



CHATEAU HAUT-BRION

PREMIER GRAND CRU CLASSÉ EN 1855



1996 Vintage



The Climate

The climate of 1996 was mostly characterized by its great irregularity. Except for a few days in July, there were no long hot periods. It began to rain rather late in August. The first half of September was temperate but it rained all the time during the second half. Altogether the summer was average with a few nice intervals.

Some Technical Information

Harvest Dates From September 16th to October 4th

Blend Merlot Noir: 50% ; Cabernet Sauvignon: 39%

Cabernet Franc: 11%

New barrels 65%

Alcohol 13%

Bottling date From June 26th to July 7th 1998

Tasting notes

This vintage is a wine full of contradictions and difficult to make out. The grapes were acid, but produced a subtle wine. The sugar level was unusually high but the phenolic ripeness altered depending on the different varieties. The Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon seemed riper than the Merlots. The quality was very close to the last year's crop, but the structure of the wine was different. Missing the tannins of the '95, now the '96 tannins finished with a light bitter taste in the mouth. The wine was ample with a good structure and a pleasant harmony. It is a very good wine and will make an excellent Haut-Brion.