

Château Langoa Barton 2015

CSPC# 801712

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

CSPC# 891907

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Julien

Classification

Third Growth (*Troisièmes Crus*)

Website

<https://www.langoa-barton.com/>

General Info

The Barton family, the current owners of Chateau Langoa Barton are able to trace their Bordeaux roots all the way back to 1722. That was the year that Thomas Barton left Ireland and made his way over to Bordeaux. Like many successful owners, Thomas Barton started out as a Bordeaux negociant, or wine merchant. The first foray into ownership for the Barton family was in St. Estephe, with Chateau Le Boscq in 1745. The family continued being active in not only buying and managing Bordeaux chateaux in the Medoc, but as successful wine merchants.

They eventually partnered with another powerful Bordeaux family to form a massive Bordeaux wine negociant company, Barton & Guestier. Founded in 1745, the firm of Barton and Guestier is still active in the Bordeaux wine business today. The next major purchase in the Left Bank for the Barton clan took place in 1821. That was the year they bought their next Saint Julien estate, Pontet-Langlois. Shortly after the sale, they renamed it, Chateau Langoa Barton. In 1929 Ronald Barton inherited the chateau and in 1983 handed the property over to Anthony Barton who still runs the property. Stablemate of Château Léoville-Barton, whose wine is made in the same cellars.

Following the purchase of Langoa Barton, they bought a second, St. Julien estate. Culled from the vineyards of Leoville Las Cases, that estate became Chateau Leoville Barton. Interestingly, because no cellar or wine making facilities came with the purchase, they were forced to make both wines at Langoa Barton.

Vintage

2015 St. Julien is the product of its being sandwiched between Pauillac to the north and Margaux to the south. Because of its location, the quirks of the geography and rain patterns in Bordeaux, the appellation received a little less rain than in other regions in the Medoc located to the north, but more moisture than the estates located in the Margaux appellation to the south. But the amount of moisture in the soil does not paint the full picture. You also need to understand that the summer was quite warm and dry. The vines experienced drought conditions for much of June continuing until late July. To illustrate that point, July 2015 was the 4th hottest July recorded in Bordeaux over the past 100 years! This produced small grapes with thick skins and a lot of tannin.

Because St. Julien is the smallest of the major Left Bank appellations, with just about 910 hectares of vines, harvest dates were relatively consistent for most vineyards. Growers began picking Merlot by September 21, finishing with their Cabernet Sauvignon between October 7 and October 9. You can read about the 2015 harvest and vintage in detail to give you a good idea on what took place during the growing season: [2015 Bordeaux Harvest Report](#)

2015 St. Julien wines are consistent. While many estates in Saint Julien produced good wine in 2015, as you will see, two estates made much better wine than their neighbors. Some of that is due to terroir, and of course part of their success is due to the work done in their cellars and vineyards. Still, that means that overall, there is a good sense of homogeneous quality found in 2015 Saint Julien wine.



Vineyards	<p>The 25 hectare St. Julien vineyards of Chateau Langoa Barton is planted to 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot and 9% Cabernet Franc. Similar to what has taken place at Leoville Barton, over the years, the percentage of Merlot has been increased. Although, it is interesting to note that the Barton family feels there are some Petit Verdot vines in their as well.</p> <p>The vineyard of Langoa Barton has a terroir with gravel and clay soils. On average, the vines are 35 years of age. While they do own older vines, generally speaking, they are often replaced by the time they hit 40 years of age. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 9,100 vines per hectare. The vineyard parcels are close, but not contiguous.</p> <p>The vineyards, which are all inland, are placed into 5 main blocks. Those blocks are then divided into more than 15 separate parcels with vines not far from Chateau Leoville Barton, Chateau Leoville Poyferré, Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou and Chateau Beychevelle.</p>
Harvest	Manual harvest from 19th to 22nd September (Merlot) then from 28th September to 5th October
Vinification	<p>The wines of Chateau Langoa Barton are traditional in style and as such, the vinification is traditional as well. The wines are traditionally made in large, 200 hectoliter wooden vats. Malolactic fermentation takes place in vat.</p> <p>To be more precise, at Langoa Barton, they try to induce co-inoculation, which is what takes place when the alcoholic and malolactic fermentation occur at the same time. The wine of Chateau Langoa Barton is then aged in an average of 50% new, French oak barrels for about 20 months.</p>
Tasting Notes	Intense color, red fruits bouquet with hints of sous-bois and tobacco. The texture is fleshy and tight, slightly spicy. Tannins are there but the palate is silky, and the finish is long and tense.
Serve with	Chateau Langoa Barton is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Langoa Barton is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese.
Production	7,500 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2038
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - March 2018</p> <p>88-90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2018</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2016</p> <p>95 points / Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2016</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>90-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>92-94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A fresh and vibrant style, with streaks of pastis-soaked plum and boysenberry coursing through, carried by graphite and licorice snap notes and ending with a vigorous, juicy finish. Approachable a bit earlier than the main pack, but there's no rush either. Best from 2019 through 2038. 7,500 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

Reviews *“Very fresh, with a sleek frame around bright red currant and plum notes. Shows really good cut through the finish. Score range: 90-93”*
- JM, Wine Spectator

“Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2015 Langoa Barton is scented of cedar and Marmite toast with black fruit and fertile earth notes. The medium-bodied palate is oaky with a good fruit core, fine-grained tannins and nice freshness on the finish.”
- LP-B, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 Langoa Barton has an expressive bouquet with a touch of hoisin on the nose, something a little “Far East” to add a little intrigue. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very lithe in the mouth with a sweet core of black fruit. There is an approachability to this Langoa that makes it very appealing although I would like more complexity to develop with bottle age. Anticipated maturity: 2022 – 2040”
- NM, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 Langoa Barton is a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc picked between 19 September and 5 October, matured in 60% new oak. It has a slightly smudged bouquet at first, a mixture of red and black fruit, a little sous-bois and tobacco developing in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with gently grippy tannin, veering more towards red fruit here, but laced with tobacco and cedar notes. The finish is austere and perhaps mean at the moment, so hopefully it will develop more flesh by the time of bottling. I must confess that I cannot remember tasting Langoa next to Léoville Barton at this stage and finding such a disparity between the two wines, attested by tasting the 2014s”
just afterwards and finding them closer together in terms of quality.”
- NM, Wine Advocate

“Layered and juicy 2015 with currants, light chocolate and cedar character. It’s full-bodied, round-textured and very pretty. Extremely long and flavorful. So friendly and bright. Drink or hold.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Very ripe and fruit with lots of mature berry and plum character. Full body, round tannins and a savory finish. Juicy.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Sometimes seen as the junior of the two properties owned by the Barton family in Saint-Julien, this is an impressive estate in its own right, especially in this super ripe, smoothly rich wine. Tannins are well wrapped in the generous structure and fruits. Drink from 2025.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“92–94. Barrel Sample. This wine is concentration in both tannins and fruit and has the potential to be generous in character. Red fruits and blackberry flavors mingle with the dry, firm tannins.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Mid bright crimson. Correct and brisk with something a bit agricultural about it. Then a hint of mint on the end. Chewy and dry and definitely old school. But based on the track record, this will presumably please eventually – just not very soon!”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Almost timid on the nose, this wine is so polite. After you ... Quite a bit of acidity compared with some. Very straight-backed rather than full of pleasure. Just depends on your preferred style - but this certainly builds towards an impressive finish.
Drink 2027-2042”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

- Reviews** *“Deep rich ruby in colour, this has a soft expression on the nose, layering redcurrant jelly and smoked oak. It has an enjoyably frank expression, a little less austere than some from St-Julien in this vintage, without sacrificing ageing ability. 60% new oak. (JA)”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Firm, structured, classic and fresh, with a vibrancy to to the sweet cassis, herb, cedar and tobacco notes. The wine is full bodied, concentrated and offers a spicy cassis and cedar character. This should age quite well over the years.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Fresh, vibrant and crisp, with a cassis, tobacco and spicy character, this is coming along quite well. “*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Crisp, dark, red plums and cassis on the nose, this medium/full-bodied, firm wine offers freshness and brisk red berries in the classically styled finish. Produced from a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13% alcohol. “*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Both the Barton wines are impressive in 2015, with this one just the lighter of the two. It’s still got plenty of structure and oak, but the elegance of the patrician Cabernet is very pure and transparent here. Drink: 2022-30”*
- Tim Atkin
- “Bramble freshness on the nose the start of the palate is light and bright. Richer black fruits in the middle cassis and black cherry more depth of flavour and although fresh at the back nervy with hints of spice it builds towards the finish with rich black cherry.”*
- Derek Smedley MW
- “Balanced, well-made Langoa Barton with plum and cassis flavors. This vintage will be for early consumption though no doubt the wine will age for a decade easily. Firm, ripe tannins provide good structure with friendly fruity flavors that are approachable young.”*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- “What a nice surprise the 2015 Langoa-Barton is. Racy, silky and forward, the 2015 will drink well with minimal cellaring. Succulent red cherry and pomegranate fruit are nicely lifted by floral and spice notes that add aromatic intensity and layers of flavor. Silky tannins add to the wine’s considerable immediacy and sheer appeal. (AG)”*
- AG, Vinous
- “A wine that overdelivers in the appellation is the 2015 Château Langoa Barton which is largely Cabernet Sauvignon yet includes 38% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc. Brought up in 60% new oak, it boasts a deep purple color and smokin’ good notes of caramelized cherries, crème de cassis, toasty oak, and graphite. Big, full-bodied, concentrated, and structured, with awesome purity of fruit as well as notable elegance, it needs 3-4 years of bottle age and will keep for two to three decades. Bravo!”*
- Jeb Dunnuck
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