

Château Léoville Barton 2014

CSPC# 785924	750mlx12	13.5% alc./vol.
CSPC# 811820	750mlx6	13.5% alc./vol.
CSPC# 890693	750mlx12	13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Saint Julien
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.leoville-barton.com/en/

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.

Vintage The growing seasons were marked by a promising spring followed by a fine, fast, and even flowering in early June that suggested an early harvest. The summer, however, was a big disappointment with July wet and cool, and August too cool to remedy July. 'Aout fait le mout' (August makes the must) is a common wine expression, summing up the need for sunshine, heat and hydric stress which forces the vine to concentrate the sugars in the fruit. Bordeaux had a significant deficit of sunshine and heat in August 2014, the advanced vegetative cycle caused by May and June's warmth had been cancelled out, and winemakers were getting very nervous of a repeat of the poor 2013 harvest the year before. Then came the miracle of September and October, which were the warmest, sunniest, and driest seen in Bordeaux.

The late summer allowed the later ripening varieties Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot to benefit greatly from the extra 'hang-time' the weather allowed, while arriving a little too late to allow proper phenolic ripeness of the earlier ripening Merlot and Cabernet Franc. That was my impression from tasting more than 500 wines across the region.

Wherever a property's vineyards were planted with a majority of Merlot, the resulting wines often felt chalky, hard and a little hollow. Where Cabernet was, the dominant variety planted, the wines more often felt vibrant, fuller, with ripe tannins. Most red wines felt fresh in the mouth, a result of higher acids and modest alcohol levels of 13 -13.5%.

Harvest 25 September and 8 October

Vineyards Léoville-Barton's 50ha 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 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, and 3% 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. 75% new oak each year. Aged 16-18 months in French oak barrels in a cellar kept at a constant temperature of 15°C.

Tasting Notes The deep purple fruit of blueberry and blackberries is very zesty and bright and features racy acidity. Firm, more rounded tannins than in many of the great Barton vintages, with just the right amount of extraction.



Production 11,667 cases made
Cellaring Drink 2018-2025
Scores/Awards **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017
92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015
92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017
92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2015
95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2017
Cellar selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2017
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015
17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015
17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2016
93 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2015
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017
92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
92-94 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 30, 2015
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015
16.5+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2015
90-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
93 points - Richard Jennings, rjonwine.com - January 2017
94-96 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)
19 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"This has a solid core of cassis, blueberry confiture and plum sauce flavors, wrapped with warm ganache and licorice snap notes, kept honest by graphite rivets along the finish. This has lots of muscle but stays lean and long. Best from 2020 through 2035. 11,667 cases made."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Mouth filling from the start, with lovely plum sauce, steeped fig, and blackberry coulis flavors, lined with warm ganache notes and carried by ample but polished tannins. Features a tarry edge at the end but maintains a rather polished feel overall. A lovely wine, once again. Score range: 92-95"
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"The Château Léoville-Barton 2014 is a blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc picked between 25 September and 8 October and matured in 60% new oak. This is clearly richer and more opulent than the Langoa Barton with small dark cherries, a touch of boysenberry and cedar, more immediate than its "little sister". The palate is sweet and sappy in the mouth with concentrated black fruit, hints of liquorice coming through on the finish that fans out with a bit of brio. It does not quite possess the clinical precision of Léoville Las-Cases, but there is certainly a lot of substance and length here. Lilian Barton can rightly be proud of this. Tasted on three occasions."
 - NM, Wine Advocate

"Very aromatic with cherries and blackberries. Hints of flowers. Full body, lightly chewy yet ultra-fine tannins and a fresh finish. Tangy and delicious. Racy."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A very fine and linear Barton with bright raspberries and cherries. Full body, ultra-fine tannins, and a long, beautiful finish. Sleek and racy."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This wine, with its massive tannins and rich fruit, is obviously set for a long life. It does have the contrast of fresh black-currant acidity to give it a lift. But with the power behind it, the wine will develop slowly. Drink from 2025."
 - RV, Wine Enthusiast

- Reviews** *"95–97. Barrel Sample. This wine has spice and fresh fruit aromas, which translate on the palate into intense blackberry and wood tastes. It is firmly structured, with a dry core and medium-plus concentration. It promises a long life ahead."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Deep cherry red. Smells a little riper than the Langoa and with a fine peppery spice. A hint of oak's sweetness but the fruit sings. Tannins are firm and dense but fully ripe and rounded. Beautifully balanced."*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Dark vibrant crimson. Much sweeter and more opulent on the nose than most St-Julien. Very firm and rich with real savour and glamour. Smooth texture but no shortage of tannins underneath. A long-term wine. Drink 2024-2040."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Very fine natural concentration of pure Cabernet-dominated vineyard fruit. More closed than Langoa, severe to start with, but a wine of great clarity, depth, and class. Fragrance and florality to come all in balance for a fine future."*
- SS, Decanter.com
- "Waves of smoke, tobacco, dark, red fruits, earth, and cedar are all over the place. Concentrated, with ripe, fresh, berries, round tannins and a lengthy, fruit filled finish. For a wine that can quite often demand 10-15 or 20 years to come around, this should drink well nicely with just 5-7 years of aging."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "With a sweet, ready note of vanilla and cherry, this wine features spicy, crisp dark red fruits and a fresh, bright, tannic finish. Blending 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.5% alcohol and is aging in 60% new, French oak barrels."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep and dark; saturated at centre; colour tight to the rim; deep blackcurrant aromatics; some cassis; blackcurrant aromatics really open up in the glass; cool entry to the palate; nicely balanced; pure; lots of matter and extract; good concentration; nicely measured and proportional; grip and density on the finish. Excellent Léoville Barton. 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc. 60% new oak. Drink 2023-2035. Tasted UGC 31 March 2015. 92-94."*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Léoville-Barton is more tannic and closed than its stablemate Langoa-Barton at this stage, as it often tends to be, but has the fruit weight and power to emerge from behind the extraction over time. Built to last, this is an ambitious Cabernet-based red of considerable quality."*
- TA, timatkin.com
- "Anthony Barton's second growth is always a top quality bordeaux of classic proportions. structured, cabernet sauvignon-based wines that are serious, controlled, and pure. 83% cabernet sauvignon, 15% merlot, 2% cabernet franc. very deep purple in colour. pure, ripe cabernet notes of cassis, with a little liquorice spice. The palate is big and dense, with lots of tannic structure. The black fruit is layered with smoky, toasty oak adding firmness to the wine. this is a dense, brooding Léoville Barton that will take some time to be ready in bottle based on this tasting."*
- Farr Vintners
- "Firm on the nose the start of the palate has structure serious brooding black fruits. There is a sweeter feel on the mid palate, some ripe cassis lots of black cherry and although the tannins are obvious, they give structure rather than overpowering the fruit. 2028-45"*
- Derek Smedley MW

Reviews *“The 2014 Léoville-Barton shows remarkable freshness and overall vivacity. Succulent black cherry, plum, violet and blood orange create a distinctive combination of dark fruit and brisk, pulsating acidity. Today, the 2014 comes across as very tight and closed, which is probably good thing for the future. Readers should plan on cellaring the 2014 for at least a few years.”*

- AG, Vinous

“A fabulous wine from this venerable estate, the 2014 Léoville-Barton is super-impressive today. Dark red stone fruits, wildflowers, mint, spices, and raspberry all show the inflections of invigorating freshness that are such a signature of the vintage. Hints of crème de cassis, blackberry jam, graphite, brioche, grilled herbs, and spice add nuance to an inky finish that gains weight over time. Today, the 2014 is embryonic, but I won't be surprised if it grows considerably over the coming years. The blend is 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“Saturated, very dark red violet color; aromatic, cassis, vanilla nose; tight, delicious, cassis, vanilla, cedar palate with fine, sweet tannins and good balancing acidity; needs 6-plus years; medium-plus finish (83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc; 18 months in oak, 60% new).”

- RJ, rjonwine.com
