT %	CARMENERE %	PETIT VERDOT %	% VOL	AT	PH
BRANE-CANTENAC	70	2	26	1	1	13.7	3.60	3.71
BARON DE BRANE	34	6	58	0	2	14.2	3.47	3.71
MARGAUX DE BRANE	36	0	64	0	0	14.2	3.47	3.77



THE WEATHER

- Mild winter : +2.5°C / normal.
- Hot spring.
- Long drought from 19th of June to 10th of August: 53 days without a single drop of rain.
- An intense heat in September but with cool nights .
- Some episodes of rain after harvest.
- The second sunniest year for 10 years behind 2018 (+30%).

HARVEST DATES

Cabernet Sauvignon 17 to 28/09
 Merlot 14 to 18/09
 Cabernet Franc 18 to 25/09
 Petit Verdot 21 to 22/09
 Carmenère 30/09

YIELD 31 hl/ha

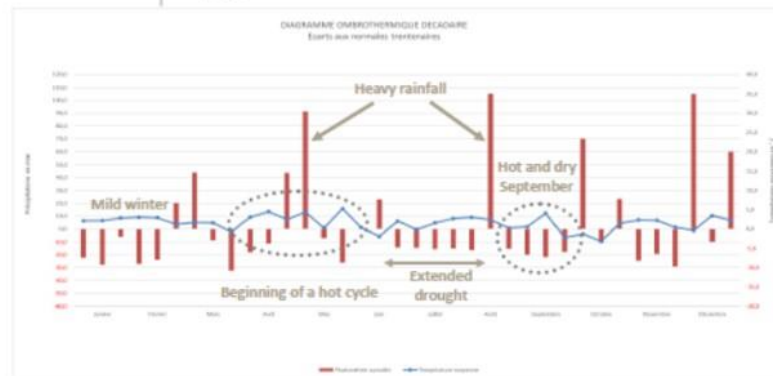


IN THE VINEYARD

- A very early flowering: 15 to 21 days ahead of schedule. The first flowers appear as early as the start of May.
- The veraison begins on the 10th of July.
- A strong downy mildew pressure.
- A loss of juice, a yield lowered but beautiful concentration in the berries.
- Harvest under the heat at the rhythm of the grapes ripeness, perfectly healthy.

IN THE WINERY

- Brane-Cantenac blanc: early harvest to maintain the freshness, the acidity and the exceptional aromatic potential - Sauvignon blanc: 20th to 26th August, Semillon: 26th to 28th August.
- Red wines were crafted using the R'Pulse technique, which replaces pumping and facilitates breaking up and submersion of the cap to boost concentration and roundness.
- Extremely qualitative press wines (13% of the grand vin). The color of the juices was deep and dark.
- Château Brane-Cantenac exclusively made of plots from the Terrace IV.
- Ageing in a combination of amphoras and new oak barrels.





“To the question I get often asked about Château Brane-Cantenac and the quality of the cru, here is what I answer:

This growth inspires me. Spontaneously I would say that it belongs to this family of the rare and exceptional terroirs in the vineyard landscape worldwide. This is not a coincidence if the first research on the soil’s water reserve begun in this blessed place.

The plateau of Brane, this magical and radiant gravels croupe generates respect. It impresses me. The wines of Château Brane-Cantenac engendered by this place move anyone, such as an invisible matrix under our feet that become evidence.

When I taste Brane-Cantenac I am always amazed by the inimitable thoroughbred tannins that suddenly arise delivering a such aromatic expression. I can say it is rare.”

Eric Boissenot

Œnologist, Doctor in Œnology et Ampelology



98

MARKUS DEL MONEGO

Dark purple colour with violet hue and black core. **A wonderful and noble wine with a wonderful nose.** Refined aroma reminiscent of blackcurrants and blackberries, sweet elderberries, very elegant toasting aroma, discreet hints of liquorice but also beetroots and black truffles, discreet spiciness in the background. On the palate polished tannins, silky texture, great elegance and sophistication, multi-layered flavour with ripe fruits and mild spices, excellent length.

96-97

JAMES SUCKLING

Extremely floral and beautiful with blackberry and blackcurrant aromas that follow through to a full body with a solid core of fruit and loads of dark fruit, sweet tobacco, bark and earth. Chewy, fine tannins. **Perhaps the best of the trilogy years.**

95-97

VINOUS - *Neal Martin*

It has a beautifully defined bouquet of blackberry, wild hedgerow, fresh mint and light bay leaf scents. I have sometimes found a little greenness on the nose, but there is none in 2020. The palate is very well balanced with finely chiseled, precise tannins and beautifully judged acidity. **Harmonious and poised, this is an absolutely fantastic Brane-Cantenac**, in my mind superior to the previous two vintages, exuding wonderful *mineralité* on the finish. **A must-buy.**

17

JANCIS ROBINSON

Deep, dark purple. Very fragrant with hints of bergamot. Decidedly *aérien* on the nose and then super-gentle on the palate. Much lighter than most of its peers but by no means vapid. The tannins are almost negligible – apparently – but they dig in on the end of the palate. Very long. **A decidedly graceful wine.**

18,5

 WEINWISSER



96-98

THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER – *Jeff Leve*

Blackberry liqueur, creme de cassis, violets, tobacco leaf and earthy nuances create the attention seeking nose. Dark in color, with equally dark, palate-coating fruits with layers of velvet-textured, sensuous, sexy, deep red berries. The fruits display a majestic sense of purity. The elegant, silky finish remains with you for close to 60 seconds, expanding and building in intensity. **This is a wow wine that fans of the estate should run, not walk and buy as soon as it's offered.**

94-96

JEB DUNNUCK

Deep purple-hued, the 2020 Château Brane-Cantenac is another remarkable 2020 in the making. Beautiful blackberry and cassis fruits as well as notes of chocolate, lead pencil, and flower all define the nose, and it has the vintage's pure, focused, surprisingly fresh profile while still being concentrated and textured. **The balance is spot on and the tannins are polished as well**, so it should have some up-front appeal, yet smart money will be on giving this at least 4-6 years of bottle age.

95-97

VINOUS – *Antonio Galloni*

The 2020 Brane-Cantenac is deep, fleshy and savory. Strong Cabernet accents open first, leading to a core of inky dark fruit, lavender, spice, mint and chocolate. There is some new oak that needs to integrate, but time should take care of that. **I especially admire the sense of classicism and energy here.** This is a superb showing from Brane-Cantenac and the team led by Henri Lurton.

95-97

LE FIGARO

Il faut s'armer de patience pour pénétrer la complexité de ce vin, dont le nez se révèle profond, avec des notes de myrtille et de petites baies séchées, suivies d'arômes de cuir et de charbon. Une bouche souple, avec des tannins racés qui cachent une incroyable densité. La fraîcheur est sublime, avec une texture fine, crayeuse et minérale, sur une finale extraordinairement longue.



18

JEAN-MARC QUARIN

Couleur sombre, pourpre et intense. Nez très aromatique, fin, fruité et complexe, avec **son inimitable finesse de parfum**. Velouté en entrée de bouche, velouté au milieu, avec un corps fondant et beaucoup de goût, le vin fond au palais, séveux, savoureux et noble. Très bonne longueur. Toutefois, je l'ai perçu un peu moins magique que de coutume.

95-96

YVES BECK

Beaucoup de fraîcheur et de finesse dans ce bouquet avec d'agréables nuances d'eucalyptus et de menthe suivies de nuances de fèves de cacao. L'élevage est également apparent, mais parfaitement intégrés, et finalement les nuances fruitées ne manquent pas de se manifester, au travers de notes de baies noires. En bouche le vin est dense, friand et parfaitement équilibré. **Il associe idéalement fraîcheur et puissance** et ne tombe pas dans l'opulence. Un vin puissant, frais et persistant.

97

TERRE DE VINS

Une précision chirurgicale se présente sur un nez à la fois frais et profond, où les notes d'encens et de graphite se conjuguent au fruit noir. « Un précis de composition », pour un clin d'œil à Cioran – ou bien un vin d'architecte pour qui veut regarder vers le ciel. La bouche est verticale, en suspension, habillée de tanins haute définition, tenue par une très belle ossature. **C'est un modèle d'élégance**, ancré, combinant des arômes subtils de bâton de réglisse, de tabac et de moka. Très salivant en finale. Un grand vin de texture.

96-97

BERNARD BURTSCHY

La robe est d'un grenat très sombre. Les arômes sont intenses, très épicés. Le vin est dense, serré, très réglisse, assez tannique, compact, d'une belle longueur, relativement ferme. Cette année, 13% de presse ont été rajoutés. Il est proche du 2019, un peu plus dense et un peu plus harmonieux qu'en 2019.

96

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