

Château Larcis-Ducasse 2014

CSPC# 771456

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

First Growth B. Premier Grand Cru Classe B.

Website

<http://www.larcis-ducasse.com/en/saint-emilion/actualites/#>

General Info

Chateau Larcis Ducasse had its birth during the days of the ancient Romans. The modern era for Larcis Ducasse begins in 1893, when Henri Raba bought the St. Emilion vineyard. After Henri Raba passed away in 1925, his wife and son Andre Raba continued managing Larcis Ducasse. Andre died during World War 2. His niece, Helene Gratiot Alphandery, inherited the property in 1941. She managed Larcis Ducasse until 1990. Her son, Jacques-Olivier Gratiot took control of the property after she passed away and he remains in charge today.

Larcis Ducasse remains the property of the Gratiot Alphandery family. Prior to 2003, it had been years since the wines of Larcis Ducasse were prized by Bordeaux wine lovers. The wine had fallen out of favor. That changed in 2002 when they hired the team of well-known St. Emilion consultants, Nicolas Thienpont and Stephane Deroncourt to turn things around and manage the estate. One of the first improvements at the property suggested by Nicolas Thienpont and Stephane Deroncourt was to create a new drainage system. The next step was to change harvesting practices. Prior to 2002, the grapes were often picked 2 early and over a short duration of 2 to 3 days. Now, the harvest takes place when the fruit is ripe and the picking can take as long as 2 to 3 weeks to complete.

Harvest

Merlot vines picked on October 1st, 4th, 7th, 8th, 10th and 14th.

Cabernets picked on October 8th, 10th and 14th

Vineyards

The 10.85 hectare St. Emilion vineyard of Larcis Ducasse is located just around the bend in the road from Chateau Pavie . In fact, their vines abut each other. The terroir of Chateau Larcis Ducasse is a mixture of soils with vines on the plateau and the slopes with a south facing exposure. At the higher elevations on the plateau, the terroir is limestone and clay soil. As you travel further down the slopes the terroir is a blend of chalky limestone, marl, sand and clay soil. The vineyard is planted to 78% Merlot and 22% Cabernet Franc . This shows a change in the vineyard, as more Cabernet Franc has been added to the plantings since 2003. On average the vines are 35 years of age. While the older plantings were done at a vine density of 6,600 vines per hectare, as the vineyard continues to be slowly replanted, the vine density is increasing. The new plantings are being done at 7,500 vines per hectare. They are also using budwood obtained through selection massale. The yields are kept low at Larcis Ducasse.

**Vinification/
Maturation**

To produce the wine of Chateau Larcis Ducasse, the grapes are whole berry fermented. The fruit is transported by gravity flow into traditional, cement tanks for fermentation. Cuvaion takes between 25-28 days. There are no pump overs. Pigeages are conducted during fermentation. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. The wine of Chateau Larcis Ducasse is aged in 75 % new, 25 % 1 year old, French oak barrels for an average of 20 months.

Tasting Notes

The nose is powerful and elegant. It reveals notes of strawberry tart, blackberry and more lightly raspberry associated with plum, blackcurrant, flower (violet, iris) and a touch of licorice. The palate is harmonious, silky, racy and offers a smooth creaminess. On the palate, notes of red fruit, strawberry, blackberry and cherry are associated with a small note of blackcurrant, as well as small blackcurrant buds, flowers, licorice and roasting at the end of the mouth. The tannins are well conducted, numerous and elegant. Good length and persistence.



Serve with	Chateau Larcis Ducasse is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Larcis Ducasse is also good when matched with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta.
Production	2,375 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2040
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015</p> <p>92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015</p> <p>86-88 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015</p> <p>Review only - Richard Henning, JancisRobinson.com - October 2016</p> <p>17.75 (92) points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - June 2015</p> <p>93-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2015</p> <p>88 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015</p> <p>95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017</p> <p>93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015 (score only)</p> <p>93-95 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p>16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This sports some dark fig and boysenberry confiture fruit, laced with a mulling spice hint. Waves of tobacco start to fill in on the back end before the fruit reemerges with a purer edge. A substantial chalky spine pulls everything together. Best from 2022 through 2032. 2,375 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Features cherry, creamed strawberry and red licorice notes that seem almost too easy at first, but then the back-half kicks in, with a chalky spine and extra energy. Pure and long. Score range: 92-95"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2014 Larcis-Ducasse has a lovely bouquet: quite complex compared to its Saint Emilion peers, adorned with rose petal notes complementing the cranberry and wild strawberry fruit, the oak neatly integrated. The palate is medium bodied with a succulent entry, brown spices and leather fusing with the red berries that segue into an atypically structured and classically styled finish that shows good length. This is an excellent Larcis-Ducasse that should give 20 years of drinking pleasure, possibly more."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The Château Larcis-Ducasse's is a blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc cropped at 37.5 hectoliter per hectare between 1 and 14 October. It has a strangely "distant" nose that is difficult to engage with at first, then a wave of super-ripe crème de cassis and blueberry fruit whose purity cannot be denied. The palate is full-bodied with soft ripe tannins, plush in the mouth with well-judged acidity, a touch of mineralité on the finish. Again, this is a modern style of Saint Emilion delivered with oodles of panache. This will be no more, no less than "delicious"."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The nose is really glorious with strawberry, wet-earth, blackberry and dark-mushroom character. Full body, a solid core of fruit and beautiful tannins. It's polished and velvety."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This has a dark fruit, blueberry with limestone and mineral character. Raisin skin. Full body, firm tannins and a firm and long finish. Tannic and lively."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

Reviews *"86–88. Barrel Sample. Dense and smoky, this wine all about its structure. It doesn't leave much room for any fruit, making it is tough and bitter."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Baked blackcurrant aroma - not burnt or stewed, but with a slight jammy style. Very charming spice character and a supple, accessible structure. Perhaps a little simple in terms of flavour range but renders St-Émilion very faithfully otherwise. (RH)"

- RH, JancisRobinson.com

"85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc. Managed by Nicolas Thienpont. Expressive, dark fruit-cassis aroma and flavour. Powerful but refined tannins matched by abundant fruit. Fresh and poised. Lovely length and precision. Delicious."

- JL, Decanter.com

"Produced from a blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc, this wine has a distinctive, mineral profile with licorice and fresh blackberries rounding out the exquisite perfume. On the palate the wine is round, supple, long and fresh, flaunting a unique, outstanding blackberry and plum character. 93-94 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and saturated colour; bold and glossy; ripe and glossy; creamy fruit with that satin quality; cassis; ripe plums and cherries; some degree of voluptuousness on the nose; black chocolate and spices too; creamy; some oak to integrate; plenty of fruit; texture; lift; substantial and plenty of extract but glossy and voluptuous. Nice chew and saturated. Textured finish. [85% Merlot 15% Cabernet Franc alc14.1]. Tasted 3 April at Château Pavie-Macquin. Drink 2020-2035. 93-95 [Earlier tasting] Deep colour on nose; ripe and satiny nose; little strawberry; sublimated red fruits; depth of fruit on the palate; oak influence but integrated; this is substantial St Emilion; grip and freshness too. Very good effort. Length. Larcis Ducasse is fast becoming a favourite St Emilion of mine in the rich and ripe category. Drink 2020-2030. 5. Tasted UGC 1st April '15. 92-94+"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Balanced and delicious now with simple cherry and plum fruit. Tannins are soft and ripe with supple texture. A sound, juicy red that is quite simple this year with a mid-palate that is quite light."

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2014 Larcis Ducasse is soft, silky and nuanced. Dark cherry, plum, tobacco, mint and spice flesh out effortlessly in a midweight Larcis that will drink well with minimal cellaring. There is gorgeous depth and density in the glass, but the 2014 also appears to be a bit closed following its bottling in May 2016. With time in the glass, the wine's raciness and voluptuousness start to emerge. Even so, I would prefer to cellar the 2014 for at least a few years. (AG)"

- AG, Vinous

"The 2014 Larcis Ducasse is superb. Beautifully layered and exquisite in the glass, the 2014 stands out for its exceptional polish and finesse. Sweet red cherry, red currant, rose petal and cinnamon are all laced together in a highly expressive, silky St.-Emilion built on nuance and precision. Super-finessed, silky tannins contribute to the wine's overall feeling of total sophistication. Over time, the 2014 gains weight and breadth, pointing to a very bright future. There is so much to like here. The blend is 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. "

- AG, Vinous