

2016 Vintage

# CHÂTEAU LES CARMES HAUT-BRION



**Blend:**

41% Cabernet Franc

39% Merlot

20% Cabernet Sauvignon



**Colour:** Red

**Appellation:** Pessac-Léognan

**Owner:** Patrice Pichet

**Estate Manager:** Guillaume Pouthier

**Consultants:** Derenoncourt Consultants

## VINEYARDS

**Total surface area of the vineyard in 2016:** 25.5 ha.

**Plots used to make the Grand Vin:** 6.4 ha.

**Plantation density:** 10,000 vines / ha.

**Average age of the vines in 2016:** 41 years

**Soil types:** Mindel gravel over a clay-limestone substrate

**Harvesting:** 100% hand-picked

**Harvest dates:** 21 Sept - 8 Oct 2016

## VINIFICATION TECHNIQUES

**Vats used:** Temperature-controlled vats:

60 hl conical stainless steel

50 hl concrete

76 hl wood

**Initial fermentation:** 25 - 30 days on average

**Malolactic fermentation in the barrels:** Partial

**Barrel maturing:** 24 months:

65% in new barrels,

35% in used barrels, tuns, concrete

vats and terra cotta amphorae

**Noteworthy features of the vinification and / or maturing processes:** All vats vinified without crushing, and partly by whole bunch fermentation. Cap punching only.

**Composition of the wine:** 13.5% alc. / 3.58 pH

## CRITIC SCORES

Wine Advocate	Antonio Galloni	Wine Spectator	James Suckling	Decanter	Jeff Leve	Jancis Robinson	Yves Beck	Jacques Perrin	André Kunz
95+	98	96	97	96	98 - 100	17	100	98 - 100	96 - 97

Alexandre Ma	Matthew Jukes	Izak Litwar	Chris Kissack	Jeb Dunnock	Bettane + Desseauve	RVF	Jean Marc Quarin	Anthocyanes	Terre de Vins
97	96 - 97	96+	96	99	96 - 97	18.5 - 19.5	100	98	98

## REMARKS

2016 was a year of contrasts, starting with a mild and rainy winter followed by a spring which remained gloomy right up until late June. The growing cycle was delayed accordingly, but flowering occurred during a precious spell of dry weather which ensured that the fruit was plentiful and of consistent quality. Summer was exceptionally dry, with no rain on over 100 days throughout 2016, halting the growth of the vines in time for the grapes to mature perfectly. A welcome dose of rain in early September tempered this maturing process at just the right time, without sacrificing the concentration accrued over the hot, dry summer. Finally, a dry and mild start to the autumn gave us an exceptionally generous amount of room for manoeuvre when it came to selecting the right harvest dates. These conditions have combined to produce wines of rich colour and dazzling aromatic power, whose balance of tannins, acidity and smooth texture will make for both short-term pleasure and long-term joy.