

# Château Léoville Barton 2021

CSPC# 811820

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	84% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc
<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>Sustainability</b>	Leoville Barton follows eco-friendly agricultural practices like ploughing the vineyard and using natural fertilizers. Since 2012, they have steadily increased the use of sustainable practices and organic farming.
<b>General Info</b>	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.
<b>Winemaker</b>	Anthony Barton - owner/winemaker; Melanie Barton - Assistant winemaker. Technical Director: François Brehan.
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>The mild and rainy winter awakens the vines in a homogeneous way with an early ripening. A few plots of merlot in the lowest part of the hilltops of the estate are impacted by the frost during the month of April. The spring was not sunny but rainy until the end of May. This imposes a slow pace of growth.</p> <p>At the beginning of June, the return of sunlight and the sudden spike in temperatures ensures the smooth flow of the flowering on almost the entire estate. Some merlots, the most sensitive ones, are affected by "coulure".</p> <p>Mid-June, from the fruit set, a capricious weather forecast punctuated by a number of rainy episodes will be installed until the end of the "veraison" at the beginning of August. It will be necessary to wait for the summer to be finally here with 4 weeks of magical weather which could permit us to catch up with the delay of the ripeness. The right ripeness of the plots only arrives the last week of September.</p> <p>At the beginning of October, the cabernet sauvignon expresses at last their full potential, the freshness and tension remind us of historical great vintages.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	The vineyard nestles in the heart of the St Julien terroir among the most beautiful slopes of Garonne gravel, facing the Gironde River. The clayey gravel subsoil allows excellent growing conditions whatever weather the vintage brings. The plowing is traditional, without weeding or herbicide. The grape varieties are Cabernet Sauvignon (74%), Merlot (23%) and Cabernet Franc (3%).
<b>Harvest</b>	Manual harvest. From 27 of September to 7 October
<b>Winemaking</b>	After the de-stemming, the berries are carefully sorted, crushed, and poured in wooden vats thermo-regulated, according to their plots. The alcoholic fermentation lasts from 7 to 10 days and the extraction is always respectful of the juice by adjusting the number of pumping depending on the cuvées and the vintages. The maceration is about 3 weeks then the juice is drawn in barrels, lot by lot. The wine is then aged between 16 and 18 months in French oak barrels of which 60% are brand new, in a cellar maintained at 15 °. The wines are topped up 3 times a week to avoid any contact between the wine and the air, the racking is traditional using the so-called "à l'esquive" method.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The mellowness of Léoville Barton is the greatest highlight of its 2021 vintage. Thanks to its 13.12% alcohol level and the ripe polyphenols, the entire palate is flooded with some freshy tastes. Though this year's aromas are not as complex and varied as those in the previous three vintages, Barton's signature silky structure is still prominent. If you're into the pure aesthetic style, the creamy texture of Léoville Barton 2021 will definitely charm you.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	11,500 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2027-2055
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2024</p> <p><b>94+ points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>93-97 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2022</p> <p><b>17+ points</b> - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>93-96 points</b> - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p><b>18+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"A stride ahead of the pack, with more flesh to its core of black currant and black cherry notes. Backed by singed applewood, cedar and tobacco accents, this shows a subtle twang of iron on the slightly austere finish, but the grain is relatively fine. Best from 2025 through 2036. 11,500 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Léoville Barton has turned out beautifully in bottle, wafting from the glass with notes of cassis and plums mingled with subtle hints of pencil shavings, menthol, and spices. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and impressively concentrated, it's layered and refined, built around lively acids and a chassis of sweet, powdery tannin that will reward some bottle age with greater plenitude. It's a real success."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A terrific success, the 2021 Léoville Barton unwinds in the glass with aromas of blackcurrant, wild berries and plums mingled with hints of pencil shavings, loamy soil, and cigar wrapper. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and seamless, it's concentrated and tensile, with beautifully refined tannins, lively acids and all the class that an elevated percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon growing in deep gravel can provide. It's the first vintage vinified in the Barton family's new winery, and I suspect that contributes to the ultra-refined quality of tannin this year."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Leoville Barton .... harvested from 27 September to 7 October. Deep garnet-purple in color, it needs a fair bit of swirling to shake loose notes of fresh blackberries, mulberries, and cassis, plus touches of garrigue, wild blueberries, violets, and licorice with a touch of wood smoke. Medium-bodied, the palate has a rock-solid structure of firm, grainy tannins, and a lively backbone with loads of crunchy black fruit layers and an</i></p>

**Reviews** *impressive array of savory sparks on the long finish. 2026-2038.”*  
- LPB, Wine Independent

*“A medium-bodied red with redcurrant, crushed-stone, and earth character, following through to fine tannins and a polished finish. Balanced.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Barrel Sample. Loaded with juicy acidity and layers of spice. The wine is packed with fruit that contrasts with the firm tannins that lie in the background giving a polished structure to this age-worthy wine.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Minerally and racy with a density that is often missing in 2021. Layers of fruit and plentiful but refined tannins. Structured and persistent, the quality of the vineyard is appreciable. Fresh and well defined. Good balance. Definite potential. 17+ / 20 points.”*  
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

*“Heady on the nose, perfumed and scented. The palate is alive and playful, delivering high acidity but also focused fruit so it's both lightly framed and fun, but also savoury and serious. Smooth and silky tannins give the gentle frame, letting the strawberry, creamy raspberry and red cherry fruit do the talking. It's unfussy, all the elements to the fore but all well balanced with a charming texture overall and persistence of high-toned red berry fruits with saline sides. Hints of green pepper, black pepper, slate, and pencil lead on the finish. I like this a lot!”*  
- GH, Decanter.com

*“St Julien’s location next to the river Garonne saved it from the worst of the frost, and this is one of the best wines in the appellation. It has energy and plenty of depths of fruit to work through, with powerful spice notes of clove, white pepper, and turmeric, with the fresh acidities in the cassis and bilberry fruit turned into a prop for propelling things forward through the palate. And even if all this wasn’t the case, this is a wine to buy in 2021 in memory of Anthony Barton, long-term owner, and Bordeaux legend, who died in January 2022. 60% new oak. Tasted twice.”*  
- JA, janeanson.com

*“Fresh, vibrant, and energetic, there is a crispness to the red fruits that perfectly balances classy and classic. You also find ample notes of cigar wrapper, cedar, flowers, and savory-edged, red currants in the nose and on the lifted, medium/full-bodied, crisp palate. Drink from 2027-2060.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Garnet in color, the wine shows cedar, tobacco leaf, pepper, forest leaf and currants on the nose. The wine is medium/full-bodied, juicy, fresh, vibrant, spicy, floral, chewy, crunchy, and crisp, with a nice bite of energetic, peppery red fruit in the finish. The yields were 39 hectoliters per hectare. Drink from 2027-2060.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Deep purple colour. Pure blackcurrant fruit on the nose highlights the high percentage of Cabernet in the blend. This follows on the palate, which is sinewy and focused, the black fruit framed by chewy, dense tannins. Layers of cigar box, cedar and cumin add to the overall depth of this wine. Tightly coiled and unerringly fresh despite its dark fruit, this is a vin de garde that will reward patience in the cellar.”*  
- TP, Farr Vintners

*“The 2021 Léoville-Barton marks the first vintage with Cabernet Franc in the blend, which Damien Barton explained was thanks to the smaller vats recently installed in the cuverie. There is a sense of airiness on the nose, very focused and well-defined with blackberry, bilberry, and crushed stone aromas. The palate is medium-bodied and sappy with ripe black fruit and a fine bead of acidity, showing a touch of spice box and cinnamon on the finish. Superb.”*  
- NM, Vinous

## Reviews

*"The 2021 Léoville-Barton was picked from 27 September until 7 October, matured in 60% new oak. The alcohol is 13.12%. It has a clean and pure bouquet with blackberry, bilberry, cedar, and hints of shucked oyster shell: focused and very well delineated, classic in style. The palate has a smooth and cohesive entry, very well-knit with beautifully integrated oak. Crisp acidity with the perfect amount of tension on the classically-styled finish, this Léoville Barton demonstrates the advantages of their brand new cellar (even though the reception was not finished in time!) I cannot see any reason not to own a few bottles of this in your cellar."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2021 Léoville-Barton is a gorgeous, classically built Saint-Julien. Graphite, leather, blue-toned fruit, spice, tobacco, licorice, and lavender are immediately alluring. Medium in body and vibrant, the 2021 exudes finesse from start to finish. It is very much on the restrained side, with all the elements impeccably balanced. I would give this a few years in the cellar. It really blossoms with air, but the best is clearly yet to come."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2021 Léoville-Barton is a wine of notable intensity, but all of that power is directed inward. Tightly coiled and vibrant, the Léoville-Barton is going to need time to be ready, but that is to be expected. There is terrific energy here, if not the volume of the preceding three vintages. That's not a problem."*

- AG, Vinous

*"Dark currants, tobacco, graphite, and an undeniable sense of minerality all define the 2021 Château Léoville Barton, a medium-bodied, concentrated Saint-Julien that has good mid-palate depth, ripe yet polished, integrated tannins, and outstanding length. It's a ripe, textured, impressive 2021 that stays in the fresher, classic style of the vintage. Aged 18 months in 60% new oak, it will be an early-drinking Barton by this cuvée's standards, yet it's still going to have well over two decades of prime drinking."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"I continue to love Château Léoville Barton, and their 2021 doesn't disappoint. (If anything, the fresher style favored here played nicely with the vintage character.) Lots of cassis and darker currants as well as crushed stone, graphite, and floral notes emerge on the nose, and it hits the palate with medium-bodied richness, pure, elegant tannins, no hard edges, and a great finish. It's not going to match the all-time greats here, but it's a seriously good wine in the vintage and I'd be happy with bottles in the cellar."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"This is another beautiful wine from the Barton portfolio, and it is a tribute to the great Cabernet Sauvignon grape. With lovely density despite the low alcohol level and stunning freshness and drive throughout, this is a rare wine with actively fit and toothsome tannins. While the tech sheet says 60% new oak, this carpentry has been sucked up greedily by the Cabernet, making this a thoroughly complete and accurate creation. A fitting tribute to the late Anthony Barton, this is, not surprisingly, the model of sophistication and restraint. 18+"-*

Matthew Jukes

*"Opaque ruby core, purple reflections, subtle brightening on the rim. Inviting dark forest berries and ripe plums on the nose with fine nougat and candied orange zest. Taut, juicy, dark wild berries, already developing with integrated tannins and a long mineral finish. Has very good ageing potential."*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*"The nose is fruity, elegant and reveals just the right amount of concentration/power, delicacy in its power, attention to detail and depth. There are notes of bright wild blackcurrant, boysenberry and more lightly pulpy/crunchy cherry combined with hints of graphite, salinity and a subtle hint of toast, discrete hints of blueberry, star anise, sweet spices. The palate is juicy, precise, elegant and offers pulpiness, aromatic purity, gourmandize, a fine blackness, density, precision, accuracy, and a beautiful mineral backbone. On the palate, this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy blackberry, pulpy raspberry and more slightly morello cherry combined with fine touches of blueberry, star anise, discreet hints of almost roasted red berries, a subtle hint of lily, liquorice, racy gravel, a subtle hint of iodine and pepper. Good length. The tannins are elegant, supple, sapid and offers an aromatic quality. The wine is in the full wooden phase but, despite this, the wood does not dominate but coats the fruit."*

- Vert de Vin

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