

Château Lilian Ladouys Cru Bourgeois 2011

CSPC# 749582

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot

Appellation

Saint-Estephe

Website

<http://www.chateau-lilian-ladouys.com/>

General Info

The Château Lilian Ladouys is located in Saint-Estephe, Pauillac next to Cos d'Estournel and Lafite Rothschild where he fits in well with the Directoire style, its two towers and park. The first edition of the 1850 Ferret Ladouys cites some of the best wines of Saint-Estephe, then the area collapsed until 1989. The Castle was then taken over by Ladouys Christian Thiéblot it completely renovated the castle by putting his entire fortune. Financial difficulties related to the size of the property led Christian Thiéblot to sell the castle Lilian Ladouys. He was a passionate acquired advanced equipment, a romantic who restored the castle and park, he added the name of the castle, the first name of his wife Lilian. The castle is currently owned by the bank Natexis. I pay tribute to Lilian and Christian Thiéblot who have invested so much without the fruit and success to Jean-Pierre Petroff and his daughter who manage and administer the area.

Thanks to them, this Cru Bourgeois has placed among the stars of Saint Estèphe. Other factors are, first responders Georges Pauli (also cellar master of Gruaud-Larose) who holds the reins of the wine he leads a very classical and other, typical of the remarkable Ladouys Lilian, the vines 25 to 45, are located on 90 different plots spread over all the land of Saint-Estephe.

Vineyards

The estate covers vineyards 47 hectares spread in a slightly disparate fashion across the St Estèphe appellation, with more than ninety plots of vines in existence, although largely within sight of some prestigious neighbours such as Cos d'Estournel. About two-thirds of the vineyard is situated on well drained soils rich in coarse gravel, with pebbles up to 8 cm across dominating. The remaining vineyards are, as we might expect for St Estèphe, clay over a limestone bedrock. The varieties planted are 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, representing a very slight increase in Cabernet Sauvignon in recent times, and the vines have an average age of about 40 years.

Harvest

Hand Harvested

Vinification/

Maturation

At harvest time the fruit is sorted in the vineyard and on arrival at the *chai*, before fermentation by indigenous yeasts in temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats, regulated to 31-33°C. The young wine then goes into oak barrels, of which one-third are new with each vintage, where malolactic occurs. The wine will remain here 16-18 months before an egg-white fining, filtration and bottling.

Tasting Notes

Intense crimson. The nose shows fairly pronounced oak and lovely fruit in the background. On the palate, fullness and refined, tightly wound tannins. Closely integrated across the palate. Still austere yet displays good potential."

Production

22,500 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2012-2022

Scores/Awards

#72 - Wine Spectator's Top 100 wines of 2014

90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - February 28, 2014

89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

80 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014

90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2014

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012

90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 28, 2014

93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2014

88-90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012

15 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011

16 points - Decanter.com - April 2012



87 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)

86 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

88-90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 8, 2012

80-82 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 3, 2012

14.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

Reviews

"This is generous and forward for a St.-Estèphe, with plum and kirsch notes lined with hints of blood orange and red licorice. Shows a juicy feel through the finish, balanced by honest grip. A modern rendition that maintains a tug of terroir. Drink now through 2019. 22,500 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Ripe, modern style, with spicy, succulent blueberry, cassis and plum sauce flavors. But there's good typicity too, with a lightly bracing chalky edge defining the finish. Score range: 89-92"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"This property is beginning to make some noise under the ownership of Jacky and Francoise Lorenzetti. A dark ruby color and a firm, earthy, spicy bouquet are followed by a medium-bodied St.-Estephe displaying sharp tannins. Tough-textured and inaccessible, I do not believe there is sufficient fruit to stand up to the wine's structure."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the Cru Bourgeois tasting in London. The Lilian Ladouys has a complex, mineral-driven bouquet with a higher quotient of black fruit compared to its Saint Estephe peers. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannins, although the new oak is a little too conspicuous at the moment and needs another year to fully integrate.

Resolutely more modern in style compared to recent vintages, although the length (for a 2011) is impressive.

Tasted September 2013."

- NM, Wine Journal

"The Lilian Ladouys has a very pretty bouquet with lifted ripe blackberry fruit laced with finely tuned vanillary oak. The palate is also feminine, pretty and pure with supple black fruits and a very composed, focused finish. This is a very well made, delicious Saint Estephe from a rejuvenated estate. Tasted April 2012"

- NM, Wine Journal

"Lots of delicious, ripe fruit with berry, fresh-herb and shaved-chocolate character. Full body, round tannins and a savory finish. Very well done. Better in 2016. Lots of delicious, ripe fruit with berry, fresh-herb and shaved-chocolate character. Full body, round tannins and a savory finish. Very well done. Better in 2016."

- JS, James Suckling.com

"Best Buy While the wood is still very apparent in this wine, it does also have the rich fruit as a balance. The acidity, dark berry fruits and a fine juicy character go with the firm tannins and spicy wood character. Drink from 2017"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"88-90. Barrel sample. A wine with deep tannins and a very dry character, this is big and solid, but maybe lacking fruit."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Particularly dark purplish crimson. There is just a hint of oxidation on the nose. Very light nose. Then sweet and ripe and rather brawny and brutal. Marked, tough tannins. Perhaps the sample is a bit old, but it seems a little over extracted. Harsh almost bitter tannic finish. 2017-2024"

- JR, jancisrobinson.com

" Floral cassis nose, good middle fruit and quite a supple finish. Drink 2014-2018. (16 points) "

- SS, Decanter.com

Reviews *“From an assemblage containing one of the highest concentrations of Merlot in the appellation at 70%. The remainder is made from Cabernet Sauvignon with deep color and a perfume of licorice, coffee and black cherry. This medium-bodied wine has fresh cassis in the finish. 88 - 90 Pts”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep and dark; saturated but vibrant at edge; potentially attractive fruit, some layers and cassis; lots of oak on the palate; very dry wood tannin; lots of acid pucker. Cold sample admittedly but still feels way too extracted and dry. Tasted at Alliance des Crus Bourgeois du Médoc. 3/4/12 80-82? Drink 2016-2020”
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
