

Château Croix de Labrie 2021

CSPC# 102709

750mlx12

13.98% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
Appellation	Saint-Emilion
Classification	Grand Cru Classé
Website	https://en.chateau-croix-de-labrie.fr/copie-de-presse-croix-labrie-2021
Sustainability	In 100% organic farming, and biodynamics, the soils are worked and grassed, plowing, pruning in double guyot. The objective is to achieve a balanced load per vine of a maximum of 6 bunches with a density of 6,500 vines / ha. Leaf stripping, green harvesting are carried out before the harvest to gain maturity. Only fully ripe grapes are harvested, resulting in extremely low yields. Here again the precision, the detail.
General Info	Château Croix de Labrie is a 5,1672 ha estate located in the heart of the AOC Saint-Emilion Classified Grand Cru, an appellation that inevitably brings to mind Burgundy with its mosaic of plots and producers.
Winemakers	Axelle Courdurié
Vintage	If 2021 was drier than previous years, two intense climatic episodes impacted the vintage. The first one is the April frost which mobilized our teams for 9 nights. The second is linked to the strong episodes of rain in June, with nearly 180 mm of precipitation. The trio August / September / October was accompanied by low rainfall, allowing to harvest in optimal conditions and preserving the qualitative potential of the vintage
Vineyards	The vineyard is worked by Axelle Courdurié from pruning to harvest, from vinification to bottling. Talented winegrower, Axelle, very attentive to detail, brings to the wines of Croix de Labrie her feminine sensibility. The plots are located on the so-called places: Badon (next to Pavie), Le Cateau in Saint Sulpice (next to the first plot of Valandraud), and in Saint Christophe Des Bardes next to our cellar (dating from 1687). The Badon terroir is composed of limestone sand and clay with a clay-limestone subsoil and iron grim. This draining, very fine terroir brings finesse. The plot of Le Cateau is composed of gravels with clays which bring more depth and density. Finally, the plots of Saint Christophe Des Bardes, on the plateau, places called Peymouton, Rocheyron, Echeres, characterized by a clay-limestone soil with asteries, bringing complexity and density. The property's main grape variety is Merlot but there are also Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Francs.
Harvest	The harvest is done manually, in small crates, so that not to damage the grapes. Several passages per row are made in order to collect only the perfect grapes. The harvest took place September 30-October 16. Yield: 27 hl / ha.
Vinification/ Maturation	After 4 sorting: destemmer, then passing through a vibrating table, then passing through a densiometric sorting, the grapes are again sorted manually and brought by gravity into small temperature-controlled vats. The vinification is carried out in small containers adapted to the size of our plots in order to work with small quantities of juice and to be strict on the selection. Once the alcoholic fermentation is finished, the malolactic fermentations are carried out in vats and barrels of French oak and medium-long toast. Ageing then continues for a minimum of 18 months in barrel.
Tasting Notes	From a vintage blasted by frost and mildew, this old-vine, organic 90/5/5 blend of Merlot/Cabernet Franc/Cabernet Sauvignon retains the estate's characteristic suppleness and grace. Rich aromas include raspberries, maple syrup and—after five minutes in the glass—tar and treacle. Some brownies on the attack, mint and mocha mid-palate and a beautifully enduring finish that includes some anise and mandarins. Fresh and bright acidity. Elegant and complex with a unique Cabernet Franc lilt that provides the mysterious Angel in the Bottle of Croix de Labrie. Toujours élégant!



Serve with	Chateau Croix de Labrie is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Croix de Labrie is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	About 14,000 bottles made
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2039
Scores/Awards	<p>90-92 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>98-99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - April 2022</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jean Marc Quarin - April 2022</p> <p>94-95 points - Yves Beck - April 2022</p> <p>93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Terres de Vins - April 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>96 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - July 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Colin Hay, The Drinks Business - September 2022</p> <p>89-91 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>91-92 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Including 5% each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc this year, the 2021 Croix de LaBrie offers up aromas of dark berries, plums, red fruit compote, licorice, and creamy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, rich, and velvety, it's a lively, rather muscular wine with a fleshy core of fruit, tangy acids and powdery tannins. It attained almost 14% alcohol and will see maturation in 80% new oak.</i></p> <p><i>Axelle and Pierre Courdurié farm their 5.2 hectares of vines organically, introducing agroforestry initiatives and replanting with their own massale selections. Much of the holdings are in Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes, both around the winery and at lieu-dit Rocheyron, on clay-limestone soils, but there's also a parcel on blue clays and gravel in lieu-dit Le Carteau, as well as 0.97 hectares in the colluvial soils just below Château Pavie. Vinification is in small lots, and élevage is sur lie and lasts 20-24 months in 80% new oak, depending on the vintage. These days, malolactic takes place in tank. The work here is very serious, though to my palate, the cooperage choices are a little obtrusive, lending a creamy, chocolaty patina to the wines, which Pierre Courdurié insists integrates with time."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The focus and texture of this wine is really something. It's totally transparent with blackberries, blueberries, earth, stone, and mushrooms. Flowers too. Full-bodied with firm tannins that give super form and length to this. Freshness. Almost all merlot with tiny dash of cabernet franc and cabernet sauvignon. Perhaps the best ever? Certainly, at the same level as the 2019. About 14,000 bottles made."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Deep, dark color. Just perfect color. Intense and very expressive nose. Very ripe and delicious but with energy. Awesome stuff! Really very accomplished. Obviously very carefully made - essence of the appellation with dried fruit character but not too much and lots of roundness. Masses of tannins almost completely hidden by the dramatic but precise fruit. Very great success. Drink 2025 – 2042."</i></p> <p>- JR, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"Top 15 Best Saint-Emilion Beautifully rich and nuanced, ruby red in colour, silky texture with grilled almond and gunsmoke edge. This is excellent, softly gourmet, clear austerity but with crushed rock minerality. Juicy, powerful, sweet red fruits and lilted freshness."</i></p> <p>- JA, janeanson.com</p> <p><i>"Espresso, chocolate, smoke, and wild cherries create the nose. On the palate, the wine is round, supple and polished with a nice core of sweet fruit on the mid-palate and in the finish. Drink from 2024-2033."</i></p> <p>- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p>

Reviews

“Deeply colored, you find, espresso, licorice, dark chocolate, smoke, roses, black plums, black raspberries, and wet earth on the nose. On the palate, the wine is round, lush, rich, flamboyant, and loaded with chocolate-coated black cherries and licorice. Long, fruity, and fresh, give it a year or so in the bottle and enjoy it for 15 or more years with ease. The wine is a blend of 90% Merlot with 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% ABV, 3.6 pH. The harvest took place September 30-October 16. Drink from 2024-2039.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2021 Croix de Labrie was picked at 25hL/ha between September 30 and October 16, and matured in 80% new oak. It has quite a perfumed, floral bouquet of violet-tinged red fruit, with a touch of blueberry coming through. The harmonious palate is medium-bodied and silky-smooth, delivering pliant tannins and a persistent finish. This is a very pleasant surprise. A great showing.”

- NM, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

“Mostly Merlot blended with 90% Cabernet Sauvignon 5% Cabernet Franc, the 2021 Château Croix de Labrie saw 80% new barrels, with the balance in once-used oak. Deep purple-hued, it offers beautiful notes of cassis, liquid violets, chalky minerality, and some beautifully integrated oak. Rich, medium to full-bodied, and nicely focused, yet with plenty of mid-palate depth and ripe tannins, this pure, elegant, concentrated 2021 will keep for 20+ years.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Intense color, purple and black. Very aromatic, fine nose with ripe fruit. Truffle touch. Soft on the palate, rich in the middle and at the same time melting, the wine develops rich and full, with taste and a superb touch of mouth in the persistence. Very nice, dry length. Here is the eighth vintage produced, all at the level of a 1er Grand Cru Classé B from Saint-Emilion. Well done! Blend: 92% merlot, 5% cabernet franc, 3% cabernet sauvignon. Degree of alcohol: 14 °. pH: 3.55. Yield: 27 hl / ha. Production: 85% of the harvest.”

- JMQ

“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflection, delicate edge brightening. Delicate precious wood spice, dark wild berries, nuances of blackberries and fresh black cherries, inviting bouquet. Juicy, elegant, sweetheart cherries, lively structure, ripe tannins, red fruit nuances, a hint of cloves on the finish, an elegant, finesse food wine with aging potential.”

- PM, [Falstaff Magazine](http://Falstaff Magazine.com)

“(90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc) The nose is racy and reveals nice finesse of grain, intensity, a fine powdery edge as well as a fine intensity. There are notes of wild blackcurrant, graphite and slightly camphor combined with hints of violet, lily, wild raspberry, fleshy wild berries as well as hints of black pepper, fresh tobacco, and a subtle, almost sappy edge. The palate is fruity, balanced, racy, nicely conducted, precise and shows juiciness, a nice acidic spine, gourmandize, freshness, minerality, a certain intensity, straightness, a delicate “infusion” character as well as a nice energy/dynamism. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy raspberry, ripe/pulpy cherry and more slightly fresh/juicy blackcurrant combined with hints of violet, camphor, black pepper, almost varietal points as well as a subtle hint of saffron (in its floral side) and toast. A nice work on the positive bitter taste and the “salinity / sapidity”. The tannins are elegant, racy, and precise. A subtle hint of orange peel in the background.”

- Vert de Vin

“Fine and nuanced, elegant oak, pure and refined fruit like cassis and blackberry, good nuance with darker fruit and plenty of freshness, the nose is meaty and sexy! Good volume, grainy tannin and excellent purity, high acid and low PH gives great clarity and a very good length.”

- AL, Tasted.com

Reviews *“What intensity in this bouquet! It is marked by freshness thanks to chalky nuances, mint, and black berry notes. Character dancing and fresh in the mouth. The body has fat thanks to fine-grained tannins, and tension, which owes to its acidity and its calcareous soil. Good aromatic expression from the attack to the finish. A racy, energetic wine with a crunchy structure endowed with an acidity worthy of a Jedi lightsaber. Persistent fruity and mineral finish.”*
- Yves Beck

“A very beautiful enveloping and seductive nose, with a certain aromatic intensity, highlighted by a beautiful freshness of eucalyptus. Everything is sensual and enveloping in this wine, which confirms its potential and its ambitions. The material is both fine and thick, set with well-chiseled tannins, with a chalky and graceful feel. The mouthfeel is remarkably silky, complete, and complex, articulated on a very beautiful structure. Precise, fine, and slender while being ample, this Croix de Labrie is a great success of the 2021 vintage.”
- Terre de Vin

“Croix de Labrie (St Emilion; 90% Cabernet Franc; 5% Cabernet Sauvignon; 5% Cabernet Franc – for the first time; 13.98% alcohol; pH 3.60; tasted at the Chateau with Pierre and Axelle Courdurié). A visually exciting combination of colour and viscosity – dark purple/black at the core with a pink rim. This has a fabulously intense cassis and (as ever) black cherry fruit, with fresh plump blueberries too. Aromatically expressive and full of vertical energy and lift, with the presence of chalk somehow already present on the nose. Great minerality too – crushed rock, rock salt and a trace of iron ore. A big canvas wine, glorious texturally and with an opulent structure carved out of the softest and most fine-grained of chalky tannins. Yet what is most striking here is the great purity and the vivid natural brilliance and energy of the fruit itself. This is explosive in the mid-palate, where so many other wines of the vintage are flat and monotone. Here we have a veritable firework display – exploding plumes of pure and pixilated sapid fresh fruit. A great achievement and a great advert for its biodynamic viticulture. A wine to celebrate and one of the most vivid expressions of the vintage. 95-97.
- CH, TheDrinksBusiness.com
