GRAND CRU CLASSÉ 1855

Château
CANTENAC BROWN

2016

MARGAUX

Château Cantenac Brown

2016 vintage

A stressful year yields an extremely rare vintage

BLEND

68% Cabernet Sauvignon
32% Merlot

HARVEST DATES

Merlot : September 23rd to 29th
Cabernet Franc : October 3rd to 4th
Cabernet Sauvignon : October10th to19th

AGING

60% in new barrels
40% in one-year-old barrels

HARVEST PROPORTION

49% Château Cantenac Brown

THE VINTAGE

After a rather dry and warm winter, the beginning of the growing season is rainy through June, giving way to a dry and hot summer. Bud-break took place in mid-March, and **this slow, yet stable growth** allowed us to forecast a late harvest. Thankfully, June revealed itself as perfect for a **complete and rapid flowering** on the Merlots, a little slower on the Cabernets, but with **beautiful ripening overall on all varietals**. June through September proved beautiful weather, almost too hot, but never reaching heatwaves. Also, even if some of the younger vines may have suffered, the older, more estbalished ones continue to ripen, thanks to high water tables. **Balance is there**, this slight «block» at the end of August reduced alcohol content. However, rain in mid-September along with beautiful sunny days and cool nights, allowed us to maintain great freshness with **exceptional polyphenolic richness**.

HARVEST

From the first rainy days of mid-September, **the grapes are gleaming**, the ripening is accelerating, and the sun bathed berries are healthy and sound, allowing us to perform our harvest to a slow and precise rhythm with no stress ! (14 days in 5 weeks). Extraction is easy, color and tannin develop with little effort. The grape seeds taste of hazelnut, and **the berries are perfectly ripened** !

All the elements to an exceptional vintage unite. From a beautiful flowering, to a long ripening time on all varietals, we had a **healthy harvest** due to radiant sun during the day paired with cool nights. **Perfect alcohol, acidity, and round tannins** : the balance is there. It's harmonious and natural, without excess. **Truly a rare vintage.**