

Château Lalande-Borie 2016

CSPC# 813887

750mlx12

13.66% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 55% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon
Appellation St. Julien
Classification Cru Bourgeois
Website <http://chateau-ducru-beaucaillou.com/en>

General Info Château Lalande-Borie has belonged to the Borie family, owners of such top vineyards as Ducru Beaucaillou, Grand Puy Lacoste and Haut Batailley since 1970. Now managed by Ducru's owner Bruno Borie, the same energy has been spent here on improving quality as at the other properties. Lalande-Borie lies to the west of Ducru on a single plot of 25ha surrounded by well-known Crus Classés. The setting, higher in elevation and further back from the Gironde estuary, produces a wine with plenty of typical St Julien characteristics - rich cherry fruits, deep and smooth - but which matures a little quicker than the Grands Vins from the family's other properties. Chateau Lalande is a relatively new estate in the Medoc. The vineyard was initially created when the Borie family purchased 18 hectares of vines from Chateau Lagrange in 1970 and 12 hectares from various other growers, some of which needed planting. Lalande-Borie is a Cru Bourgeois that beautifully expresses all of the qualities of its appellation: finesse, power, elegance and aromatic richness.

Winemakers Bruno Borie manages the estate along with his sister, Sabine Coiffe
Vintage The year 2016 started off with the water tables full, thanks to the heavy rainfall from January to March. Three difficult months for the vineyard workers but which saved the day for this vintage! The mild temperatures in March ensured an early budburst but the colder, rainy mornings in April slowed down the growth cycle. From mid-June to mid-October, rainfall was well below the seasonal average. During the first two weeks of August, the colour change was short and even on each of the properties. The grapes developed in radiant, dry weather conditions. Light showers appeared in mid-September to re-boost the ripening process on the terroirs offering less water retention, thus perfecting the maturation of the tannins. The absolutely perfect weather conditions during harvest time allowed us to pick grapes boasting remarkable quality.

Vineyards The 25 hectare, Left Bank vineyard is planted to 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. The vineyard has a terroir of gravel and clay soils. The clay in the soil is part of the reason that today, you find more Merlot in the vineyard. Previously the Cabernet Sauvignon occupied 65% of the vineyard makeup. The vineyard is well placed in the western part of the St. Julien appellation. It is situated not too far from Chateau Lagrange, Chateau Talbot and Chateau Gruaud Larose. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 8,500 vines per hectare

Harvest All the grapes are harvested manually. Sorting is carried out directly in the vines on mobile tables to avoid contact between unhealthy and healthy grapes during transport to the vat room.

Vinification/ Maturation Alcoholic fermentation takes place at relatively low temperatures (between 26-28°C) to optimize the fruity aromas of the wine. Pumping-over is gentle to avoid extracting too many tannins and obtain a pleasant fattiness. Malolactic fermentation of the free run wine and the press-wine (pneumatic pressing takes place in vats for optimal control. The wine is placed in French oak barrels immediately after blending, with 20-30% new barrels used according to the vintage. Bottling is performed with special care in regard to both oenological controls and homogenization of the overall wine. The wine is then aged in an average of 25% new, French oak barrels for 12 months before bottling. On average, the production is close to 12,000 cases of wine per year at Chateau Lalande Borie.



Tasting Notes	Bruno Borie refers to 2016 as a 'biblical vintage'. He explained that they had the 'flood', the 'plagues of Egypt', a time in the 'wilderness' and then the 'road to Jerusalem'. Rather surprisingly he didn't mention 'sacrifice' a term that propriétaires like to use when talking about yields... This was one of our 'must buy' wines last year. The 2015 set our hearts on fire, so we had high hopes for the 2016. What we found was so different in style, a beautifully constructed, very dark fruited, inky Lalande Borie with notes of mulberry, black cherry and liquorice. It is packed with tiny black berries, very intense and vivid and also quite structured. The tannins are perfectly in proportion and there is really fresh acidity, but this is a serious, grown up wine that will require cellaring.
Serve with	Chateau Lalande Borie is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Lalande Borie is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese.
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2021-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>89 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018</p> <p>90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>15+points - Farr Vintners - February 2017</p> <p>89-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>92-94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Vivid and racy cassis, blueberry puree and damson plum coulis flavors show serious cut and drive, while mouthwatering bramble and sweet tobacco notes fill in. Best from 2023 through 2036. 10,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Rock-solid, with a core of blueberry, blackberry and cassis flavors, lined with slightly tarry grip. Keeps a fresh, driven feel through the incense-fueled finish. Score range: 91-94"</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Lalande-Borie is deep garnet-purple colored, offering up cassis, earth and spice box on the nose with touches of kirsch and tea. The palate is medium-bodied, firm and grainy with nice vibrancy"</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Lalande-Borie is a blend of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, delivering 13.66% alcohol and matured in 30% new oak and the remainder one year old. There is something almost clinical about the nose, very pure, no frills (at the moment), hints of crushed violet emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, very harmonious and cohesive, citrus-like freshness from start to finish with a long and velvety blueberry and blackberry finish. This is very polished, and it should give plenty of drinking pleasure for several years."</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p>

Reviews *“Attractive, ripe cabernet fruit on the nose, this has aromas of blackberries and blueberries with a dark, slate-like, stony edge. The palate is very succulent and has good intensity of purple berries and assertive, grainy tannins that really power into the finish. This is a great value 2016 St.-Julien. Try from 2023.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is very linear and refined with tight-grained tannins and blackberry and blackcurrant character. Shows such finesse and beauty. One of best from here in a long time.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This elegant, balanced wine offers both great structure and also black-currant fruits. The dry core indicates the potential of this wine with its ripe flavors and great freshness at the end.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“The wine has a fine, elegant character while at the same time density and power. It is ripe, full of acidity and pure black-currant fruitiness. The wine has dusty tannins, never tough, with fine fruit. For long-term aging. (RV)”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“55% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon. 30% new oak.

*Rich and very lively on the nose. Real freshness and raciness. Beautiful wine! Really vibrant and rich. But with masses of energy. Just very slightly dry on the end. But such a charmer! **Great Value!***

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“From vines a little further away for the river than Ducru, this shows beautiful balance - a lovely lighter style of St-Julien in a year where much of the appellation is extremely intense and closed down right now and will need at least a decade. There really is a place for a wine like this in the vintage. It shows some austerity but offers excellent drinking potential over the next four to ten years. (JA)”

- JA, Decanter.com

“55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon aged in 33% new oak. 3.67pH. This wine is packed with generous fruits and some lovely, deep tannins that are both flexible and fresh. The vines for this wine are 13ha on the western side of the appellation near La Mouline river, made up of sandy soils with extremely fine gravels. Again, this shows that you can find quality and value at every level in St-Julien in 2016. Drinking Window 2025 – 2038”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Smoky plum and chocolate aromatics make it fun to go nose to nose with this wine. Juicy, round, polished fruits and sweetness, silky tannins and an open personality make this a delicious wine to drink on release or age for a bit. Soft textures and a blast of chocolate with loads of plum and cherry in the endnote make this a fine Bordeaux value wine.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Sourced from the western part of the vineyard at Ducru-Beaucaillou, this is serious, concentrated stuff: “our most powerful yet”, says Bruno Borie. Plush, oaky and compact with lots of fine, but dense tannins and a refreshing finish that arrives late on the palate. 2022-30”

- TA, timatkin.com

“This wine is made by the Ducru Beaucaillou team from vines situated inland near Talbot and Lagrange. 30% new oak for 12 months, with a blend of 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon. Menthol and cherry on the nose with a hint of wood smoke. The palate is firm, showing its Cabernet fruit with black current and pencil shavings and a tight structure. Fleshing out through to the finish, this should integrate nicely over the next year and prove accessible from an early age once bottled.”

- Farr Vintners

Reviews *“The fruit is ripe the nose has depth the palate a rich mix of black fruits. The mid palate has a balancing freshness bramble under the firmer black cherry and although sweet at the back the finish lighter and fresh. 2025-39”*
- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2016 Lalande-Borie has a much more backward, introspective bouquet than the Fourcas-Borie, displaying earthy, tobacco-infused black fruit that refuses to come out and play. The palate is rounded on the entry with supple tannin and a fine bead of acidity. Quite minerally in style, leading to a fresh finish. Allow this wine four or five years in bottle and it will offer a decade of drinking pleasure. Drink 2023-2036.”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Lalande-Borie is dark, powerful and ample, with an extra kick of concentration and brooding power that has developed during élevage. Blackberry jam, cloves, menthol, chocolate and espresso all meld together. This is a decidedly potent Saint-Julien, with quite a bit more intensity than it showed from barrel. Drink 2022-2036.”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2016 Lalande-Borie is plump, juicy and forward. Sweet tobacco, grilled herbs, menthol, black cherry and earthy notes give the 2016 its distinct savory profile. This midweight, attractive Saint-Julien will drink well with minimal cellaring. The significant presence of Merlot gives the wine its fleshy, seductive personality. Tasted two times.”
- AG, Vinous

“What should be a step up over the 2015, the 2016 Château Lalande-Borie is an outstanding barrel sample based on 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon. Its perfumed bouquet of cassis, violets, mineral and background oak is followed by a medium-bodied, nicely concentrated 2016 that has ripe tannin and notable acidity. It’s a pretty, balanced, concentrated Saint-Julien that will need 4-5 years of bottle age and keep for two decades. 2022 – 2042”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Another winner from the genius of Bruno Borie, the 2016 Lalande-Borie is a wine, savvy readers should seek out. My money is on it being the best to date, and it also shows how successful Saint-Julien was in 2016. Offering loads of pure cassis, violets, and sappy herb aromas and flavors, this beauty is all elegance and purity on the palate, with fine tannins, medium to full-bodied richness, impressive depth of fruit, and a great finish. It’s drinkable today and will be drinkable in 15-20 years as well. The blend is 55% Merlot and 45% Cabernet Sauvignon raised in 30% new French oak. Drink 2019-2039.”
- Jeb Dunnuck
