

Château Lilian Ladouys Cru Bourgeois 2012

CSPC# 771460

750mlx12

13.1% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot

Appellation

Saint-Estephe

Classification

Cru Bourgeois

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.

Vintage

The winter of 2011-2012 saw a severe lack of rainfall and ended with mild weather with the first buds already on the vines. This mildness did not last long and temperatures were cool in the Bordeaux region from April onwards. It was far too early to be making any predictions, but this changeable spring weather had the effect of slowing down growth and causing an uneven bud break. The start of flowering was late. From mid-July there was a dramatic change in the weather. As the old saying goes, *c'est août qui fait le moût* ("August makes the must")!

August 2012 will be remembered as being the hottest August since 2003, and also as being drier than the summer of 2010. Temperatures were particularly high during the second half of August.

We observed that despite a wet spring, there was a marked shortage of rain during the summer. The water stress during the summer of 2012 was accompanied by a substantial variation between day and night temperatures (around 13° between 15 August and 15 September), without excessively high temperatures when the grapes were ripening.

To some extent this was reminiscent of 2010. These conditions were very favourable for the synthesis of anthocyanins and the preservation of aromatic freshness. They also enabled the vines to do some catching up after the late flowering.

Vineyards

Regular and intensified work of the soil on the high-quality plots, the natural balance of the vines' vigour, and enhanced management of cover crop have enabled Cos d'Estournel's vines to be more resistant to extreme weather conditions due to a more developed root system. Our clay subsoil also played an important role as a "reservoir" of coolness and moisture. Cos d'Estournel's old vines did particularly well this year.

Their deep roots enabled them to flourish without any checks during ripening.

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	This Cru Bourgeois reveals a rich nose with spicy and fruity aromas. The attack is dense and velvety with beautiful oak and a harmonious balance.
Production	15,833 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2015-2025
Scores/Awards	<p>88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015</p> <p>86-89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013</p> <p>85 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015</p> <p>87-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013</p> <p>88-90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013</p> <p>88-89 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013 (score only)</p> <p>92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2015</p> <p>90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 11, 2013</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013 (score only)</p> <p>15.5 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013</p> <p>86 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)</p> <p>87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>88-90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 18, 2013</p> <p>81 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013</p> <p>15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>15 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Fresh, forward plum, blackberry and black cherry fruit bounces along in this red, backed by modest savory and briar notes. A toasted spice edge frames the open-knit finish. Drink now through 2019. 15,833 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Supple and easygoing, with violet and rose petal notes giving way to cherry and plum pit flavors. The dusty tannins hold sway on the finish. Score range: 86-89"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is a solidly made dark ruby/purple wine with a somewhat compact, one-dimensional mouthfeel and personality. It has decent fruit, but lacks real length, or any serious core of interest. Drink it over the next 8-10 years."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Rising in quality after a long period of disappointing wines, the 2012 Lilian Ladouys was cropped at 30 hectoliters per hectare and is composed of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot. It exhibits lots of pure black currant and black cherry fruit intermixed with notes of cedar wood, damp earth and spice box. Medium-bodied with lively, fresh, well-delineated fruit, good depth and intensity, and sweet tannins in the finish, it should drink well for 10-12 years."</i> - RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Tasted as a barrel sample at en primeur. The Lilian Ladouys has a more open-knit, expressive, quite floral bouquet that is missing the substance of the 2011. I want it to give me more! The palate is better with a structured entry with marine-infused black fruit. It is quite firm and rigid with a very Saint Estephe like, rather obdurate finish. Fine. Tasted April 2013."</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"Chewy and tannic with fresh and mineral fruit that gives currant and berry character. Full body, medium finish. Needs to be a little more persistent on the finish to be outstanding."</i> - JS, James Suckling.com</p> <p><i>"Always a structured wine, this vintage selection has dense fruit flavors and a scented, smoky character. It's full of fruit and structured tannin, with ample acidity and excellent cellaring potential. It's a complex wine that will age well; drink after 2018."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p>

- Reviews** *"90–92. Barrel sample. Spicy new wood and the characteristically firm tannins of Saint-Estèphe yield a solid, chunky, powerful wine. With so much black plum, ginger and all-spice character, it's already quite complex and will develop well.*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Quite lively on the nose. Relatively ripe. Floral nose and quite sweet. 45% Merlot. Fragrant and not at all St-Estèphe-like but a soft easy wine. 2018 - 2024."*
- JR, jancisrobinson.com
- " Good dense colour, good cassis fruit and good concentration, quite impressive but a hard finish. "*
- SS, Decanter.com
- "55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 45% Merlot, the wine reached 13.1% alcohol and will be aged in 50% new French oak for between 12-14 months. Smoke, stone, cassis, leaf and pepper scents open to a medium-bodied, fresh black cherry-filled wine with a sweet and tart black raspberry finish. 88-90 Pts "*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Soft, medium bodied red with blackberry fruit. Tannins are a bit rough and astringent in the finish that is moderate length. Two samples were tasted and the 2nd bottle was much fresher and better with juicier fruit. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (06-Apr-2013)"*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
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