

Château Laroque 2019

CSPC# 847783

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

97% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc
St. Emilion
Grand Cru Classé

<https://www.chateau-laroque.com/en/wines/>

Chateau Laroque has a very long track record and history in the Saint Emilion appellation. Chateau Laroque dates back to the 12th century. In fact, a small remnant remains of the original tower built in the 12th century. The estate as we know it today, with its magnificent, chateau, was constructed in the 17th century by Marquis de Rochefort-Lavie.

The property remained in the hands of the same family until the depression struck in 1929. Like many families and companies at the time, the owners did not have the funds to maintain the estate and the vineyards. Wine ceased to be produced at Chateau Laroque for several years.

The modern era for Chateau Laroque starts in 1935, when the property was purchased by the Beaumartin family from the descendants of the Marquis de Rochefort-Lavie.

In 1962, the vineyards of Chateau Laroque were completely replanted and the wine making facilities were updated as well. The situation remained about the same for close to 50 years.

By that time, the chateau was in need of repairs, the cellars demanded updating and the vineyards required extensive replanting. Positive changes began taking place starting with the 2015 vintage as you will see. Today, Chateau Laroque is probably better known for the architecturally stunning, chateau and its perfectly manicured gardens.

The vines of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon are 40 years old on average and farmed using 100% *organic* techniques. They choose not to be certified organic, simply because they want the freedom to make a wider variety of choices. Château Laroque is also *HVE Certified*, which is a rigorous process granted to vineyards who focus on increasing biodiversity, decreasing the negative environmental impact of their vineyards, and improving water management. The wines at Château Laroque are known for their delicate, mineral-driven nuance. The 2018 vintage was their first entering the *en primeur* or *futures* marketplace, as they were previously distributed exclusively through one firm. At Laguna Cellar, we were one of the first to discover this and leapt at the opportunity to acquire this wine for our customers who were loyal fans of this producer. Given the excellence of their *grand vin*, it's fairly easy to see why

Winemakers
Vintage

David Suire and Nicolas Thienpont
Winter: very mild. Spring: cool. Summer: exceptionally hot and dry. Autumn: very fine start to the season, some rainfall end September.

Vineyards

The 61-hectare vineyard of Chateau Laroque is planted to 87% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon. The terroir is clay with limestone soil. The vineyard is situated northeast of the Saint Emilion village in the commune of St. Christophe des Bardes. Chateau Laroque owns the largest vineyard in St. Emilion. However, only 40 hectares of vines are classified as Grand Cru Classe. The remaining 21 hectares vines are considered to be St. Emilion Grand Cru. Back to those 40 hectares, only 27 hectares of vines are used to produce their top wine, Chateau Laroque. As you can see, selection is important here, especially since it's such a large vineyard.

Their best 27 hectares are located in the deep, clay rich soils close to Chateau Troplong Mondot. They have another outstanding parcel of vines on clay, close to their neighbor, Chateau Rocheyron. The vines are on average 40 years of age. However, they have old vines. 14 hectares of vines are almost 55 years old. The vineyard of Chateau Laroque is planted to a vine density of 6,000 vines per hectare.

Harvest

Harvested from the 30th of September to the 10th of October.



Vinification/ Maturation	<p>At Chateau Laroque, the vineyard is managed using 100% organic techniques. But they choose not to be certified organic, allowing them to make a wider variety of choices. They are also biodiverse, meaning they are HVE certified.</p> <p>To produce the wine of Chateau Laroque, the wine is fermented in traditional, temperature controlled, cobalt blue, cement vats that vary in size to help with parcel-by-parcel vinification. The wine is aged in 50%-55% new, French oak barrels for 12 months before bottling. About 11,000 cases of Chateau Laroque are produced in an average vintage.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>This was one of the big success stories of 2018, and the 2019 is a more than worthy successor. A gorgeous bouquet of flowers, blue fruits, licorice, and pure cassis greets the nose. An enticing and bright attack of red fruit coats the palate - it's really seductive package, full of bittersweet red cherry. Bright and clear with admirable freshness and lift, the 2019 finishes with beautifully lacy tannins, flecked with notes of cocoa nibs and griotte. Very impressive.</p>
Serve with	<p>Chateau Laroque is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Laroque is also good when matched with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.</p>
Production	11,800 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2023 - 2035
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>94 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>93 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p>89-90 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Still a touch reticent but it's all there, from the dark plum and warmed cassis notes to the underpinning of warm loam and sweet tobacco accents. Features fine-grained tannins, with good cut through the finish. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2023 through 2035. 11,800 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A terrific effort from an estate that was long one of Saint-Émilion's sleeping giants, the 2019 Laroque unwinds in the glass with aromas of cherries, licorice, loamy soil, rose petals and sweet tobacco. Medium to full-bodied, ample, and layered, it's deep and concentrated, with succulent aids, powdery tannins and a seamless, integrated profile. It's well worth seeking out.</i></p> <p><i>David Suire, Nicolas Thienpont's long-time right-hand man at the likes of Pavie Macquin and Larcis-Ducasse, is resurrecting one of Saint-Émilion's sleeping giants in the form of Château Laroque. Some 60 hectares are under vine today, in the commune of Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes, with more to come; but in the early 20th century, the estate was allowed to lie almost entirely fallow (the advantage being that they're largely virus-free). Laroque itself represents less than 50% of the production, permitting exigent selection, and winemaking is thoughtful, with fruit from clay soils matured in classic 225-liter barriques, while blocks from soils richer in limestone are matured in larger barrels, foudres and oak tanks. Much of those clay soils end up in the second wine, Les Tours de Laroque, which is fleshier and more immediate than Laroque itself. With the 2019 vintage, things are really beginning to get interesting at this address, so it's a name to watch."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *“Composed of 97% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, the 2019 Laroque was harvested from the 30th of September to the 10th of October. Yields were 43 hectoliters per hectare this year. Alcohol came in at 14.5%, with a relatively low pH of 3.44. Deep garnet-purple in color, it bursts from the glass with bold scents of blueberry preserves, Black Forest cake, dark chocolate, and lilacs with underlying hints of aniseed, espresso, and pencil lead plus a waft of smoked meats. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is completely filled with dark, seductive berry layers and a whole myriad of savory nuances, framed by wonderfully soft, velvety tannins and fantastic freshness, finishing very long and perfumed. Beautiful!”*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

“Blackcurrant, cherry, and violet aromas follow through to a medium to full body with very well-integrated tannins that give a soft and creamy impression. Long and satisfying already but needs another three or four years to come together. Try after 2023.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is very minerally and stony with crushed cement. Medium to full body and firm, polished tannins. It's floral and complex. So fresh and bright. Wonderful balance to this. Elegance and drinkability. Better than the 2018. One of best ever.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Ripe cherries and strawberries on the nose. This is juicy and bright with summer berry flavours, soft but present tannins and juicy acidity. Lightly structured, a softly sweet style, for earlier drinking with a lovely vein of stony minerality that cleans the tongue and leaves a cool feel to the mouth. Elegant, well framed. Drinking Window 2024 – 2034.”

- GH, Decanter.com

“Plump blackberry fruits, velvety texture, and evident tannins. An excellent wine that has sapidity and punch, a great combination that makes this extremely successful. 4% Petit Verdot completes the blend.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“So well put together, you feel the deft strokes of the winemaking layered on top of the terroir, and it's an impressive whole that combines power and restraint. Cassis and blueberry fruits, liquorice and espresso, mouth-watering finish but everything unfolding oh so slowly. No rush here. Yields of 43hl/ha. 3.44pH. Owned by the family Beaumartin, with winemaking from David Suire. An up score from En Primeur.”

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

“Dark chocolate, spice-box, smoke, licorice, espresso, and plums carry the nose. The wine is full-bodied, deep, rich, lush, and plush on the palate with layers of ripe, supple, silky dark red fruits with intensity, purity, and salty tannins. The wine is hitting all the right notes. And even better, as good as it is now, with some age, this is going to be even better. This is in competition for the highest scoring, well-priced wine in all of Bordeaux. This is a reminder, grab this wine by the case. Eventually, prices will rise. Remember, you heard it here first. Drink from 2023-2045.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The deep, dark color has a purple to the sheen that looks great in the glass. Quite floral in nature, the nose is assisted by smoke, spice box, espresso, plum, dark chocolate, and blueberry. Rich, sensuous, lush, and silky there is a freshness that keeps everything moving briskly. The finish is all about the ripe, sweet, deep fruits, and salty minerality. This is even better than the 2018, which says a lot. The wine blends 97% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14.5 alcohol with a pH of 3.44. One of the new players in the Saint Emilion sweepstakes, grab this wine by the case due to its balance between high quality and low price. Eventually, prices will rise. Remember, you heard it here first!”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“The 2019 Laroque has a very ripe and generous bouquet with scents of small black cherries intermingling with camphor and light spicy aromas. This is a nose that wants to make an impression. The palate is medium-bodied with a sweet ripe entry, layers of red fruit (cranberry, redcurrant, and raspberry) mixed with soy and white pepper. It remains well defined right to the finish with a pastille-like aftertaste. This is a very fine 2019 from a rejuvenated estate under the guidance of David Suire.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2019 Laroque captures all of the potential it showed as a young barrel sample. Succulent and racy to the core, with striking depth, Laroque is voluptuous, creamy, and wonderfully inviting right out of the gate. Succulent dark cherry fruit, mocha, spice, new leather, licorice, and menthol build into the voluptuous finish. Laroque balances fruit intensity with energy. It is certainly impressive in 2019. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2019 Laroque is pliant, silky and super-expressive, even in the early going. The purity of the fruit is striking. Medium in body, Laroque captures all of the radiance of the personality while retaining a very classic mid-weight sense of structure. Raspberry jam, spice, and red plum meld into the juicy finish. The 2019 is very nicely done”

- AG, Vinous

“I continue to just love this château, which is located in one of the cooler terroirs in the appellation, sitting on pure limestone soils. Director David Suire continues to fine-tune every aspect of the estate and is the driving force behind the incredible quality we're seeing today. The 2019 Château Laroque is as classy as they come, with an incredible level of refinement and elegance. Ripe black cherries, blueberries, violets, white truffle, and cedar pencil all define the aromatics, and it's medium to full-bodied, with incredible tannins, perfect balance, and a great finish. It doesn't quite have the density of, say, Canon or Clos Fourtet, yet it doesn't lose a beat with regard to purity, finesse, and elegance. It's a gorgeous Saint-Emilion that readers will love to have in the cellar. It offers pleasure today yet won't hit the early stages of maturity for another 5-7 years and will have 20-25 years of overall longevity, probably more.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“From a cooler terroir on the eastern side of Saint-Emilion, the Chateau Laroque has been on an upward trajectory over the past handful of years, and the 2019 is another gem readers should snatch up. Vivid notes of crème de cassis, white flowers, truffle, and distinct minerality all give way to a medium to full-bodied, flawlessly balanced 2019 that has ripe tannins, again, great minerality, integrated acidity, and a great finish. This is classic Saint-Emilion, and it reminds me of a slightly more elegant, fresher version of the 2018. It's a beautiful wine. Tasted twice.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate ochre rim lightening. Fine nuances of precious wood, floral background, delicate hints of blueberries and liquorice, orange blossoms, multi-faceted, inviting bouquet. Juicy, dense, ripe heart cherries, fine fruit sweetness, ripe, supporting tannins, very good length and freshness, a hint of honey on the finish, mineral, and persistent, sure potential for aging.”

- Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is slightly tight and offers intensity as well as a small power. It reveals notes of wild cassis, wild blackberry, small notes of small blue fruits associated with touches of pepper, a hint of cornflower as well as discreet hints of incense and vanilla (in the background). The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers a juicy/acidulous frame, a juicy/fleshy/gourmand fruit as well as a small sapidity, a fine iodine hint (in the background), suavity and small tension. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy cassis, fleshy/juicy blackberry, small notes of small red fruits associated with hints of small juicy blue fruits, cornflower, lily as well as hints of incense, grey pepper, and a very discreet hint of spices. Good length. Very fine hints of grilled and cocoa on the persistence. Tannins are slightly dry.

- Vert de Vin
