

# Château Leoville Barton 2016

CSPC# 785924

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Julien
<b>Classification</b>	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.leoville-barton.com/en/">http://www.leoville-barton.com/en/</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>In 1725, ex-pat Irishman Thomas Barton founded what was to become Barton &amp; 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.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	<p>Anthony Barton - owner/winemaker Melanie Barton - Assistant winemaker</p>
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Harvest Vineyards</b>	<p>From 29th September to 1st October (Merlot), then from 5th to 13th October 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</p>
<b>Maturation</b>	<p>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. 60% new oak barrels. Aged 16-18 months in French oak barrels in a cellar kept at a constant temperature of 15°C.</p>
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>Intense ruby colour, the nose reveals vivid notes of black fruits (black cherry, blackcurrant, blueberry) with a touch of ink. The mouth is ample, powerful and you feel the freshness of the red fruits. The tannins are delicate with a long finish.</p>
<b>Serve with</b>	<p>Leoville Barton is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Leoville 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 Leoville Barton is also a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese.</p>



**Production** 11,667 cases made.  
**Cellaring** Drink 2021-2046  
**Scores/Awards** **97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019  
**96-99 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017  
**95+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018  
**93-95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017  
**97 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019  
**95-96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017  
**96 points/Cellar Selection** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019  
**97-99 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017  
**17.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018  
**18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017  
**96 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018  
**96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017  
**93 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017  
**17.5+ points** - Farr Vintner - February 2017  
**94-96 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017  
**95 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019  
**96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019  
**93-96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017  
**96 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019

**Reviews** *"This is so vivid as it brims with pastis-soaked plum, blackberry, black currant and blueberry paste flavors, all carried by a perfectly integrated brambly spine. Tar and ganache notes give the finish an extra kick while everything stays within the mouthwatering roasted apple wood frame. Both regal and rambunctious, this is St.-Julien to a T. Best from 2025 through 2040. 11,667 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"This packs some serious punch and drive, with a terrific core of blueberry, açai and plum reduction notes, backed by waves of graphite and roasted apple wood. Has the pleasantly chewy feel typical of St.-Julien, along with an extra-racy graphite edge. Score range: 96-99"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Leoville Barton delivers a superstar nose of crème de cassis, plum preserves and blueberry compote with suggestions of fragrant earth, unsmoked cigars, licorice and cedar chest. Medium to full-bodied, rich and seductive with firm yet velvety tannins, it has a decadently rich finish."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2016 Leoville-Barton is a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot picked from 29 September until 13 October, matured in 60% new oak and delivering 13% alcohol. It has a more intense bouquet compared to the Langoa-Barton, plenty of intense blackberry and raspberry fruit, minerals, cedar and a hint of licorice. The palate is a little chewy on the entry with good grip in the mouth. This demonstrates the backbone of the finish, just the right amount of spiciness with excellent salinity on the long finish. It is not a once-in-a-lifetime Leoville Barton, but (as usual) it just seems to do everything right. Maybe it's not quite up there with the stellar 2015 Léoville Barton, which I re-tasted at the time, but it is not far off."*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"Terrific intensity of dark berries, almost peppery blackcurrants and violets with attractive and integrated, spicy oak and an earthy edge. The palate has a super powerful and long, linear core with plenty of fruit flesh strapped in tight for a long and thrilling ride into the finish. A blend of 86 per cent cabernet and 14 per cent merlot. Try from 2024."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Tight and chewy with a solid tannin structure and depth of fruit. Full body and lots of depth and texture. A Barton with lots happening already. Develops beautifully on the palate. Should be better than the 2015."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

## Reviews

*"The Barton family's flagship wine benefits hugely from the age of the vines. This wine is ripe and concentrated, rich in tannins but with the wonderful black fruits that can be conjured from this vineyard. It will age well and is likely to be ready to drink from 2026."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"This is a powerful wine, with superb tannins and blackberry fruits. It has a dense texture allied to stylish fruitiness and acidity. The result is a wine with the potential to age over a long period of time, while probably showing well starting in 2028. (RV)"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Bright dark purple. Straight-backed, classic nose with nuance and balance. Glossy and pure. Very fine tannins in a rather beautiful whole. Much more appealing than Langoa this vintage. Long and layered."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Dark blackish purple. Less obviously aromatic than Langoa. Tea-leaf notes. Round texture with gloriously ripe tannins. Really a standout Barton. So unusually supple! Yet with masses of tannins underneath. This will surely be one of the vintage's longer-living wines. Glorious texture and flavour. Utterly minerally dry, but not drying. Very good freshness – much fresher than many of its peers. Real energy."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"I love this - there's concentrated cassis on the nose with a strong, smoky edging. On the palate the coffee and dark chocolate is clear, a little bitter in an extremely attractive way, leaning against the rich, sweet black fruits. There's no question those tannins are in full play. An excellent wine with a great life ahead. Matured in 60% new oak. Drinking Window 2024 - 2040 (JA)"*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"The wine is a pure explosion of blackberries, cassis licorice and tobacco. Dark in color, there is intensity, lift and persistence providing you with a juicy, full-bodied, tannic, structured mouthful of sweet black fruit. If you can wait about 15 years, this is going to be a knockout!"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"This just keeps getting better as it ages in barrel. Showing more depth and concentration, the wine has a polish to its textures, making an even better treat so you can really get into the sweet, ripe, black and dark red fruits, licorice and cigar wrapper nuances. Powerful, refined and long, 15 years in the cellar will allow the wine to really step into high gear."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"A nose of blackberry, licorice, earth and smoky tobacco is easy to notice. Darkly colored, Full bodied, rich, fresh, long and sweet, there is a reflection coming off the ample tannins and lift that accentuates the densely textured, fruit-filled finish. This wine leaves a great impression. Produced from blending 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot, the wine reached 13% alcohol. The harvest took place September 29 to October 13."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Making no concessions to sensitive taste buds during en primeur week, this is an unashamedly firm, tannic, densely constructed St Julien that needs at least another decade in bottle. Oaky, firm and compact, with layers of damson, graphite and blackcurrant fruit and a grippy finish. 2027-40"*

- TA, timatkin.com

**Reviews**

*“Anthony Barton's second growth is always a top-quality Bordeaux of classic proportions. Structured, Cabernet Sauvignon dominated wines are produced here that are serious, controlled and pure. The 50-hectare vineyard is planted 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Always the epitome of Saint Julien and the ultimate "Englishman's Claret". 86% Cabernet Sauvignon in 2016 - the highest ever proportion in the blend - with 14% Merlot. Deep colour. A classic nose - precise in ripe but cool blackcurrant, hints of tobacco and cedar, and a little vanilla. Very enticing. The palate is powerful yet controlled - black fruits hold the core with great intensity. The tannins, while firm, are ripe and extremely refined, allowing notes of violet, dark chocolate, cedar and spice box to emerge through the mid-palate and onto the finish. Long, fine and precise, this is a really superb Leoville Barton, and a standout wine for us from the 2016 tastings.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“Rich and ripe on the nose the fruit is sweet the palate has a mix of rich cassis and black cherry. Discreet tannins underpin the mid palate has depth and sweetness the back palate a rich mix of fruits. There is enough freshness to balance and although lighter toward the back it finishes with depth of flavour. 2026-40”*

- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2016 Léoville Barton has a beautiful bouquet of blackberry, gravel and hints of black truffle and pencil shavings, blossoming with aeration yet remaining classic in style. The palate is medium-bodied with gorgeous ripe tannins that exert gentle grip. Lightly spiced and wonderfully focused, leaving the tongue tingling with glee long after the wine has departed. This is one of the finest wines from the estate in recent years.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2016 Léoville-Barton is fabulous. A wine of breadth and power, the 2016 has so much to offer. The black cherry, chocolate, gravel, smoke and licorice flavors are all boldly sketched. A host of expressive savory and mineral notes develop into the substantial finish. (AG)”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2016 Léoville-Barton is superb. Precision, nuance and delineation are the signatures in a wine that speaks to class above all else. Eloquent and nuanced to the core, the 2016 is simply magnificent. There is a fair bit of tannin, but the grain is very, very fine. The 2016 is not a huge Léoville-Barton, but it is a wine of nobility and pedigree. Tasted two times.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“Deep purple-colored and a classic Saint-Julien with its pure crème de cassis, graphite, liquid rock, and essence of lead pencil shavings, the 2016 Château Léoville Barton is full-bodied, concentrated, and backward, with bright acidity and ripe yet certainly present and building tannins. This old-school, classic Léoville Barton has a fine thread of acidity keeping the wine focused and fresh. It's a beauty, but mostly potential at this point, although it does have beautiful fruit. Savvy readers will hide bottles at the back of their cellar, and I wouldn't start to think about opening bottles for a least a decade. It's going to be incredibly long-lived. The blend of the 2016 is 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot, brought up in 60% new French oak. 96+ points.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

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