

Château Gruaud Larose 2014

CSPC# 790549

750mlx12

13.18% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint Julien
Classification	Second Cru Classé en 1855
Website	http://www.gruaud-larose.com/en/#
General Info	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Vintage	<p>The winter was very humid with mild temperatures. Vegetative growth was slowed by a wet spring with lower -than normal-temperatures. Beginning of summer quite cool followed by a month of July in keeping with most seasons, with a peak temperature on the 17th that's lightly burnt the grapes. August wasn't very sunny but rather chilly which staggered the veraison. Summer finally came along in September and October and allowed to wait for full ripeness of the grapes.</p>
Vineyards	<p>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 <i>château</i>, 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.</p>
Harvest	picked between September 24 and October 11
Maturation	<p>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 <i>Alliers</i> and <i>Nevers</i> oak (50% new) for 18-24 months, and there is a light fining and filtration before bottling.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>The colour shows intense ruby highlights. The nose reveals red fruity notes like cherry, but also delicious notes of almond paste and flowers like jasmine. The fleshy mouth is sustained by fine, silky tannins that lead to great length. The finish is aromatic, fresh and tasty. (January 2015)</p>
Production	12,833 cases made
Cellaring	Best from 2020-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017 89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015 90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017 91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015 94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017 93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015 92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017 91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015 17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015</p>



Scores/Awards **17.50 (91) points** - Decanter.com - April 2015
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017
90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
91-93+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015
93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
15.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2015
87-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015
93-95 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
16 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"Shows a perfumy hint, with black tea and singed allspice notes out front, followed by a core of steeped plum and blackberry fruit. Light anise and apple wood details fill in on the finish. Supple yet well-packed. Best from 2020 through 2030. 12,833 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The cassis and black cherry fruit glides along here, with hints of warm fruitcake and licorice. Tarry accents emerge at the very end, giving this some depth and grip. This may fill out a bit more. Score range: 89-92"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2014 Gruaud Larose has a light and airy bouquet at first, one that gathers depth with aeration. It is a little conservative at the moment, dusky black fruit mixed with sage and cedar. The palate is medium bodied with grippy, slightly angular tannin. It is certainly fresh in the mouth, although it feels a tad pinched towards the finish; therefore, afford this 4-5 years in bottle to develop more substance and ambition."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2014 Château Gruaud Larose is a blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot that was picked between September 24 and October 11 with the Petit Verdot. It was fermented in wooden and cement vats and is being aged in 40% new French oak. The bouquet unfolds nicely in the glass with blackberry, blueberry and cedar scents that are detailed and quite sensual. The new oak is a little more prominent than recent vintages, but it is perfectly in sync with the fruit. The palate is medium-bodied, fresh and citrus-like on the entry, the tannin fine and lending this nascent Gruaud Larose fine precision and poise. This is a superb Saint Julien: fresh and with a satin-like texture. Everything is in place for a promising evolution."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"Aromas of strawberries and cherries follow through to a full body, silky tannins and a tangy finish. Fresh and clean. Linear and pretty. Purity of fruit is impressive. Drink in 2020."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is tight and compacted with beautiful fruit on the center palate. Full body, velvety tannins and a long and flavorful finish. Very intense."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The wine is all about fruit and balanced tannins. It is juicy, so drinkable now, although with enough structure to promise good aging. Perfumed black-currant fruits show strongly. The wine shows how this chateau continues to perform reliably. Drink from 2020."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"91-93. Barrel Sample. This is a powerful, dry wine showing solid tannins, powered by a background of perfumed black currant flavors. A beautiful balance of fruit and structure will develop down the line."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Rich perfumed with a suggestion of dried fruit on the end. Very suave on the palate with the tannins only emerging on the finish. Well-mannered rather than pushy, but it's classic St-Julien."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews *"Fragrant and floral fruit at the start, less weighty than in the past, with fine sweetness on the mid palate. Much more complexity to come."*
- Decanter.com

"Medium bodied, earthy, cranberry, blackberry in character, this is a classic style of Bordeaux, with a lot of freshness, tobacco and cedar in its personality."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"With a medium body and soft tannins, this wine is fresh, earthy and laced with crisp, crunch of fresh red and black fruits. 90-92 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and saturated colour; purple at edge; pure Cabernet; freshness; clean and pure; lovely blackcurrant aromatics and perfume; showing wonderfully on the day; very polished; complete and round on the palate; very attractive vintage for Gruaud Larose; caressing wine; yet also structured with fresh acids on the finish. 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot. Drink 2020-2035. Tasted UGC 31 March 2015. 91-93+"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"This famous and historic Saint Julien 2nd growth is popular throughout the world and is usually released at the most reasonable price of all the so-called "super-seconds". The 82-hectare vineyard is one of the largest of the classed growths. 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot. Deep ruby colour. A spicy, cedary nose with dried herbs and red cherries. The palate is spicy with new oak and has a vibrant core of plums and cherries. There is lots of freshness from acidity and a vibrancy to the fresh fruit core. A classic St Julien."

"Sweet fruit the nose has depth and the palate starts with richness black cherry and cassis. Lighter in the middle the fruit is fresh, fragrant lots of charm the finish though firmer more structured and quite tight. 2026-38"

"A well-made Gruaud-Larose with suave tannins and lifted flavors - violets, black plum, blackberry and sweet spices. Beautifully composed and approachable early - should also age well over the next decade or two easily."
- JCL, asianpalate.com
