

# Château Larcis-Ducasse 2016

CSPC# 813918

750mlx12

14.4% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

87% Merlot, 13% 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 Alphantery, 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 Alphantery 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 Derenoncourt to turn things around and manage the estate. One of the first improvements at the property suggested by Nicolas Thienpont and Stephane Derenoncourt 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.

## Winemakers

Nicolas Thienpont and Stephane Derenoncourt

## Vintage

2016 St. Emilion did not get off to a good start. Frankly, the initial part of the growing season started off wet, and cloudy. The massive amount of water in the vineyards and cooler temperatures set things back. Vignerons already knew 2016 Saint Emilion would be a late vintage. Bacchus must love Bordeaux because at the beginning of June, the rain stopped, the sun came out and the flowering took place during one of the few breaks in the rain. At least now, growers had a glimmer of hope. The quantity was going to be there, but would the quality come as well? The official start of summer changed everything. The rains were gone and sunny, warm summer days with the all-important shift to cold, nighttime temperatures arrived. Now, growers needed to decide how much, or even if they should deleaf. The vignerons that were careful not to remove too many leaves, for fear of too much sun made the right choice. Indian summer conditions continued. But as the summer wore on, the extreme dryness of the 2016 Saint Emilion vintage began to have an effect on the vineyards. Young vines shut down or died. The older vines were in danger of shutting down their growth cycle as well, to avoid starvation. But September 13 and September 14 brought about 44mm of rain, the perfect amount of moisture was delivered to the thirsty vines, and at the exact, opportune moment! The continued cold nighttime temperatures kept everything in check and growers were able to wait as long as they wished, for the grapes to achieve full maturity. Another shot of rainfall took place the night of September 30, or the morning of October 1, (depending on your point of view) and it was off to the races! The 2016 St. Emilion harvest conditions could not have been better. Some growers reported 125 days of hang time. Other produces reported spending 4 weeks picking their fruit. And why not as conditions were perfect with warm sunny weather and an extended growing season.

## Harvest

Picked between 12-19 October

## 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



<b>Vineyards</b>	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.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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. Cuvaison 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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Château Larcis Ducasse 2016 presents an expressive nose that exudes aromas of blackberry and cranberry mixed with woody notes due to aging. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied and offers balanced tannins. We can note spicy and peppery flavors that blend perfectly with a beautiful tension.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	4,000 cases produced annually
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2021-2049
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p><b>94-97 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p><b>93 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p><b>16+ points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>88 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017 (score only)</p> <p><b>14 points</b> - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>94-97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Features a lovely profile, with caressing edges but a very focused feel, as cassis, plum reduction and blueberry preserve flavors stream through together, flanked by dark tea and singed apple wood notes. A bolt of chalk emerges steadily through the finish, keeping this well-grounded. This will need some time to unwind fully. Best from 2023 through 2038."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is really flattering, offering crushed raspberry, boysenberry and plum fruit stitched with dried anise, bramble and chalky threads. Long, elegant, spice-infused finish. Score range: 94-97"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

**Reviews** *“Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Larcis Ducasse sashays gracefully out of the glass with beautiful Black Forest cake, red cherry compote, raspberry preserves and blackberry pie scents plus hints of cigar box, Ceylon tea, dried lavender and forest floor. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers gorgeous red and black fruit preserves flavors with a wonderfully plush texture and very long, perfumed finish.”*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“The 2016 Larcis-Ducasse is a blend of 87% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc picked between 12-19 October, matured in 225- and 500-liter barrels. It matured in 50% new oak, which is a lower proportion than you would have found in 2009 or 2010. It has a lively, expressive bouquet with detailed blackberry, briary and cranberry aromas that are neatly embroidered with the new oak, allowing the terroir to show through. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, very well balanced, quite spicy and peppery in the mouth but maintaining satisfying tension from start to finish. This is a very well-crafted Larcis-Ducasse although I hope that during the élevage it will just gain more persistence on the aftertaste. One to watch.”*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*“The aromas here are so spellbinding with shitake mushrooms, wet earth and moss, as well as tree bark and, finally, dark fruit. The palate is incredible as it builds and grows with full body, but always tight and reserved. It shows so much depth and complexity. Please try not to touch this until 2025”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This is very polished and beautiful with ultra-fine tannins and a long, linear finish. It has a density and beauty that seduces you.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This perfumed wine is rich in black fruits bursting with juicy berry flavors and acidity. A dry core promises both good aging potential and great fruitiness. The silky structure is developing well, and the wine should be ready to drink from 2024.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Classified as a Premier Grand Cru Classé, this estate is benefiting from the consultancy of Nicolas Thienpont. The wine is dense, although it has so much fruit that is also feels open and generous. Structured tannins will allow it to age well, so drink after 2029. (RV)”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“The last Merlot was picked after the last Cabernet Franc on this bit of the Côte Pavie. Very floral and sumptuous on the nose. Rich and round and perfumed. Lots of juice and appeal. Interesting! A hint of sweet leather. Grown-up wine.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Very dark crimson. Intense and well-melded nose. Rather marked acidity and chunkiness. Just a little rustic but honest enough. Wait awhile.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“This is ripe and well extracted, tight, firm and a little austere, with a note of bitter dark chocolate. It's fresh on the finish, benefitting from its location on the limestone plateau with deeper clay cover in parts of the vineyard, hence the high 95% level of Merlot. This is complemented by 4.5% Cabernet Franc and 0.5% Cabernet Sauvignon with a yield of 48hl/ha, representing 47% of overall production in 2016.”*  
- JL, Decanter.com

*“Sensuous, concentrated, full bodied and complex, this wine has it all. The ripe, dense, silky, pure fruit has freshness, definition and depth. The tannins are refined, and the lavishly textured endnote leaves you with velvety textured, wall of fruit. It's not often you find an intellectual wine that's also hedonistic.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

**Reviews** *“Perfectly ripe, dark, red fruits drizzled over various rocks and stones, with licorice and flowers all mixed together perfectly, to create the nose. On the palate, there is intensity, weight, character and freshness, that sets up all the sweet, pure fruits quite nicely. Give this at least 12 years of sleep before popping a cork.”*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“This is incredibly rich, sensuous, full bodied and deep. Between the tannins and fruit, I cannot decide which is more polished or has more finesse. With lavish textures, waves of fruit and a velvet mouth feel, this is an outstanding wine with tremendous character. Made from a blend of 87% Merlot, harvested October 12 to October 20 and 13% Cabernet Franc, picked on October 18 and 19, the wine reached 14.4% alcohol with a pH of 3.45”*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“This 10-hectare property is situated close to Pavie on the best south-facing slope in Saint Emilion. In 2002, Nicolas Thienpont and Stéphane Derenoncourt of neighbouring Pavie Macquin, took control of both the vineyard and the winemaking and the wines here of become rather concentrated and inky in style. Around 83% Merlot with the rest Cabernet Franc. This year the blend is 87% Merlot, with 13% Cabernet Franc. A deep, glass-staining colour. The nose is heady and rich - tar, damsons and bonfire all compete for attention. The palate is dense, initially sweet and plummy in character, and then building to powerful, coarse tannins that overwhelm the palate at this stage. Notes of raisins, plum jam and wood smoke carry through to an intense, drying finish.”*  
- Farr Vintners

*“The 2016 Larcis-Ducasse, matured in 50% new oak, has an intense, flamboyant bouquet of black cherry, soy and hoisin aromas that gain intensity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with dense tannin, and quite masculine, having firmed up since en primeur. The finish is precise. This is a sophisticated Larcis Ducasse that may surprise some people with its restraint, yet Nicolas Thienpont and his team have retained the intensity that has become the signature of this Saint-Émilion. Drink 2022-2050”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“The 2016 Larcis Ducasse is absolutely gorgeous. Fresh, vibrant and alluring, with tremendous vibrancy, the 2016 has so much to offer. Expressive savory and blood orange notes add brightness to the red cherry and plum fruit, with beams of firm yet well-integrated tannins that give the wine its shape and energy. In 2016, Larcis brings together undeniable raciness and power in a complete package that is irresistibly beautiful. Give it a few years in bottle for the tannins to soften. (AG)”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The 2016 Larcis Ducasse is a drop-dead gorgeous beauty. Silky, supple and gracious to the core, it possesses exceptional textural finesse and nuance from start to finish. Nothing is out place; instead, in 2016 Larcis impresses with its poise, depth and centeredness. Super-ripe dark cherry, plum, chocolate, spice and lavender infuse the creamy, resonant finish, and all the richness of this south-facing site comes through loud and clear. Quite simply, the 2016 is an exceptional Larcis. Don't miss it! Tasted four times.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“From one of my favorite estates in Bordeaux, the deeply colored 2016 Château Larcis Ducasse is comprised of 87% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc that was brought up in 50% new French oak. It offers a huge bouquet of black, black fruits, smoked herbs, forest floor, graphite, and underbrush that builds beautifully with time in the glass. Deep, rich, opulent and expansive on the palate, with building tannins, it's a rich, layered Saint-Emilion as well as another incredible wine from this estate. Give it a few years if you can. It's capable of keeping for three decades or more.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

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