

Château Barde-Haut 2015

CSPC# 771294

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Sylviane Garcin-Cathiard also owns Clos L'Eglise in Pomerol, Château Haut-Bergey and Château Branon in Pessac Léognan.</p>
Vintage	<p>The year 2015 appears to be the warmest and sunniest, throughout our country, since the beginning of meteorological statistics. A long heat wave and dry period allowed to achieve excellent flowering conditions until the arrival, in August, of miraculous rains. This rain enabled the vines to maintain the necessary water reserves and to provide requisite nourishment for perfect ripeness. The harvest began in September under a clear blue sky. Thanks to this ideal weather, we were able to wait for optimum ripeness for each grape variety.</p> <p>All the conditions are there to allow 2015 to join the greatest vintages of Bordeaux.</p>
Vineyards	<p>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.</p>
Harvest	<p>Hand-picked. The 2015 Château Barde-Haut was harvested from September 17 until October 1.</p>
Vinification/ Maturation	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>The Château Barde Haut 2015 is a delicious assemblage made up of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. The bouquet is gorgeous, it is beautifully built and shows notes of black cherries and cassis and a very subtle aroma of sea salt. The mouth is very well balanced with fine and slightly sour tannins. The Château Barde Haut is full of excitement and nervousness, giving it a pure and sensual finale. This wine of the Saint-Emilion appellation is long-lasting and gentle.</p>
Production	<p>5,000 cases made.</p>
Cellaring	<p>Drink 2022-2032</p>
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018 91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016 92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 27th, 2018 92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016 95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018 95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016 91 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2016 93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017 94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p>



Scores/Awards **94 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
86-89 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
14 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016
16.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016

Reviews *"A restrained style, with a core of damson plum, raspberry and cassis flavors held in check for now by fine-grained cedar, sanguine and iron hints. There's racy acidity running underneath and a long, focused finish, so cellar this to let the two sides meld fully. Best from 2022 through 2032. 5,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Intense and vibrant, this packs juicy plum, currant and raspberry fruit into the core, while the very racy, energetic structure drives the finish. Score range: 91-94"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2015 Barde-Haut gives up notions of plum preserves, potpourri and baked cherries with underlying Chinese five spice and cigar box hints. Medium to full-bodied, it has a firm backbone of grainy tannins and background freshness supporting the spicy black fruits, finishing on a lingering earthy note."
- LPB., Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Château Barde-Haut was harvested from September 17 until October 1, a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc (the latter figure will increase from 2017 with new plantings.) There is no SO2 used during fermentation, just a little after the malolactic, especially the lots in barrel, the part in tank with almost no SO2. The alcohol level is 14%, which is still less than in the past, with a pH of 3.45 to 3.55. It has a wonderful bouquet, extremely well defined with black cherries, cassis, and a subtle marine influence - one of the best that I have tasted from this estate. The palate is very well balanced with fine tannin, a keen thread of acidity, very good tension and nervosité right to the pure and caressing finish. Think of it as the "elder sister" of Poesia. Long and tender, this will hopefully replicate this strong performance in barrel."
- NM., Wine Advocate

"Aromas of blackberries, blueberries, wet earth and black tea. Full-bodied, dense, and layered with medium, chewy tannins and a flavorful finish. Shows focus and power. Needs three or four years to start coming together."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is very rich and powerful with blackberry, blueberry, mineral and stone. Full body, very fine tannins. Very chalky and intense on the finish. Best ever?"
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The best yet from this estate. More harmony and precision than in the past. Lovely pitch of ripe fruit, freshness, and finely woven tannins. Limestone terroir really comes through. (JL)"
- JL, Decanter.com

"Forward in style, this should allow consumers to pick up on its licorice, black raspberries, plums, espresso and dark chocolate with ease. The finish is lush, opulent and fruity, there is a hint if truffle that is already peaking from its sleep as well."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep, dark ruby in color with notes of flowers, smoke, licorice, black raspberries, plums and just a hint of espresso, this wine is the bejeweled mistress of the house. Rich, round and opulent in texture, the wine feels superb on the palate with a bit of dusty tannin in the finish. 2015 was an early harvest for Barde Haut, taking place September 21 to September 28. The wine was produced from a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc and will be aged in 80% new, French oak barrels for about 20 months before bottling."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“Hélène Garcin and her husband Patrice Lévêque ushered in quite a few changes in 2015. Perhaps the most important development is a decision to harvest earlier than in the past. Additionally, the 2015s were crushed and fermented with no SO2. I found all of the 2015s lacking in depth. Perhaps that will come during aging, but it is impossible to say given that there are no recent precedents for wines made in this style at these properties. For now, this range is underwhelming relative to the qualitative standard of the year in both Pomerol and Saint-Émilion.*
Today, the 2015 Barde-Haut comes across as not fully formed, and I am not sure it will be. The sweet plum, black cherry, menthol, licorice, mocha and spice notes are attractive, but I just don't see the wine's typical depth here.”
- AG, Vinous
