

Château Leoville Barton 2005

CSPC# 742349

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Julien

General Info

In 1725, ex-pat Irishman Thomas Barton founded what was to become Barton & Guestier in Bordeaux. It was, however, his grandson, Hugh Barton, who cemented the family's fortunes in Bordeaux. Under Hugh's custodianship, the business thrived. Even while living in exile during the French Revolution, with loyal local partners assisting him, the business flourished. In 1821, he purchased Château Langoa and, in 1826, a portion of the Léoville estate, renaming it Château Léoville-Barton. Hugh's great-great-grandson, Ronald Barton, was the first Barton since Hugh to live in France. From 1924 until 1940, leaving only during World War II, he ensured both properties flourished. He returned in 1945 and, with boundless optimism, managed to restore the estates to their former glory. Ronald Barton inherited the property in 1927. He in turn donated it to his nephew Anthony in 1983. Today the vineyards are jointly owned by Anthony Barton, his daughter Lilian Barton-Sartorius and her children Mélanie and Damien, thus making eight generations of Barton family at Léoville Barton. Traditional methods of wine making are maintained to produce a typical Saint-Julien of elegance and distinction.

Vineyards

Léoville-Barton's 116 acres (47 ha) of vineyard is located in the central part of the appellation along the Gironde river. The soil composition is mostly gravel with a subsoil of clay. The plantings are 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and 8% Cabernet Franc with the vines averaging 30 years of age

Maturation

The wines are fermented in the 35 temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats of varying sizes, then macerated for three to four weeks, before selection is made. The *grand vin* is Château Léoville-Poyferré (20000 cases per annum), which goes into barrel where malolactic fermentation occurs. Aged for 20 months in 50% new oak.

Tasting Notes

The yield this year was down to 39 hl/ha (compared to 54 in 2004) so there is much less wine than usual. A completely black colour with impressive stature. A huge nose with roasted, cedary, spicy, cassis notes. Very big and weighty on the palate with staggering depth and concentration. Crème de cassis with tannins to balance. More classic and less exotic than the 2003, this is a bold wine of epic proportions.

Production

20,375 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2060

Scores/Awards

96 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008
95-100 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2006
94? points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008
94-96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007
94-96+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006
95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2009
92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2006
97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2008
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 20, 2006
94 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2008
18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2009
17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2006
19+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2009
19+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2007
17-18+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2006



Scores/Awards **4 stars** - Medoc 2005 Decanter Award Winner, Decanter.com - July 2008
4 stars/Highly Recommended - Wines of the Year, Decanter.com - Nov 2008
93 points - Connoisseur's Guide to California Wine (no review)
91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (no review)
95 points - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - October 2007
94 points - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - October 2009
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 31, 2012

Reviews *"Delivers breathtaking aromas of blackberry, currant, licorice and flowers. Full-bodied, with a solid core of fruit and supersilky tannins. Dark chocolate, currant, berry and licorice follow through. This is racy and beautiful. Best after 2015. 20,375 cases made."*
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Fantastic aromas of currants, black licorice and berries. Fresh flowers. Light smoke. Big and velvety with loads of fruit. Long. Seems like another 2003; wait and see. Score range: 95-100."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Another prodigious, but brutally tannic, offering from the affable Anthony Barton, the inky/blue/black-hued 2005 Leoville Barton exhibits a sensational perfume of charcoal, burning embers, underbrush, cedar, creme de cassis, and subtle toasty oak. Painfully concentrated (much like the 2000 was at the same stage), with full body, admirable purity, and several boatloads of muscular tannin, this St.-Julien is built for 50-60 years of cellaring. Its purity and precision are typical of today's winemaking, but Barton is certainly not making a wine for near-term gratification. This is another 2005 that will require enormous patience. Anticipated maturity: 2020-2065."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"What can you say about Anthony Barton? He has made yet another classic wine that will not be approachable for a decade but will last 50 or more years. The inky/blue/purple-colored 2005 Leoville Barton offers up aromas of forest floor, cedar, spice box, black currants, and background oak as well as smoke. Boasting massive concentration, full body, and exceptional purity, but excruciatingly tannic and backward, this cuvee is meant for those with 19th century tastes, but also exhibits the purity and precision of modern winemaking. Patience is demanded with this beauty as it will take many years to approach any level of accessibility/maturity. Anticipated maturity: 2020-2060+."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A monumental beast possessing dramatic levels of concentration, tannin, and potential, Leoville-Barton's opaque purple-hued 2005 reveals amazingly sweet notes of black currants, damp forest floor, and spice box. It is a deep, powerful, unctuously textured effort with enough acidity to provide freshness as well as definition. Broader and more masculine than the 2000, and more classic than the 2003, the 2005 is a monster meant for long-term aging. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2055."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted single blind at Southwold. Again, this is showing a lot of extraction and unresolved new oak on the nose with cassis, blackcurrant, liquorice and a touch of fig. Very ripe supple black fruits, lush and generous, exotic almost with a lithe, toasty finish. Very seductive, but they a wall of tannins hits the back palate, then honeyed tones lingering on the aftertaste. Magnificent – I would love to contrast this against the 2003. Drink 2015-2035. Tasted January 2009."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A very sweet blackberry, vanilla and blueberry nose, becoming a little liquorish in the glass. The palate is very tannic but also harmonious with black toasty fruits and cassis. I just find this a bit leaden on the finish, when I was hoping for a more floral, a more feminine touch. Perhaps a little subdued. Very fine, although I prefer the 2003. Tasted April 2006."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Power and elegance merge effortlessly in this superb wine. Its pure black currant fruit is tightly coiled, supported by just the right amount of firm tannins. Great aging potential. A triumph."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

- Reviews** *“95-97 Barrel sample. A solid, very firm wine that initially lacks charm. But it just needs time to knit together; as it is now, its huge, dry tannins completely hide the fruit, just giving hints of greatness to come.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Deep ruby. Wonderfully perfumed nose offers cassis, minerals, tobacco, flowers, mocha and truffle. Bright, mineral-driven and concentrated, with terrific underlying backbone giving energy and definition to the dark berry, mineral and chocolate flavors. There's a floral lift here that's exhilarating to find in the very ripe 2005 vintage. Finishes very long and classy, with a firm tannic spine. An outstanding vintage for this wine.”*
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- “Looks very youthful. Tight, concentrated and very focused. Luscious texture and a wine that slides across the palate. There is masses of tannin on the finish but it is ripe enough. This could be Barton. Very youthful but convincing. Bone dry in Barton style compared with the sweetness of Ducru-Beaucaillou.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Lively crimson - looks very youthful. Light, mineral notes on the nose. Fine tannins at first, becoming dominant on the mid palate. Very tight and fine-tuned. Reined in. Far from opulent with lots of dryness on the finish. Dry, grainy tannins. Extremely solid and earthbound. Set for the very long term. Langoa is more expressive for the moment but may not last as long. Drink 2018-30”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Much less expressive on the nose compared to Langoa, but certainly in possession of great purity, with fine and reserved black fruit character. Dark, heady, roasted-herb perfume, it is actually very expressive, but it is also clear that this character lies on top of a much more solid and substantial wine with much deeper foundations. The palate is glorious; immediately expansive and yet tightly composed at the same time. Aromatic, perfumed, yet rich and creamy, but linear and well framed. I know I have preferred the remarkable Langoa in previous tasting, but Léoville-Barton is beginning to show its breeding now. Brilliant. From a 2005 Bordeaux tasting at four years of age. 19+/20 (November 2009)”*
- CK, The Wine Doctor
- “Immediately following the Langoa, big brother Léoville shows a very dark, pure and dense yet also rather more reserved nose. It is concentrated and pure, but also withdrawn. A very serious structure, with a lovely grip of tannins which are well compensated for by rich texture and extraction and a fine balance of dense, ripe fruit. This is superb quality and although less flattering than Langoa on the day this is clearly a wine of great significance which with appropriate time in the cellar will be truly great. Excellent. From my tasting of 2005 Bordeaux at two years of age. 19+/20 (October 2007).”*
- CK, The Wine Doctor
- “CS 75%, M 20%, CF 5%. A very, very densely coloured wine, with a vibrant pink rim. Dense and complex nose, and yet restrained, showing only some pickling spices and beetroot aromas. Supple fruit on the palate, sitting quite distant from the firm, backward tannic structure. The acidity is correct. At present this is a monolithic collection of wine components in a glass, showing little finesse or appeal, but I think it is a wine with a great future. May well warrant a score beyond the range I have predicted today. From my 2005 Bordeaux en primeur tasting. 17-18+/20 (April 2006)”*
- CK, The Wine Doctor
- “There can surely be few other estates in Bordeaux that are as consistently brilliant as Léoville-Barton. This is incredibly classy, with very concentrated, rich, restrained black fruits, and hints of cedar, minerals and cigar box. It is all in absolutely perfect balance with a wonderful freshness and sublime elegance amid lashings of fruit and very fine tannins. Amazing stuff.”*
- Decanter.com

Reviews *"Sweet, vanilla fruit crusted black fruit. Appealing. Sweet, floral perfumed oak, good depth and ripe, very attractive with good length to balance oak."*
- Decanter.com

"Refined, intense blackcurrant nose. The palate is dense, fresh and structured with lots of tannin hiding underneath the stylish, forward fruit. Enormous."
- JG, Wineanorak.com

"75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 5% Cabernet France, matured for 20 months in French oak, half of which was new. Tight, brooding blackcurrant fruit nose is quite pure with lovely precision. Quite primary. The palate is really grippy and tannic, but there's lovely pure fruit here. Complex minerally, gravelly notes add a savoury dimension. A beautiful wine, but it's a real crime to drink it now. 94/100"
- JG, Wineanorak.com

"There is a lot going on in this masculine, styled, full bodied wine. Filled with tannin and fruit, this demands up to two decades before becoming civilized."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Quite closed aromatically, but with coaxing reveals loads of mineral, floral, cassis and blackcurrant aromas. On the palate the wine is enormous! Loads of fine-yet-firm tannin and fresh acidity frame the ripe, quite powerful fruit. Very good complexity already, with a long, fine and quite pure finish, this is a really impressive wine. Wonderful lingering red fruits on the finish. Will doubtless age superbly. 95 points, drink 2010-2035 (April 2008)."
- Finewinemerchants.com.au
