

Château Gruaud Larose 2010

CSPC# 742343

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Saint Julien

General Info

The prestigious Bordeaux property of Gruaud-Larose, a 2nd growth in the 1865 classification, lies in the commune of Saint-Julien, a single vineyard of 80 hectares composed of gravels from the Gironde estuary. The poor soils provide excellent drainage, especially as the vineyards are on the highest plateau of Saint-Julien - though that is a mere 18 metres above sea level.

Gruaud was one of the first Bordeaux estates to abandon synthetic pesticides and herbicides in the vineyard during the late nineties, turning to mechanical and organic solutions to protect and nourish the vines. Though not biodynamic, they do employ natural homeopathic treatments such as organic compost made from seaweed to protect against mildew and rot.

Vineyards

The Gruaud-Larose estate amounts to 150 hectares of the St Julien appellation, of which 82 hectares are planted to vines; the bulk of the estate lies around Baron Sarget's *château*, separated from the Gironde by the small village of Beychevelle, and sandwiched between the vineyards of Branaire-Ducru and Lagrange. The terroir is typical for the region, deep Quaternary gravel, planted with 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Malbec. The vines average around 45 years of age and are planted at a density of 10000 vines/ha.

Maturation

The fruit is sorted then undergoes a cold soak prior to temperature controlled fermentation in a mixture of wooden and concrete vats, with pumping over of the fermenting must twice a day. Then up to a third of the vintage undergoes malolactic in oak barrels, before ageing the entire wine in *Alliers* and *Nevers* oak (50% new) for 18 months, and there is a light fining and filtration before bottling.

Tasting Notes

A truly stunning and huge wine, Gruaud has often been a little rustic but the 2010 is refined yet overflowing in all departments. The highest levels of tannins ever seen at Gruaud are quietened and second string to the dense yet beautifully focused, cool fruit. A powerful experience with waves of precisely defined blackberry fruit, super-fine tannins and freshness which will all help to see this become a long-lived wine and probably one of the best value wines of the vintage - a triumph.

Cellaring

Best from 2015-2030

Scores/Awards

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013

94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011

93+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013

92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011

92-94+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011

94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013

93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011

96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2013

94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011

92-95 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010

16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011

16.5 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2012

17-18 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2011

18 points/5 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011

94+ points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2011



Scores/Awards **92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 8, 2013

91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2011

94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2011 (no review)

Reviews *"This is distinctive, with an aromatic roasted alder wood streak leading the way, quickly followed by dense but sleek blackberry cobbler, currant paste and warm plum sauce notes. Well-polished through the finish, offering deeply embedded acidity. Best from 2015 through 2030."*

- JM, *Wine Spectator*

"Offers a serious core of kirsch, blackberry and plum sauce notes, with lovely, velvety tannins taking over the pure, violet-tinged finish, which has length and grace. Shows more elegance than most of its peers in this vintage. Score range: 93-96."

- JM, *Wine Spectator*

"Dark garnet/plum/purple, with loads of spice, earth, underbrush, red and black currants, licorice, and even a hint of Provencal garrigue, this full-bodied, tannic, masculine style of St.-Julien needs 5-6 years of cellaring, but is full, beefy, rich and impressively endowed. There are plenty of firm tannins in the background of this blockbuster wine, which has been built for the long haul. This is one 2010 where patience will be required. Anticipated maturity: 2020-2040."

- RP, *Wine Advocate*

"This gets my nod as the finest Gruaud Larose since the 2000 and 1990. The opaque purple-colored 2010 exhibits copious notes of Asian plum sauce, spice box, creme de cassis, loamy soil and a beefy/meaty character. It is full-bodied, dense and powerful, with stunning purity and no evidence of Brett (a characteristic of the great Gruaud Larose wines made in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s). Given the 2010's tannin profile, it will require 5-8 years of cellaring and should keep for three decades thereafter."

- RP, *Wine Advocate*

"A blend of 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot, delivering 14 percent alcohol, the Gruaud '10 has a very intense nose with blackberry, cassis and a touch of oyster shell. The palate is medium bodied with very svelte tannins on the entry, a sumptuous Gruaud Larose that belies that structured underneath seamless towards the finish. This is a Gruaud Larose that is full of character and should age beautifully over 20 years. This may merit a higher score after bottling, hence the plus sign. Tasted April 2011."

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- NM, *Wine Journal*

"Ripe raspberries and blueberries with hints of fresh flowers. Deep nose of dark fruits. Full body, with silky tannins and a beautifully integrated tannin structure. It's long and very refined. Better than 2009. Try in 2018."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"It like the finish on this wine with a blueberry, currant and citrus fruit character on the nose and palate. Full and chewy with ultra-fine tannins and a bright acidity"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"For anybody looking for classic Bordeaux, this is the bottle to seek. "Classic" here means a wine with a tannic structure that also relies on a black currant flavor, with acidity providing freshness but not losing any concentration or aging potential. Keep for many years."

- RV, *Wine Enthusiast*

Reviews *"94-96 A solid, chunky wine. It has powerful dry tannins, although they are never dominant, leaving the sweet fruit to shine. Blackberry flavors and the dark core are becoming well integrated."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Dark polished crimson. Sweet black-cherry aromas. Oddly tarted up for a St-Julien. Just lacks a bit of depth and savour but it is certainly flattering and has applied its make-up very carefully. Awkward amalgam of assorted elements."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"The nose here suggests spiced sandalwood and pencil shavings, with a slightly macerated style of berry fruit behind it. It seems a little evolved although the colour and character in the palate do not suggest it is overly advanced. The palate is dry and reserved, with gentle and supple flesh, and a very harmonious, elegant character. Underneath, though, there are certainly dry, ripe, grainy tannins, and fresh acids, although the fruit has that macerated style tinged with tobacco, matching the nose. An interesting wine, full of harmony and elegance. But it seems curiously ready at a very early stage. From my Bordeaux 2010 assessment at two years. 16.5/20 (November 2012)."

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"This is Cabernet Sauvignon 66%, Merlot 28% and Petit Verdot 6%, and the alcohol is 14%. A dark and glossy crimson hue, with a dark core. Quite an intense dark fruit nose too, a very direct style, with some rose petal perfume on the side, along with tinges of burnt tobacco and soot. A palate of well-framed fruit and texture here, well defined and linear as per the nose, with a show of supple, lightly grainy tannins in the middle. Good acidity here. Quite substantial, although with fresh and lively fruit. As a whole this is really well composed, blending seamlessly into a structured finish showing that there is indeed a lot of grippy tannin buried here. And it goes on and on in the mouth. Very good potential indeed here, and one of the most convincing showings from Gruaud in recent years, I think. From my Bordeaux 2010 primeurs assessment. 17-18/20 (April 2011)."

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Big, typically smoky-spicy Gruaud-Larose nose, lots of fleshy fruit, lifted and almost exotic flavours harmonious depth and length, back on top form for the medium-long term."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Silky, viscous in texture, deep rich velvet tones, sweet charred oak on the nose. This has power but no harshness, intense fruit flavours, well-knitted together tannins, silky texture, excellent quality wine. 94+/100. Drink 2020-2035."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Tannic, structured, long, concentrated with cassis, black raspberry, stone, tobacco and spice, this blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot needs at least a decade, and probably longer before it's fun to drink."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Gruaud Larose with yields of 40 hectoliters per hectare, the property produced a wine blending 61% Cabernet Sauvignon and 20% Merlot with the remainder evenly split between Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The wine reached 13.8% alcohol in 2010, which is slightly higher than they achieved in 2009. Ruby colored, with scents of cassis, oak and gravel, this full bodied, brawny, beefy, traditional and tannic wine has some dryness in the finish. 91-93 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com