

BRANE CANTENAC 2021 REVIEWS

93 RobertParker.com, William Kelley, February 2024

The 2021 Brane-Cantenac offers up aromas of sweet dark berries mingled with mint, vanilla pod and spices. It shows its élevage and malolactic fermentation in new oak more prominently than it did en primeur. Medium to full-bodied, with good depth and concentration, it's bright and velvety, with plenty of structuring barrel tannin and a vanillin-inflected finish. The quality of Brane's terroirs and a strict selection shows through, so if it can digest its oak more completely, this will prove exceptional. Drink 2025-2041.

95/100 Vertdevin

The nose is aromatic, elegant and offers a nice precision/definition, a fine intensity in its elegance, a nice airiness in its delicacy in its power, harmony. There are notes of fresh/pulpy blackberry, bright blackcurrant and more lightly raspberry combined with fine ripe cherry, delicate/discrete violet, an imperceptible roasted hint of the fruit (in the background), fine nutmeg, a subtle hint of fresh pepper/sichuan and a delicate vanilla. The palate is nicely fresh, mineral, balanced and reveals a juicy/acidic structure, a nice sapidity, energy, a discreet crispness, a fine infusion side, a very nice fineness of grain and a nice harmony. On the palate this wine expresses juicy/pulpy raspberry, fresh cherry and slightly fresh lily notes combined with delicate touches of racy minerality, a subtle hint of graphite, chocolate (background and coating), salinity, a subtle hint of fresh/crunchy red berries, an imperceptible hint of fresh blue plum (background). The tannins are sapid, elegant and racy. Good length

92/94 Vinous.com, Neal Martin, May 2022

The 2021 Brane-Cantenac was picked from September 23 until October 7 at a respectable 41.2hL/ha and aged 100% new oak. It has a fragrant nose of dark red fruit, undergrowth, pencil box and light minty scents, understated at first but opening up nicely in the glass (it always requires patience). The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins and fresh as a daisy, displaying impressive tension. This focused, precise Brane-Cantenac conveys a great deal of harmony. The tensile, graphite finish lingers long in the mouth. While not quite reaching the lofty heights of "peak Brane," this is a very commendable and quite cerebral wine for the vintage.

94/95 James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com, May 2022

A medium-bodied, very polished Brane-Cantenac with firm yet fine and textured tannins. Deep and compact core of black fruit, herbs and spices. Pretty licorice and clove notes. Structured and long. 74% cabernet sauvignon, 22% merlot, 2% cabernet franc, 1% petit verdot and 1% carmenere.

94 Jane Anson, JaneAnson.com, April 2022

Dark plum colour, attractive rich texture, with high aromatics and clear power on the nose. Not exuberant, more red and blue, cool fruits, with purity and power, this has concentration and is one of the best in Margaux in this vintage. Has personality and balance, with curls of black chocolate and liquorice, balancing out the ever-present fresh acidities of the vintage. 100% new oak, 3.63ph. 12.7ph. Harvest September 23 to October 7. 41.2hl/h yield, high for the year, but without dilution which was a potential pitfall of high yields. A potential upscore in bottle.