

Château Barde-Haut 2012

CSPC# 771294

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

Promoted to Grand Cru Classé, in the 2012 classification of Saint-Emilion wine

Website

<http://www.vignoblesgarcin.com/index.php?action=historique&ch=3&lang=en>

General Info

This property was bought by Sylviane Garcin-Cathiard in September 2000, CHATEAU BARDE-HAUT is a 17-hectare estate located at the extreme east of the village of Saint-Emilion. The vineyard forms a natural amphitheater and is particularly well exposed to the south with views over the Dordogne valley.

It is the combination of exceptional soil and the introduction of natural wine producing and winegrowing technologies combining tradition and modernity that have made CHATEAU BARDE-HAUT one of the rising stars of Saint Emilion.

Sylviane Garcin-Cathiard also owns Clos L'Eglise in Pomerol, Château Haut-Bergey and Château Branon in Pessac Léognan.

Vintage

After the very cold and dry winter of 2011–2012, bud break lasted throughout April. The rains of April and May, coupled with mild temperatures, resulted insignificant mineralization and strong vegetative growth of the vines.

Flowering was late (29 May) and drawn out, with a delicate fruit set. The old Merlot plants have at times seen yields reduced due to coulure (shatter, a failure of the fruit to set) or millerandage (shot grapes, incomplete development).

There was settled summer weather from 15 July, with the hottest August since 2003, allowing partial recovery of the growth cycle. From mid-July onwards, 2012 was one of the driest vintages of recent years (along with 2005, 2009 and 2010), resulting in a significant water deficit (120mm lower than the thirty-year average). Ripening in early August was prolonged, with peaks of temperature from July to September and reduced rainfall. The biggest daily temperature difference recorded was 12.9°C, the highest in eight years, favouring a high level of anthocyanins and aromatic intensity. September and October were mild, close to the seasonal norm (27–28°C on 5 October).

Vineyards

The soil is very typical of Saint Emilion being mainly composed of clay which is found on a layer of chalk. Grape varieties 85% Merlot / 15% Cabernet Franc [Bouchet]. The average vine age is 35 years.

Harvest

Hand-picked

Vinification/

Maturation

There has been significant investment in renovating the cellar so that all work is completely done by gravity to ensure that the precious grapes of the Château are well respected. The cellar is equipped with wooden vats, stainless steel tanks and concrete vats of 50 to 70 hl. A strict policy of selection to ensure the quality is undertaken and individual steps including pigeage are all carried out by hand. Malolactic fermentation is done in new French oak barrels specially selected from different coopers for the property. The wine is then aged for 18 months in barrels A Right Bank Bordeaux Grand Cru made with mostly Merlot. A deep red wine, with spicy plum and cherry. Sweet up front but comes back to a nice balanced finish.

Tasting Notes

Production

3,330 cases made.

Cellaring

Drink 2013-2028

92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015

90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013

90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015

90-93 points - Robert M. Parker Jr., Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013

92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015

90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013

87-89 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2013



Scores/Awards **16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015
16.5 points/4 stars - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2013
91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 26, 2013
90-91+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013
89 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)
87 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013
91-92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
16.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
87-89 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"Offers lovely purity and mouthfeel, with notes of velvety plum, boysenberry and cherry preserves gliding easily. Features anise and ganache hints, with light charcoal and tobacco details on the finish. Shows well-integrated grip and should cellar well. Best from 2017 through 2027. 3,330 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This has a bold, spicy lead, with flashes of anise, cocoa and cinnamon giving way to lightly mulled cherry, raspberry and plum fruit. Delivers a velvety feel on the finish, showing good cut. Score range: 90-93"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"An excellent property from the Garcin family, Barde-Haut tends to be an over-achieving estate, with H el ene Garcin and her husband doing a terrific job with their vineyard planted with 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. The 2012 has a dense ruby/purple color, a medium to full-bodied mouthfeel, and outstanding concentration, with slight, yet noticeable tannins in the finish keeping it still firm. This is a beautiful wine to drink over the next 10-12 years."
- RP Jr., Wine Advocate

"The 2012 offers up a beautifully fragrant nose of mocha, coffee beans, black cherries, black currants, spring flowers and forest floor. The complex aromatics are followed by a medium to full-bodied St.-Emilion with beautiful density and purity as well as a touch of toasty oak. Barde-Haut has been an over-achiever since the Garcin-Leveque family acquired it. Bravo! Drink the 2012 over the next 12-15 years. Owned by Helene Garcin-Leveque, this 42-acre estate, planted with 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, is not far from the village of St.-Christophe des Bardes."
- RP Jr., Wine Advocate

"The Barde Haut, 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, the latter fermented in 500-litre Sylvain barrels and then transferred back into 500-litre barrels, has a lifted, rounded, quite sensual bouquet with a lot of fleshy, expressive Merlot fruit. It is modern in style, very pure and generous. The palate is nicely poised with sumptuous red berries, kirsch, a touch of white pepper and a nice grip on the finish that refrains from becoming overpowering. Excellent. Tasted April 2013. "
- NM, Wine Journal

"A dense and polished red for the vintage with dried strawberry, raspberry and chocolate character. Full body, firm tannins and a pretty finish. Needs two or three years to soften slightly but already impressive."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A wine with full body, bright acidity and firm tannins. Very fine. Pretty length. Well done."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Deep ruby-purple. Musky aromas of dark berries, violet, smoke and nutty oak. Fresh and suave on entry, then tougher on the mid-palate, showing as much earthy soil character as black fruits. Finishes with serious, slightly aggressive tannins. Will the fruit outlast the tannins?"
- ST, International Wine Cellar

Reviews *“Deep ruby-purple. Musky aromas of dark berries, violet, smoke and nutty oak. Fresh and suave on entry, then tougher on the mid-palate, showing as much earthy soil character as black fruits. Finishes with serious, slightly aggressive tannins. Will the fruit outlast the tannins?”*

- ID, International Wine Cellar

“Poised and a little more restrained in style. Fresh and balanced. Firm but fine tannins.”

- JL, Decanter.com

“Packed with luscious, sweet, ripe and polished berries, the wine is rich, flashy, fleshy, forward and fun, finishing with licorice-coated black cherries. 91-93 Pts”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep and saturated; ripe and rich with plenty of oak and spicy, plummy fruit; yes there is a coffee bean note and an attractive earthy undertow; very attractive overall [on the nose]; similar tones on the palate; plenty of spicy plum tones with blackcurrants; modern style but with nice Bordeaux freshness. Chocolate on the finish, along with a bit of tannin and a twist of acid. Like this. 90-91+ Tasted blind at Cercle de Rive Droite Sunday April 7, 2013”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“Juicy, easy to enjoy red with soft, round tannins and fairly short finish. In this challenging vintage, getting ripe tannins and modest fruit were achievements enough. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (07-Apr-2013)”

- JCL, asianpalate.com
