

Sarget de Gruaud Larose 2018

CSPC# 896454

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	49% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Saint-Julien
Website	https://www.gruaud-larose.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/sarget-de-gruaud-larose-2018-ang.pdf
Sustainability	Integrated Pest Control (mechanical work, organic fertilisation), Weather Station (phytosanitary protection), Prophylaxis (thinning out the leaves, removal of excess buds and shoots, green harvest). Heightening of the trellis. Manual harvesting, selection on a belt in the vineyard and double sorting at the harvest reception. 100% of the surface is managed according to the principles of Organic and Biodynamic Agriculture.
General Info	Sarget de Gruaud Larose is the second label of the esteemed Gruaud Larose, and certainly one of the best buys in the region. For many years Gruaud-Larose was owned by the négociants Cordier, who also own Château Talbot. It was sold in 1993 to the French conglomerate, Alcastel Alstom, which in turn sold it to the Taillan Group, owners of Chasse-Spleen and Haut-Bages-Libéral, in 1997. The talented <i>Georges Pauli</i> has remained as régisseur and winemaker throughout all these changes.
Winemaker	Œnologue Consultant: Eric Boissenot
Vintage	<p>The winter was very rainy, with temperatures in February and March below the last thirty-year averages. The spring was also rainy but was still in average temperatures.</p> <p>This wet weather continued until the end of June, causing heavy attacks of downy mildew on the vineyard. Fortunately, hot dry weather arrived in July and continued until the harvests which took place in optimal conditions. The abundant aquifers have favored the development of the vine allowing to have perfect conditions throughout the phenological stages. This explains the great wealth of the vintage and its opulence! A great vintage</p>
Vineyards	The large vineyard has 66 different parcels planted to 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, and 3% Petit Verdot with old vines averaging 46 years.
Harvest	Merlot 9/20-9/26, Cabernet Sauvignon 10/1-10/10, Cabernet Franc 9/27-9/28, Petit Verdot 10/6.
Winemaking	<p>20 - 30 days at adapted temperatures Work on the lees in the grape-pomace during the maceration period after fermentation.</p> <p>3 vertical presses Immediate transfer of the press wine into barrels Tasting and selection of three press wines among the barrels.</p> <p>Together with the alcoholic fermentation by co-Inoculation.</p> <p>Aged 14 months in French, fine grain, oak barrels (15% new, the rest 1-2 years old).</p>
Tasting Notes	The 2018 Sarget de Gruaud Larose is pliant, fruity, and easygoing with lovely depth and plenty of near-term appeal. Sweet tobacco, cedar, lavender, and mint add aromatic nuance to a core of blue/purplish berry fruit.
Serve with	Sarget de Gruaud Larose is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Gruaud Larose is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese.
Production	19,276 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink now through 2028
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021</p> <p>88-90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>89 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>84-86 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p>



Scores/Awards **88-90 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019
87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - February 2021
93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - February 2001
92-93 points - Vert de Vin - April 2021
16.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2019
16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

Reviews *"Juicy and energetic, with cassis and dark plum fruit flavors laced with sweet tobacco and violet notes. Nice applewood note frames the racy finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2028. 19,276 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Composed of 49% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc, the deep purple-black colored 2018 Sarget de Gruaud Larose gives up vibrant notions of crushed blueberries, warm plums, and chocolate-covered cherries with hints of mocha, spice cake and hoisin plus a waft of potpourri. Medium to full-bodied with a backbone of finely grained tannins and just enough freshness, the palate delivers bags of juicy fruit, finishing spicy.

Yields suffered slightly at Gruaud Larose in 2018. A part of the vineyard is now biodynamic. As they are only starting with biodynamics, the estate felt the vineyard wasn't prepared for the mildew, so this is where they took the biggest hit. In the end they averaged 32 hectoliters per hectare."

- LPB, Robertparker.com

"A juicy and fresh red with dark berries and hints of chocolate. Medium to full body, firm and juicy tannins and a flavorful finish. Delicious already."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Earthy tannins, opening to show polish and balance between fine tannins and a sweet black cherry character. (Drink between 2023-2034)"

- JA, Decanter.com

"The 2018 Sargent de Gruaud Larose has a light blackcurrant and bilberry scented nose, nicely defined, not intense but pure. The palate is medium-bodied with off-dry tannins, moderate acidity, surprisingly (for the vintage) a little austere towards the finish. I suspect that it will gain a little flesh over the next couple of years."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Sarget de Gruaud Larose is pliant, fruity, and easygoing with lovely depth and plenty of near-term appeal. Sweet tobacco, cedar, lavender, and mint add aromatic nuance to a core of blue/purplish berry fruit in a mid-weight, understated Saint-Julien that will drink well right out of the gate. The Sarget benefits from a generous dollop of Petit Verdot, which confers freshness. The blend is 49% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc."

- AG, Vinous

"Strong ruby, subtle ochre reflections, discreet brightening at the rim. Ripe sweet cherry, some blackberry and cassis, subtle fine oak, and nougat. Juicy, good complexity, pronounced fruit texture, ripe tannins, persistent, mineral finish, has good length and definite ageing potential, already approachable."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is fruity and offers a fine concentration. It reveals notes of juicy cassis, wild blackberry and small notes of wild strawberry associated with small touches of racy minerality, toasted, hints of cardamom, a very fine hint of sweet spices and an imperceptible hint of pepper. The palate is fruity and offers gourmandize, juiciness, fullness, energy as well as an acidulous frame and a pulpy/acidulous fruit. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/pulpy cassis, juicy blackberry and small notes of wild crunchy raspberry associated with touches of violet, lily as well as hints of tonka bean, caramelization, and a hint of vanilla. Tannins are very finely chewy. Very fine hints of Badiane/rose petal on the persistence."

- Vert de Vin
