

# CHÂTEAU BRANE CANTENAC

## MARGAUX



The estate was acquired in 1833 by Baron de Brane, known as “Napoleon of the Vines,” who renamed it Brane-Cantenac. In 1925, Léonce Récapet, owner of Château Margaux, purchased the property. His grandson, Lucien Lurton, took over the reins in 1956. In 1992, Lucien’s son Henri, oenologist and ampelographer, followed in his father’s footsteps after having gained experience in South Africa and Chile.

From the moment he arrived, Henri Lurton has done his utmost to make this great Margaux reflect the brilliance and complexity of its outstanding terroir year in and year out, always seeking a balance between vintage character and the wine’s intrinsic elegance. Brane-Cantenac now has a state-of-the-art cellar with sophisticated equipment such as a new optical sorting system, and its owner is totally dedicated to producing the best possible wines

Today, this second growth Margaux property, covers 75 hectares of vineyards are split into small plots, and the vines have an average age of 35 years. The deep, poor-quality gravel soils here provide ideal growing conditions for cabernet sauvignon, both radiating heat back to the vines during cold nights and encouraging the vine roots to dig deeper for sustenance

### 2016 VINTAGE

*“ The 2016 Brane-Cantenac is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Carmenere picked from 22 September until 17 October (the tiny parcel of Carmenere picked three days later). The yields came in at 51 hectoliters per hectare and it is matured in 75% new oak and 25% one-year-old barrels, the final alcohol level 13.3%.*

*It has a beautifully defined, very detailed bouquet with mineral-rich black fruit laced with cedar and graphite notes, living up to its nom de plume as the 'Pauillac of Margaux.' The palate is simply the best that I have ever tasted at the estate, without question. This has presence, but also weightlessness, filigree tannin and perfectly pitched acidity, with real intensity and drive. The tension here is outstanding and the persistence is incredibly long. It is not the showiest of all the 2016s by a long stretch, and yet it is everything you could possibly want from a Margaux.*

*Like Beychevelle this year, the 2016 Brane-Cantenac puts recent vintages in the shade, thanks not only to the growing season, but also a new punching down system in their gravity-fed winery that was completed in 2015. The 2016 is a benchmark against which future vintages will be compared.*

**94 pts Robert Parker's Wine Advocate November, 2018**



*“The more you know about wine, the more you’ll want to know about us.”*

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