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## Château Lilian Ladouys 2017

CSPC# 771460

750mlx12

13.2% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety  
Appellation**

50% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Petit Verdot  
Saint-Estèphe  
Cru Bourgeois

**Website  
General Info**

<http://www.chateau-lilian-ladouys.com/>

The Château Lilian Ladouys is located in Saint-Estèphe, Pauillac, next to Cos d'Estournel and Lafite Rothschild where he fits in well with the Directoire style, its two towers and park. The first edition of the 1850 Ferret Ladouys cites some of the best wines of Saint-Estèphe, then the area collapsed until 1989. The Castle was then taken over by Ladouys Christian Thiéblot it completely renovated the castle by putting his entire fortune. Financial difficulties related to the size of the property led Christian Thiéblot to sell the castle Lilian Ladouys. He was a passionate acquired advanced equipment, a romantic who restored the castle and park, he added the name of the castle, the first name of his wife Lilian. The castle is currently owned by the bank Natexis. I pay tribute to Lilian and Christian Thiéblot who have invested so much without the fruit and success to Jean-Pierre Petroff and his daughter who manage and administer the area.

Thanks to them, this Cru Bourgeois has placed among the stars of Saint Estèphe. Since Jacky and Françoise Lorenzetti purchased Château Lilian Ladouys 10 years ago, the quality of their wine has tremendously improved. It was even awarded the 2015 Crus Bourgeois' Cup. Parcel reorganization, building of a semi-gravitational vat, precise breeding, tilling of soil, sowing of green manures and grassing are truly paying off and keep revealing each year a bit more of the soil's potential.

**Winemaker  
Vintage**

Frédéric Godart. Eric Boissenot consults.

2017, was Jacky and Françoise Lorenzetti's 10th harvest. In 2017 everything came together to allow particularly early harvests: a dry winter, a warm spring that provided a quick and homogeneous blooming. Then June was hot, ending with heavy rainfalls. April was marked by an episode of late frost in the region, but fortunately Château Lilian Ladouys' vineyard was spared thanks to its proximity to Gironde estuary. As the heat gradually set in, the vine adapted to the lack of water, and the vineyard did not undergo too much water stress. Our chalky-clay subsoil perfectly regulated water needs. However, as we were witnessing one of the driest vintages since 2000, it rained a lot in June. July and August were rather dry, and the contrasting night/day temperatures helped to preserve the grapes' acidity, aromas and freshness

**Vineyards**

The estate covers vineyards 47 hectares spread in a slightly disparate fashion across the St Estèphe appellation, with more than ninety plots of vines in existence, although largely within sight of some prestigious neighbours such as Cos d'Estournel. About two-thirds of the vineyard is situated on well drained soils rich in coarse gravel, with pebbles up to 8 cm across dominating. The remaining vineyards are, as we might expect for St Estèphe, clay over a limestone bedrock. The varieties planted are 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, representing a very slight increase in Cabernet Sauvignon in recent times, and the vines have an average age of about 40 years.

**Harvest**

Harvests spread from September 19th to 29th. 2017 was a vintage without significant disease, the different grapes matured successively and were harvested at their best. Winemaking went smoothly and revealed very rich flavors as well as excellent quality tannins.

**Vinification/  
Maturation**

At harvest time, the fruit is sorted in the vineyard and on arrival at the *chai*, before fermentation by indigenous yeasts in temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats, regulated to 31-33°C. The young wine then goes into oak barrels, of which one-third



<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	are new with each vintage, where malolactic occurs. The wine will remain here 15 months before an egg-white fining, filtration and bottling. 40% new oak barrels.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	In the 2017 vintage, Cabernets-Sauvignons are silky and delicate, and the Petit Verdot grapes add complexity. A gourmet scent of red fruits, reminiscent of pomegranate, is balanced by orange peel aromas with delicate floral notes. The wine is juicy, racy and offers a nice length to the palate. Flavors of blackcurrants and violets reveal an open and very aromatic wine. A spicy finish, reminiscent of cloves, brings a fresh vivacity.
<b>Serve with</b>	Lilian Ladouys is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Lilian Ladouys is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted braised and grilled dishes
<b>Production</b>	20,833 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink now-2024.
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>88 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020</p> <p><b>88-91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2018</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p><b>88-90 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020</p> <p><b>90-91 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - September 2019</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - May 2018</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p><b>86-88 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Forward and open-knit, featuring a mix of damson plum and rhubarb flavors, mixed with light savory and chalk hints. Fresh acidity carries the finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2024."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Lively, with a mix of red and black cherry fruit lined with lightly chalky tannins and flickers of savory and lilac. Has a touch of toast and light twinge of austerity at the very end. 20,833 cases made"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2017 Lilian Ladouys has a fragrant herbal waft on the nose with a core of baked red and black currants, Morello cherries, tilled earth and cedar chest. The palate is medium-bodied, delicately played and pleasantly chewy with plenty of freshness and lovely purity on the finish. The wine was aged for 15 months in French oak, 40% new. Eighty percent of the production went into this grand vin."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2017 Lilian Ladouys is deep garnet-purple colored and very plummy on the nose with hints of red and black currants, dusty soil and Marmite toast. It's soft, medium-bodied and plush with plenty of juicy fruit and good length. The blend is currently 50% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Petit Verdot."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Complex aromas of white pepper, black pepper, crushed berries and nutmeg. Medium to full body, ultra-fine tannins and a creamy, refined finish. A core of fascinating fruit and spice here. Drink after 2021."</i> - JS, James Suckling.com</p> <p><i>"A red with very primary fruit aromas and flavors of currant and green olive undertones. Medium body, juicy and savory. Salty aftertaste."</i> - JS, James Suckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *“The opulence of this wine balances the serious layers of tannins to give a wine with rich potential. Its spice and firm tannins will allow it to age. Drink from 2023.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Cedary black fruit. Leafy and with a touch of violets. It’s that Petit Verdot again. Could do with a little more flesh on the mid palate to fill out the fine dry tannins. Finishes rather abruptly and dry. (JH)”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “Deep crimson. A little peppery, with an attractive dusty graphite quality to the dark fruit. Dry finesse to the texture but not a lot of flesh in the middle. (JH)”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “This has bright, juicy fruit in an unfussy and disarming style. It’s a very nice wine, and good value too, with plenty to enjoy - uncomplicated berry fruits with touches of cherry and cedar oak. Another St-Estèphe win in 2017. 40% new oak. Yield 50hl/ha. Barrel Sample”*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Licorice, black raspberries, tobacco, smoky cherries, spice and cedar characteristics come out in this medium/full bodied, dusty textured, forward wine which ends in a soft, red berry finish. Made from blending of 50% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.2% alcohol.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Very bright violet fruit and floral aromas, no obvious oak aromas yet. Juicy black fruit aromas. Well extracted black fruit and spices. Damson, black plum and some kirsch. Good tannin depth and fresh acidity. Full flavoured and balanced, Great depth and a real result within the commune. Very good. Barrel Sample: 91-93”*  
- TA, timatkin.com
- “The 2017 Lilian Ladouys was picked from 20 to 29 September and matured in 40% new oak. It has a perfumed, floral bouquet with blue and red fruit, a subtle chalkiness in the background. The palate is medium bodied with grainy tannin, pinched on the mid-palate with a tightly wound, slightly austere finish. Not bad but it will need three or four years in bottle. I would like more charm to develop and indeed, when I encountered this growth towards the end of my trip, I felt that it was beginning to show more personality. (NM)”*  
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2017 Lilian Ladouys is hearty and rustic, with good depth but not a ton of finesse. Wild cherry, earthiness, tobacco and smoke develop in the glass. The 2017 is certainly a good wine, especially for its very modest price, but it is not the overachiever it can be. Tasted two times.”*  
- AG, Vinous
- “Another terrific wine from this estate, the 2017 Chateau Lilian Ladouys comes from gravelly soils in Saint-Estèphe and is 50% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Petit Verdot aged in 40% new oak. It’s also worth pointing out that this cuvee sees malolactic fermentation in barrel as well as plenty of time on lees, which I think normally gives the wine plenty of early appeal. Beautiful notes of cassis, tobacco, leafy herbs, and damp earth all flow to a medium-bodied 2017 that shows the more elegant, straight style of the vintage. It has some firm tannins, so give bottles a handful of years”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck
- “This Saint-Estèphe estate continues to produce a ripe, sexy wine from their 45-hectare vineyard located on sandy, gravelly, clay soils. The 2017 is a blend of 50% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Petit Verdot, all aging in 40% new oak. It’s a plump, rounded, sexy beauty that boasts a deep purple color as well as loads of ripe cherry and currant fruits, underbrush, and floral nuances. It can be drunk on release or cellared for 10-12 years. Barrel Sample: 90-92”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck
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