

# Château Langoa Barton 2016

CSPC# 866972

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% 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.

## Winemaker

Anthony Barton

## 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 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.

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.

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.



<b>Harvest</b>	Manual harvest from 29th September to 1st October (Merlot) then from 5th to 13th October
<b>Vinification</b>	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. 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 60% new, French oak barrels for about 20 months.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Ruby / purple color, the intense and complex nose reveals hints of black fruit, brioche bread. The attack is vivid and velvety. The mid-palate enhanced the black fruit notes, unveiled firstly on the nose and some toasty notes. The wine is juicy and fleshy with elegant tannins. Final on the length.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	7,667 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2020-2035
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p><b>93-96 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p><b>93 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p><b>16++? points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - October 2018</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Sappy and dense, with kirsch, plum reduction, mulled açai berry and warmed fig fruit showing impressive range, while licorice snap, ganache and roasted apple wood notes jostle behind them. Mouthwatering acidity should give this plenty of time to round into form. Best from 2025 through 2040. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 7,667 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The fresh blueberry, cherry and black currant flavors give this a wide range, while racy graphite and a mouthwatering anise streak drive the finish. The fruit is so enticing that you lose track of how solidly built this is through the finish. Score range: 93-96"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Langoa Barton is medium to deep garnet-purple colored and opens with cedar, red and black currants, kirsch and menthol with smoked meats. The palate is medium to full-bodied, firm, grainy and packed with youthful, energetic fruit, finishing long and perfumed."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

## Reviews

*"The 2016 Langoa Barton is a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc picked between 29 September and 13 October. It is being matured in 60% new oak barrels. It has a very succinct bouquet, with a mixture of black and red fruit, a slight sea spray/estuarine tincture, hints of leather and brown spice in the background. The palate is very harmonious on the entry with a grainy texture. There is good backbone here, maybe just a little foursquare compared to other Saint Julien wines, but it gathers pace towards the finish that displays touches of spice and cedar. Understated and classic Langoa."*

- NM, Wine Advocate

*"Beautiful aromas of flowers and berries intermingled in fresh and brambly mode with a cedary edge. This is very fresh. The tannins carve an exceptionally deep, long line through the dark berries and cassis and deliver a very powerful, unwavering finish. This is in great form. Very powerful and focused. Try from 2024."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is really structured with great depth and power. Full body, chewy tannins, lots of fruit and a tangy, fresh finish. Solid."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Big and packed with spice and smokiness, this wine is full of rich black fruits and juicy acidity. Wood aging adds a light touch of toastiness at this stage but will integrate to give a ripe wine ready to drink from 2024."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"From one of the three chateaus owned by the Barton family, this wine is showing its pedigree. It has elegance as well as structured tannins, ripe blackberry fruits and ample acidity. It is likely to age well over the medium term. (RV)"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Bright glowing crimson. Pretty evolved nose and then very tight, rather inky tannins. Far from ready! A bit of an enigma at this stage. I should have asked to taste another bottle of this but couldn't see more than one on the table."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Exceptionally dark purple. Very meaty, concentrated nose with real lift. Lots of graphite and grit. No spare flesh but truly terroir wine. Sinewy. Bone-dry finish. Very much in its own style. But long and precise."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Still extremely young, the construction here is clear in that you can feel the architectural hand of 2016 with St-Julien balance. This is rich and deep with intense, concentrated and juicy cassis fruits joined by a touch of sweet liquorice, dark chocolate and charred oak edging. I like the balance here. Matured in 60% new oak. Drinking Window 2024 - 2040 (JA)"*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Full bodied, crisp, bright and crunchy, the tobacco leaf and cassis make a great pairing. The tannins are ripe, firm and constant, letting you know this needs age, and it's going to be worth the wait. The finish delivers lift and energy in its classic profile."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Bursts of tangy little currants, a cedar wood fire sends out smoke plumes of cassis scented tobacco into a damp forest, leading you to a polished, fresh, bright, crisp and crunchy blast of red berries. The finish offers length and lift in a classic style. From a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13% alcohol. The harvest took place from September 20 to October 13"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

**Reviews** *“Often more approachable in its youth than stable mate Léoville-Barton, Langoa has a lovely brightness and poise in 2016, with the Merlot and Cabernet Franc contributing texture and aroma. Sappy and floral, with graphite and green pepper notes, and an overlay of oak that will integrate over the next few years. 2026-34”*  
- Tim Atkin

*Léoville Barton's smaller (18 hectares) sister Chateau. Grape varieties, viticulture and vinification are similar to those of Léoville. Quality is often very similar too. Classic claret is produced here with real Cabernet Sauvignon "grip" and class. There are currently 17 hectares in production, with an average vine age of 35 years. The 2016 was harvested between 29th September and 13th October, will be a modest 13% alcohol, and will be raised in 60% new oak. The blend is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, and 8% Cabernet Franc. Deep ruby colour with a spicy blackcurrant and black cherry nose. The palate is rich, juicy and chocolatey with notes of pure cassis and bramble fruits. The tannins are plentiful but velvet in texture, bringing superb harmony and precision to the mid-palate. The finish is long, pure and fine, another superb example of Langoa Barton.*

*“Sweetness on the nose the palate has ripe black fruits mid richness. The tannins are fine discreet well integrated the ripeness on the mid palate balance by fresh fruits at the back, but it fills out on the finish depth and richness. 2025-40”*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2016 Langoa Barton is succulent, racy and inviting, with striking textural richness and depth. Ripe dark plum, tobacco, cedar, licorice and spice are all generous in this racy, pliant Saint-Julien. The 2016 is an especially fine edition of Langoa-Barton and one of the sleepers of the vintage. (AG)”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“The 2016 Langoa-Barton has a very pure bouquet of black cherry and blackberry fruit and briary notes, but I would have liked more intensity. The palate is medium-bodied, rounded and forward, with supple tannin and a lilting, cedar-tinged finish. A delicious and perhaps more approachable Saint-Julien, although I have a feeling that it might close down, so keep a cool cellar handy. Drink 2021-2040.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The 2016 Langoa Barton is soft, pliant and absolutely delicious. Succulent red cherry, rose petal, lavender, mocha and sweet spice fill out the wine's mid-weight frame effortlessly. Succulent and inviting, the 2016 is terrific today. The 2016 is marked by its energy and freshness, much of that the result of the Cabernet Franc, which is on the higher end of the range by historical standards. Tasted two times.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“Tasted out of barrel, the 2016 Château Langoa Barton has a fresh, elegant, medium to full-bodied profile as well as classic notes of red and black fruits, spring flowers, and damp underbrush. I love its purity of fruit and it has nicely integrated acidity, good concentration, and a great finish. In short, it's an exceedingly classic Saint-Julien from a great vintage.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

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