

TECHNICAL NOTES FOR THE 2000 VINTAGE

Once again, Robert M. Parker Jr. sings the praises of château Les Carmes Haut-Brion in The Wine Advocate! The wine has stepped up again in the esteem of the great critic. Now, it's approaching perfection: 91-95/100.

“Spectacular” is the Parker’s word for the 2000. “Offers aromas of smoke, wet earth, coffee, black fruit...”, poetic praise for this vintage that doesn’t disappoint next to high expectations. “An excellent buy!”

Also worth noting: the critic’s mention of the estate and its park: “a treasure”. Not to miss during a visit to Bordeaux.

Parker emphasizes the opulent texture of this vintage, its purity and finesse. He ends on a note of humour: “This wine could be a modern-day clone of the profound 1959 which first attracted my attention to this château.”

In the master’s opinion – this wine should keep until at least 2025!

(91-95) I have been praising this estate’s wines for a number of years. This tiny treasure, located in a beautiful park beside Haut-Brion, in the suburb of Pessac, is a must visit for travellers to Bordeaux. The vineyard, a whopping ten acres, descends from a sixteenth century order of monks. Lovingly and meticulously made by the family, it a blend of 55 % Merlot, 40 % Cabernet Franc, and 5 % Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine spends 18 months in 50 % new oak before bottling. It remains an excellent bargain. The spectacular 2000 is a great achievement. The size of the vineyard is beneficial as it can be harvested within two days if necessary. In 200, the Merlot was harvested on September 13, and the Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon picked ten days later. A sleeper of vintage, this dense ruby / purple-colored offering exhibits a gorgeously sweet nose of smoke, damp earth, coffee, black currants, and cigar tobacco. Opulently textured (malolactic is done in barrel), with stunning purity, richness, and a long, concentrated finish, this may be a modern clone of the profound 1959, which first attracted me to this estate’s wines. Anticipated maturity : 2003 - 2025

(commentaire de Robert PARKER, The Wine Advocate)

TASTING NOTES

Very deep colour. Nose is firm, strong, marked by notes of smoke and mocha. Firm on the palate, well-ripened fruit, focussed and supported by fresh acidity, tannins firm and fine. Direct, linear and full of character. Aging: 20 years.

(Magazine DIVO “Bordeaux 2000” – June 2001)

Deep, almost black robe. Perfumed, both powerful and complex: all types of red fruits, candied fruit, cedar, balm meet empyreumatic, grilled notes: coffee, toast. Impressive volume on the palate, powerful (13.5° alcohol), packed with fruit, with unbelievably dense tannins. The noble texture of the tannins, dense and viscous, promises a long and pleasurable future. A magnificent wine for long aging – even if it’s already delicious, it would be a shame to drink now, because it will be stupendous in the future. Definitely the greatest wine made here since the sumptuous 1986 and 1959.

(vertical tasting Franck DUBOURDIEU – February 2, 2006)

BLEND

50% Merlot
40% Cabernet franc
10% Cabernet sauvignon

MATURITY

13% natural alcohol

HARVEST DATES

September 13, 2000 Merlot
September 22, 23, 2000 Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon
Very sunny weather in August and September.

YIELD

230 hectolitres
50 hl /hectare (normal for a density of 10 000 vines/hectare)