

Château Laroque 2022

CSPC# 847783

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
Analysis
Sustainability

98% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc.

St. Emilion

Grand Cru Classé

<https://www.chateau-laroque.com/en/wines/>

pH: 3.55

At Chateau Laroque, the vineyard is managed using 100% organic techniques. But they choose not to be certified organic, allowing them to make a wider variety of choices. They are also biodiverse, meaning they are HVE certified.

General Info

Chateau Laroque has a very long track record and history in the Saint Emilion appellation. Chateau Laroque dates back to the 12th century. In fact, a small remnant remains of the original tower built in the 12th century. The estate as we know it today, with its magnificent chateau, was constructed in the 17th century by Marquis de Rochefort-Lavie.

The property remained in the hands of the same family until the depression struck in 1929. Like many families and companies at the time, the owners did not have the funds to maintain the estate and the vineyards. Wine ceased to be produced at Chateau Laroque for several years.

The modern era for Chateau Laroque starts in 1935, when the property was purchased by the Beaumartin family from the descendants of the Marquis de Rochefort-Lavie.

In 1962, the vineyards of Chateau Laroque were completely replanted and the wine making facilities were updated as well. The situation remained about the same for close to 50 years.

By that time, the chateau was in need of repairs, the cellars demanded updating and the vineyards required extensive replanting. Positive changes began taking place starting with the 2015 vintage as you will see. Today, Chateau Laroque is probably better known for the architecturally stunning chateau and its perfectly manicured gardens.

The vines of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon are 40 years old on average and farmed using 100% *organic* techniques. They choose not to be certified organic, simply because they want the freedom to make a wider variety of choices. Château Laroque is also *HVE Certified*, which is a rigorous process granted to vineyards who focus on increasing biodiversity, decreasing the negative environmental impact of their vineyards, and improving water management. The wines at Château Laroque are known for their delicate, mineral-driven nuance. The 2018 vintage was their first entering the *en primeur* or *futures* marketplace, as they were previously distributed exclusively through one firm. At Laguna Cellar, we were one of the first to discover this and leapt at the opportunity to acquire this wine for our customers who were loyal fans of this producer. Given the excellence of their *grand vin*, it's fairly easy to see why

Winemakers
Vintage

David Suire and Nicolas Thienpont

A mild winter advanced early budburst, followed by hot, dry weather, resulting in significant water stress, while limiting the risk of disease. Because most of the vines were planted on hillsides with clay soils, they were able to draw on their water reserves and withstand these extreme conditions. Warm but punctuated by two rainy spells, September was ideal for fine-tuning ripeness until the harvest from 7 to 26 September for the Merlot and 14 to 26 September for the Cabernet Franc.

Vineyards

The 61-hectare vineyard of Chateau Laroque is planted with 87% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon. The terroir is clay with limestone soil. The vineyard is situated northeast of the Saint Emilion village in the commune of St. Christophe des Bardes. Chateau Laroque owns the largest vineyard in St. Emilion. However, only 40 hectares of vines are classified as Grand Cru Classe. The remaining 21 hectares vines are considered to be St. Emilion Grand Cru. Back to those 40 hectares, only 27 hectares of vines are used to



Vineyards	produce their top wine, Chateau Laroque. As you can see, selection is important here, especially since it's such a large vineyard. Their best 27 hectares are located in the deep, clay rich soils close to Chateau Troplong Mondot. They have another outstanding parcel of vines on clay, close to their neighbor, Chateau Rocheyron. The vines are on average 40 years of age. However, they have old vines. 14 hectares of vines are almost 55 years old. The vineyard of Chateau Laroque is planted to a vine density of 6,000 vines per hectare.
Harvest	The 2022 harvest did not start until September 14th and was completed on the 22nd. The 2022 Laroque was picked at 41hL/ha.
Vinification/ Maturation	To produce the wine of Chateau Laroque, the wine is fermented in traditional, temperature controlled, cobalt blue, cement vats that vary in size to help with parcel-by-parcel vinification. The wine is aged in 50%-55% new, French oak barrels for 12 months before bottling.
Tasting Notes	Initially restrained, very deep, with floral notes, noticeable limestone, violets, and grasses. On the palate, the wine begins citrusy and lean, building up and filling the palate, incredibly rich yet not opulent, with crisp fruit, ensnared by the finest tannins, nervy acidity, plenty of freshness, and great elegance, finishing saline. Once again excellent and probably one of the best wines of 2022.
Serve with	Chateau Laroque is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Laroque is also good when matched with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	Approx. 11,000 cases made annually.
Cellaring	Drink 2027 - 2045
Scores/Awards	95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - March 2025 15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2023 97 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2025 97 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - May 2023 97 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - December 2024 97 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2023 95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2025 91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2023 95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2025 93 points - Jean Marc Quarin - April 2023 94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - January 2023 94 points - Alexandre Ma MW - November 2024 17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - August 2023
