

Château Barde-Haut 2021

CSPC# 771294

750mlx12

13.5% 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.chateaubardehaut.com>

Sustainability

Organic. Sustainable, Biological control, Certified High Environmental Value 3. With respect for the environment, the vineyard is worked according to the principles of sustainable viticulture, with regular ploughing of the soil and manual harvesting. Since 2011, major investments have been made with the acquisition of new cellars and equipment to optimise environmental protection.

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.

Winemaker

Patrice Garcin-Levêque

Vintage

If 2021 was drier than previous years, two intense climatic episodes impacted the vintage. The first one is the April frost which mobilized our teams for 9 nights. The second is linked to the strong episodes of rain in June, with nearly 180 mm of precipitation. The trio August / September / October was accompanied by low rainfall, allowing to harvest in optimal conditions and preserving the qualitative potential of the vintage.

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. The average vine age is 35 years.

Harvest

Hand-picked.

Winemaking

In terms of winemaking, Hélène and Patrice have made some small but significant changes over the years, with a distinct less-is-more approach in terms of maceration/extraction and judicious use of oak, with more of the larger 300-liter barrels being employed. They have also stopped using the optical sorting table, which selected berries based on size. Instead, they have gone back to hand sorting in the vineyard and the winery. No longer looking for uniformity in grapes, now they are looking for some diversity in sizes to offer more complexity

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 80% new French oak barrels.

Tasting Notes

With lower yields and careful selections, 2021 is expressive with fresh fruit notes and a lower concentration of tannins. The ripeness of the fruit on the palate is very forward and welcoming. The wine of Château Barde-Haut offers an admirably balanced dialogue between power and freshness, resulting in a product of rare elegance. A blend of 80% Merlot & 20% Cabernet Franc that is sustainably farmed, hand-picked, and crafted. If you could invent an extraordinary terroir, you might create something like Château Barde-Haut. A south-facing amphitheater, it has a limestone base that is covered with a superb, very robust layer of clay. When the clay is saturated with water, the limestone absorbs the surplus and stores it, making it available again to the vines again in the event of a drought. Château Barde-Haut is a 250-year-old property enthusiastically committed to working to achieve the highest standards in Saint Emilion.

Serve with

Chateau Barde Haut is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Barde Haut is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese.



Production 70 000 bottles.
Cellaring Drink 2025-2045
Scores/Awards **91-93 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022
88-91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022
93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024
92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022
92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024
91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022
92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024
92-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022
90-92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022
92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022
93-95 points - Yves Beck - June 2022

Reviews *"This 17-hectare amphitheater of a vineyard has produced a successful 2021 Barde-Haut, offering up aromas of sweet berries, cherries and plums framed by a creamy patina of new oak. Medium to full-bodied, rich, and layered, with tangy acids and a generous endowment of powdery structuring tannins, it's a blend of more or less 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc (the latter increasingly deriving from massale selections taken at Clos l'Eglise)."*

- WK, Wine Advocate

"The 2021 Barde Haut is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc aged in 50-60% new oak. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it comes bounding out with exuberant notes of black raspberries, fresh boysenberries, and red plums, plus suggestions of lilacs, clove oil, and fallen leaves. Medium-bodied, the palate delivers nice ripe, rounded tannins with a lively line of freshness and plenty of red and black berry flavors, finishing with a peppery lift."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"Brightness and freshness here, with light orange-peel, blackcurrant and earth, Lots of flowers, too. Medium-bodied, refined and very pretty. 80% merlot and 20% cabernet franc"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Quite floral in nature, with additional nuances of cherries, licorice, espresso, black raspberries, and a touch of chocolate that creates the perfume. The palate is medium-bodied, with vibrant red berries, cocoa, crushed rocks, and chalk that add to the complexity and finish. This is going to drink well young yet have the ability to age and evolve for 15 years. The wine blends 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2024-2040."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Licorice, black cherry, espresso, and herbs are on the nose. Medium-bodied, soft, elegant, polished, and fresh, this should drink well young, yet have the ability to age and evolve for 15-20 years. The wine blends 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2024-2040."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2021 Barde Haut has a very composed bouquet with black cherries, blueberry, and touches of melted tar—well-defined and focused. This has retained the elegance than I discerned out of barrel. The palate is medium-bodied with quite a peppery entry, fine acidity, and good balance, showing modest concentration toward the briny finish. It tapers just a little shorter than anticipated but is still a well-crafted, classically styled Saint-Émilion."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2021 Barde-Haut is a bit bashful on the nose and needed coaxing from the glass, eventually revealing brambly red fruit mingled with loamy scents and light marine aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with crunchy red fruit and gentle grip. A much more linear and vertical Barde-Haut compared to recent vintages, ending in a lightly spiced finish. Give this very commendable Saint-Émilion three or four years in bottle."

- NM, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2021 Barde-Haut is laced with black cherry, plum, mocha, spice, new leather, and tobacco. This soft, juicy Saint-Emilion is supple, full of near- and medium-term appeal. It's a fine effort from Helene Garcin and Patrice Leveque in this challenging vintage.”*

- AG, Vinous

“The 2021 Barde-Haut is a relatively soft wine for this site in Saint-Émilion's Saint Christophe des Bardes sector, but there's good depth and plenty of resonance. Rose petal, lavender, and spice meld into a core of red/purplish berry fruit. All the elements are very nicely balanced. Specifically, the oak imprint is not as present as in previous years, and that's a good thing. The 2021 is beautifully done from start to finish. It's a terrific effort from H  l  ne Garcin and Patrice L  v  que.”

- AG, Vinous

“One of the more structured wines from this talented family, the 2021 Ch  teau Barde-Haut offers a beautiful perfume of both red and blue fruits as well as lots of minerality, chocolate, and graphite. It has medium-bodied richness, some chalky tannins, terrific balance, and a great finish. Based on 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, brought up in 50% new French oak, it's unquestionably going to be an outstanding Saint-Emilion that will have 15 years of prime drinking.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Lots of finesse and freshness in this bouquet with nuances of black berries, peony, and licorice. This Barde-Haut has character, dense and silky tannins and, above all, a beautiful tension. A sapid, salivating, tight and delicious wine!”

- Yves Beck
