

Château Léoville Barton 2019

CSPC# 801717

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot

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.

Winemaker

Anthony Barton - owner/winemaker; Melanie Barton - Assistant winemaker

Vintage

2019, just like 2018, will be remembered for its really contrasting weather. We had a cold, wet spring, and then a dry, hot summer with record breaking sunshine! This was the longest harvest we had ever seen. The berry weight was the lowest of the last 36 years at Lagrange. We took a gamble stopping for a while between the Merlot and the Cabernet, judging the latter's phenolic maturity not in adequacy with its technological maturity. It was important not to rush, tasting the grapes daily as the skins became gradually thinner and aromas were progressively revealed: we harvested the richest grapes in the Domaine's modern history.

Harvest

From 21 to 26 September (Merlot) then from 30 September to 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. 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

Refined nose of black cherry and blackberry, hint of mocha. Powerful and fleshy as well as a velvet, even pure side. Delicate and silky tannins, excellent length.

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

11,850 cases made.

Cellaring

Drink 2029-2069

Scores/Awards

96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022

97 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022

94-96+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020

96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022

95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020



Scores/Awards **97-99 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020
18 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020
16.5+ points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - December 2021
96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020
97 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022
96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022
95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - December 2020
96-98 points - Farr Vintners - May 2020
95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022
94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020
96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022
94-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020
97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022
97-99+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020
94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020
97+ points - Thomas Parker MW - March 2022
96 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020
19 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020

Reviews *"A strapping young wine, offering notes of blackberry paste, plum preserves and black currant coulis that show energy throughout, with plentiful bramble, tar, and licorice root accents. There's a mouthwatering echo of apple wood at the very end, with a flash of violet adding a hint of purity. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2025 through 2042. 11,850 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Like its stablemate Langoa Barton, the 2019 Léoville Barton is a timeless classic, made for patient connoisseurs. Offering up aromas of blackcurrants, plums, pencil shavings and licorice, it's full-bodied, deep, and concentrated, its deep core of fruit framed by a chassis of rich, powdery tannin that makes itself felt on the youthfully firm finish. While it's clearly built for the long haul, its structural seamlessness and mid-palate plenitude mark it out as one of the finest wines from this château in recent times. Could it be a more concentrated modern-day version of Anthony Barton's brilliant 1985?"

This great Médoc second growth has been on a qualitative roll in recent vintages, and the estate's brand new winery and chai, equipped with smaller fermentation vats to permit more precise parcel-by-parcel selection, will surely see Léoville and Langoa Barton hit even greater heights. The 2019 vintage, however, made in the old winery, has turned out superbly, uniting the Barton family's signature Cabernet-driven classicism with all the fleshy, perfumed charm of the vintage. In the vineyards, a steadily increasing percentage is farmed organically, and the old manual methods are perpetuated (tying the vines to their supporting stakes using osier instead of string, removing lateral shoots by hand, etc.). As proprietors of much of the appellation's woodland, the Barton family have always been in the forefront of newly fashionable "agroforestry." And period replanting increasingly aims to adapt grape variety to soil type, the heart of Léoville-Barton being of course Cabernet Sauvignon growing on the superbly situated quaternary gravel soils of Saint-Julien. In the cellar, barrels are largely supplied by Nadalié, Maury and Taransaud, and racking is traditional. A comparatively large percentage of press wine lends backbone and classic grip to the assemblage."

- WK, Wine Advocate

"Sporting a deep garnet-purple color, the 2019 Léoville Barton comes bounding out of the glass with exuberant notes of black raspberries, wild blueberries and crushed red and black currants plus hints of cedar chest, pencil lead, crushed rocks and red roses with a suggestion of Indian spices. The medium-bodied palate is chock-full of ripe, expressive black fruits and a very sophisticated, fine-grained texture, possessing plenty of freshness and finishing with impressive style and poise. While this beauty is just dripping with class, it's that flirtatious peek of perfume and fruitiness that really makes your heart pound. Love it! 2025 – 2055."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Currants, sweet fruit, and fresh flowers on the nose. Medium-to full-bodied with firm, silky tannins that are chewy and powerful. Long and muscular, yet in a toned and polished way. Try after 2026."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews *"A pure, focused red with blackberries and blackcurrants. Very floral, too. Medium-to full-bodied, tight and fine-tanned. Pretty clarity and balance to this. Less muscular than the 2018, but very attractive all the same."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A very fine, rich, and structured wine, this has all the hallmarks of one of the stars of this vintage. Packed with rounded tannins and rich black fruits, the wine is impressively concentrated in layers of blackberry flavors and lifted acidity. Expect this wine to age for many years."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot. Barrel sample. A graceful wine but with plenty of reserve. Great depth and purity of fruit. Refined cedar and cassis nose. Vibrant palate with a juicy quality to the fruit, plentiful tannins and a texture that is silky and smooth. Fresh, long, and persistent. The absolute in harmony. Drink 2030 – 2050."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot. Dark, deep purplish crimson. Briary, high-toned nose. A very long-term proposition! Massive tannins and dry Cabernet fruit. Quite painful at this early stage. 14%. Drink 2033 – 2050."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Medium to full intensity in colour, this is glass-staining ruby and yet another hit from an estate that is making seriously great wine right now. Mint and eucalyptus are clear, tension and grip held through the palate. This has shoulders and swagger to the tannins, pure cassis hit of fruit and some lovely black chocolate and slate overtones along the way. Strays almost to Pauillac in terms of the weight of the tannins, but it's brilliant. Drinking Window 2029 – 2045."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Big rich, powerful wine with pencil lead precision. This is a brilliant wine, I loved it En Primeur, and it is delivering on expectations. It's big, as is Langoa in this vintage, with damson and black cherry fruits, and tons of gourmet notes from brioche to bacon rind to chocolate shavings. The tannins are going to need a good decade to soften, but when it is ready, this is going to be such a fun wine to share with friends."

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Powerful, concentrated, tannic, refined and almost muscular, the wine opens with tobacco leaf, cedar chest, cigar box, lead pencil, herbs, and currants in the aromatics. Full-bodied, long, and intense, with a black and red currant, spice, and leafy, savory finish. This is an age-worthy vintage which is going to demand time in the cellar before it fully begins to soften and offer up all of its layers of nuance and complexities. Drink from 2032-2060."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Dark, almost inky in color, the showy nose, with its cedar, tobacco, herb, blackberry, and black currant perfume grabs your interest. On the palate, the action really kicks in with its rich, full-bodied, tannic, fresh, powerful, yet graceful character. Mouth-filling and long, all those sweet black fruits linger. This is clearly a top vintage for Leoville Barton."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2019 is a blend of 84% Cabernet Sauvignon and 16% Merlot, with ageing to take place in 60% new French oak as normal. Opaque purple colour in the glass. Superb purity on the nose, with refined cassis, cedar, and light accents of nutmeg. The palate follows this precision, with real drive of black fruit that has huge intensity but narrow focus. The tannins are mouthcoating and grippy but are ripe - they will allow this wine to age for many decades. The balance and proportion in this muscular wine are absolutely superb, and leave a harmonious, pure, black-fruited finish with finely integrated dark chocolate and vanilla. A superb Léoville Barton."

- Farr Vintners

Reviews

"The 2019 Léoville Barton has a gorgeous bouquet, very delineated and quite mineral-driven, offering blackberry and briary scents, a whiff of freshly rolled tobacco and a hint of orange rind. The beautifully balanced palate features sappy black fruit and fine acidity, quite gentle at first but developing wonderful poise and weight toward the finish. I adore the way this grows in the glass but retains an appealing spiciness on the aftertaste. Superb. A testament to the late, great Anthony Barton. 13.88% alcohol."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Léoville Barton is a different kettle of fish compared to its sibling Langoa. It has a complex bouquet of blackberry, sous-bois, tobacco, and minerals, much more introverted yet exceedingly complex. The palate is exquisite in terms of balance, laden with intense black fruit laced with orange zest, that citrus element counterbalancing the tannic grip and structure. There is a sense of completeness to this Léoville-Barton, certainly on par with the best vintages in recent years. A formidable yet charming Saint-Julien in the making."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Léoville Barton is so impressive. Rich and heady in the glass, the 2019 offers up a beguiling mix of dark fruit intermingled with scents to tobacco, gravel, pencil shavings, leather, licorice, scorched earth, and cloves. Today, Léoville Barton is decidedly virile, imposing and in need of cellaring. It is also hugely impressive. Léoville Barton is one of the first Bordeaux I tasted, many years ago. It remains a favorite for its combination of quality, personality and fair price, all values the late Anthony Barton championed during his long and distinguished career. Drink 2029 – 2049"

- AG, Vinous

"The 2019 Léoville-Barton is fabulous. In the glass, the 2019 captures all of the natural intensity of the year while remaining so true to its identity; that's always the sign of a great terroir. Graphite, lavender, crème de cassis, licorice, jasmine, and dark spice are some of the many nuances that unfold across this wine. What a gorgeous wine the 2019 is."

- AG, Vinous

"The flagship 2019 Château Léoville Barton is brilliant, showing both the style of the estate as well as the vintage beautifully. It's never the biggest or richest wine, yet it has a classic, vibrant, structured style that ages beautifully. Pure cassis, black currants, scorched earth, new leather, and graphite are just some of its nuances, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a lively spine of acidity, beautiful overall balance, and a great finish. This textbook Léoville Barton demands a decade of bottle age and will keep for 30-40 years."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"The vivid purple, almost blue-hued 2019 Château Léoville Barton is a Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated wine that includes 16% Merlot. It will spend 18 months in a mix of new and used barrels. Classic Barton notes of cassis, scorched earth, burning embers, new leather, and violets emerge from the glass, and this beauty is full-bodied, massively concentrated, and structured on the palate, yet it has a beautiful elegance as well as a plushness in its texture. Nevertheless, it's not for those seeking instant gratification and is going to need 10-15 years of bottle age to hit maturity. It reminds me of the 1990 and is a great, great wine in the making. If you love Léoville Barton, don't miss this wine! 97-99+."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, violet reflections, delicate ocher edge. Ripe heart cherries, black wild berry confit underlaid, a hint of spices and candied orange zest. Complex, full-bodied, extremely sweet, ripe plums, integrated, silky tannins, chocolate touch on the finish, harmonious and round, sweet cherry fruit, mineral and long-lasting, a great food companion for the future."

- Falstaff Magazine

"Saturated purple colour. Intensely focused on pure cassis fruit on the nose, layers of cedar, menthol and pencil shavings come through with air. The palate is both intense and very driven. Mouthcoating, chewy tannins ensure great ageing potential, but dark fruit rushes through this structure, unfurling from a tightly wound core. Smoky spices build through the mid palate, but there is no escaping the density of both fruit and structure. Growing through the finish, this muscular, powerful effort should be left for at least a decade. It is an outstanding effort from the Chateau that will age effortlessly for decades."

- Tom Parker MW
