



CHATEAU
Les Carmes Haut-Brion
Grand Vin de Graves
PESSAC-LEOGNAN

CHATEAU LES CARMES HAUT-BRION

The last surviving vineyard in the City of Bordeaux, this diminutive estate guards an exceptional *terroir*. Spared by urbanisation, it bears witness to the rich history of the first vineyards of Bordeaux: *Las Graves de Bordeu*.

The exceptional history of the last vineyard of the City of Bordeaux:

In 1584, Lord Jean de Pontac of Haut-Brion saw his days drawing to an end at 101 years of age. To help secure his entry into Paradise, he divided his estate, and granted a small water mill surrounded by vineyards and meadows to the Carmelite order of Notre Dame. The monks kept the appellation "Haut-Brion" for over 200 years. Gradually the local name for the estate became "Carmes Haut-Brion".

Though confiscated by the State during the French Revolution, the vineyard was destined to survive.

Les Carmes was purchased at the beginning of the 19th century by Léon Colin, a Bordeaux wine merchant, the direct ancestor of the present owners, the Chantecaille-Furt family. Today, Didier Furt and his wife Caroline manage the vineyard, joined in 2005 by their daughter Pénélope.

The family has renovated the cellars and the wine is now fermented in small vats of 40-80 hectolitres.

A hidden jewel: Bordeaux's witness to 500 years of winemaking history:

Separated from Château Haut-Brion only by a narrow row of houses, Château Les Carmes Haut-Brion is a secret garden of greenery unique in the city of Bordeaux. The vines slope down the plateau of Haut-Brion. Small in size (4.7 hectares/10.6 acres) but blessed with a grand *terroir*, the vineyard is surrounded by an ancient stone wall. The estate marks the border between the three largest municipalities of the city: Merignac, Pessac, and Bordeaux itself.

Within the walls, one has the curious impression of stepping back in time. The Peugue, a stream that marked the parish boundary in the middle ages, divides the estate. A stone fountain dates from the 14th century. A château built in the 19th century overlooks the vineyard, surrounded by a park designed by the landscape architect Fischer.

With Les Carmes, the city of Bordeaux can take pride in possessing one last urban vineyard.

A wine unique by terroir, by microclimate and by blend:

The urban surroundings and stone walls provide a warm microclimate, ensuring optimum ripeness even in cooler vintages. The risk of frost is minimised. Merlot (55%), Cabernet Franc (30%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (15%) produce a powerful but elegant wine, capable of long aging. Its aromatic complexity and perfect balance make this rare *cru* the object of increasing demand.

To visit Château Les Carmes Haut-Brion :

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• **Office de Tourisme de Bordeaux:** Visit Les Carmes Haut-Brion as part of the *Vignobles de Ville* program

• **December 8th and 9th, 2007:** Open House in appellation Pessac-Léognan. Information at www.vins-graves.com

Press please contact: CdiC Communication

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