

Château Léoville Barton 2018

CSPC# 801717	750mlx6	14.03% alc./vol.	
CSPC# 742349	750mlx12	14.03% alc./vol.	SOLD OUT
CSPC# 811820	750mlx6	14.03% alc./vol.	SOLD OUT

Grape Variety	82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot
Appellation	Saint Julien
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.leoville-barton.com/en/
General Info	<p>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.</p>
Winemaker	Anthony Barton - owner/winemaker; Melanie Barton - Assistant winemaker
Vintage	<p>2018 Saint Julien should win an award for the most consistent appellation of the 2018 Bordeaux vintage. From top to bottom, every wine was very good. The 2018 vintage was perfect for St. Julien once the rains ceased by late June. The winter and spring drenched the region. But picture-perfect weather, warm sunny and dry hit the region in July and with a few minor showers, which helped promote maturity to the vines, beautiful conditions continued through to the harvest, allowing growers to pick, when they found their desired level of maturity. Being a small appellation, at only 910 hectares, much of the gravel terroir was able to work its magic, alleviating the excess water while retaining the right amount of moisture to nourish the vines when needed during the dry summer months. The warm, sunny, days, dry conditions and cool nights were perfect for the region, allowing much of the harvest to reach the desired level of maturity that each estate wanted to achieve.</p>
Harvest	From 21 to 24 September (Merlot) then from 29 September to 6 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. 60% new oak barrels. Aged 16-18 months in French oak barrels in a cellar kept at a constant temperature of 15°C.
Tasting Notes	The nose is intense, expressive on minty, spicy, and black fruit aromas. On the palate, the flavors of blueberry and blackcurrant are enhanced, and the hint of white pepper will surprise you. The tannins are delicate and velvety. The wine is straight, well-balanced and its power is exponential



Serve with	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.
Production	11,600 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2026-2040
Scores/Awards	<p>97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021</p> <p>96-99 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2021</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>97 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2021</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019</p> <p>18 points - Tom Parker, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>17.5 points - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2020</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p>95-97+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p>18+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p>98 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2019</p> <p>95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>97 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“Cassis, crushed plum and steeped blackberry fruit is all packed into this wine, along with tar, violet and roasted apple wood notes, plus a terrific tug of warm earth. Shows lots of energy in reserve, with a tightly knit finish pulling everything together. Cellaring is required. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2026 through 2040. 11,600 cases made.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“A stunner, showing a great degree of purity, with long flavors of cassis, plum and blackberry preserves, seamlessly integrated with the graphite structure. A very vivid, defined, precise wine. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. 11,600 cases made. Score range: 96 – 99”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2018 Léoville Barton needs a little swirling to coax out delicate notions of fresh blackberries, mulberries, and cassis, plus touches of pencil shavings, clove oil, charcoal, and black truffles. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers a great intensity of earth and mineral-laced black fruit flavors, supported by firm, ripe, grainy tannins, and seamless freshness, finishing on a lingering ferrous note. Give it a good 4-5 years in bottle and drink it over the next 20 years+”</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2018 Léoville Barton simply sings of crushed black cherries, blackcurrant cordial and wild blueberries with touches of violets, dark chocolate, allspice, and cardamom with a waft of stewed tea. Full-bodied, rich, and decadently fruited in the mouth, the generous fruit has a solid structure of firm, ripe, grainy tannins, and oodles of freshness, finishing long and layered.”</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Sweet berries, blackberries, raspberries, and violets follow through to a full body with extremely creamy, polished tannins that caress the palate. It’s really long and polished. Gorgeous finish. Drink after 2025.”</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

“This is very structured and powerful with lots of blueberry and blackcurrant characters. Full-bodied and muscular with so much intensity and density. Extremely muscular. Yet, it’s agile.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews *“In this wine, fine and rich tannins partner with powerful black-plum and black-currant fruits. Densely textured while also having swathes of rich fruits, the wine shows both a firm side and one that offers total deliciousness. As it matures, both these aspects will come together. Drink from 2027. *Cellar Selection*”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“This wine is well integrated in fine tannins and beautiful black fruits that show great promise for aging. It has a timeless, classic character that has all the freshness of the vintage, as well as the elegant personality of the fine terroir. Barrel Sample: 95-97.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot. 60% new oak. Barrel sample. Black core, purple rim. Sweet intense nose of elderberry and small, wild berries. Extremely wholesome, dense, firm but with lots of fruit at the core. Oak well in check and the tannins finer than many, dry and layered but harmonious. For the long term. Dry and almost chalky on the finish. (JH)”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot. Deep ruby colour. Dark and brooding on the nose, with savoury spices and earthy blackcurrant fruit. Superb depth of dark cassis fruit and brilliant retained freshness of acidity. For now, the oak is a little obvious but that is no worry, there is such intensity and such a bold tannic structure that this is best left in the cellar longer than most. Robust, grippy tannins amply frame the fruit and add to the sense of gravitas here. This is a wine that takes the ripe concentration of the vintage and wraps it in house style – freshness and structure. Excellent. (TP)”
- TP, JancisRobinson.com

“Well-polished blackcurrant, cassis and bilberry, everything pretty silky and firm. Not fully showing its generosity at this point but no question that it is going to get there soon. Clear charcoal, graphite and woodsmoke as it opens up. A ton of life ahead, and an appealing sense of mint freshness. Lives up to its en primeur promise - this is Léoville Barton at its most confident. Drinking Window 2026 – 2040.”
- JA, Decanter.com

“With a dark, inky, purple accented hue, the perfume pops with all its ripe, blackberry and currants, accompanied by cigar box, forest floor, herbs, cedar, and cigar wrapper notes. Full-bodied, concentrated, powerful, yet refined, the finish is deep, long, and intense. Wait at least a decade before pulling a cork. It is going to be difficult to pick the best vintage of Leoville Barton from the 2009, 2010, 2015, 2016 and 2018 but it is going to be fun tasting them together over the next several decades. The wine blends 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18%.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep in color, the aromatic quality reminds me of a basket filled with just picked black currants along with cigar wrapper, tobacco, herbs, and cedar. Full-bodied, dense, concentrated and long, the wine straddles a wonderful place between firmness, classical austerity, freshness, and ripe fruits. You will need to offer this wine over a decade of age before pulling a cork. It is going to be difficult to pick the best vintage of Leoville Barton from the 2009, 2010, 2015, 2016 and 2018 but it is going to be fun tasting them together over the next several decades. Blending 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot, the wine reached 14.03.% alcohol and is aging in 60% new, French oak barrels.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Deep in colour, with a dense and brooding nose of incense, truffles and ripe blackcurrant. The palate is concentrated and intense, both in the powerful black fruit at the core and the polished but chalky, chewy tannic structure. Layers of cedar, vanilla and toast add to the complexity, bringing sweet and savoury and integrating into the fruit. The finish is pure and enduring, with all parts in perfect harmony. One to lay down, but this will greatly reward patience.”

- Farr Vintners

“The 2018 Léoville Barton has a classy bouquet, a little timid at first, that just requires a few swirls to unleash blackberry and blueberry fruit and hints of crushed violet and desiccated orange peel. It blossoms wonderfully in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins, wonderful depth, and balance, and quite citric toward the finish, delivering plenty of energy. An excellent Léoville Barton whose sheer drinkability will please many, though I would afford it 4–6 years in bottle. Drink 2024-2045.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 Léoville Barton was picked from 21 September until 6 October and then matured in 60% new oak. It has a ripe and generous bouquet with blackcurrants, blueberry, crushed violets that might cheekily be described as Langoa-plus. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins and a fine bead of acidity. This has a firm grip, one of the most structured Léoville-Barton’s that I have encountered with a slightly lactic finish. Where this succeeds is in the alcohol that is kept under control (14.03%) so that there is no warmth and delineation is upheld throughout. Superb.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 Léoville-Barton is a gorgeous, exotic wine. Crème de cassis, lavender, menthol, licorice, and cloves race out of the glass. The 2018 marries the natural opulence of the year with a pretty classic sense of structure, making for one of the more compelling wines of the year. I would give this a good decade in the cellar. There is much to look forward to. I especially admire the energy and poise here.”

- AG, Vinous

“This estate has been on fire in recent vintages, and the 2018 Château Léoville Barton is up there with the best of them. Based on 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot that was brought up in 60% new French oak, this classic, flawlessly balanced, straight-up awesome Saint-Julien has loads of cassis and mulberry fruits as well as notes of freshly sharpened pencils, leafy tobacco, chocolate, and earth. Rich, medium to full-bodied, and concentrated on the palate, it has building tannins and healthy acidity, yet the fruit is pure, perfectly ripe, and wonderfully integrated with all the wine's components. As is normal with this cuvée, it closes down with extended air and is going to take a solid 8-10 years of bottle age to reach the early stages of maturity. It's going to evolve for 30-40 years in cold cellars.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“I loved the 2018 Léoville-Barton. It’s a classic, structured, backward wine based on 82% Cabernet Sauvignon and 18% Merlot that’s still resting in 60% new French oak. While never the most showy or opulent, this team always fashions a fresh, focused, incredibly age-worthy wine, and the 2018 follows suit, revealing a vivid purple color, notes of crème de cassis, crushed violets, salty minerality, and lead pencil shaving-like aromas and flavors. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and incredibly elegant on the palate, it has building tannins, flawless balance, and integrated acidity, all making for a wine that’s going to demand upwards of a decade of bottle age yet keep for 40 years or more. The tannin quality here is exceptional and this is a wine you won’t regret having in the cellar.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“(82 Cabernet Sauvignon, 18 Merlot) | 60% new oak | 14.03% alc. By contrast to the restrained and gentlemanly Langoa this is a flamboyant and expressive wine with a wide span of flavours including bitter cherry and cranberry notes among the deeper, darker tones. Superbly long and with great energy and loveliness this will be a long-lived style which will open incrementally as opposed to firing on all cylinders from the off.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
