
Château Lilian Ladouys Cru Bourgeois 2014

CSPC# 749582

750mlx12

13.68% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety
Appellation**

56% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Saint-Estephe
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

2014 is the warmest year since 1900! This exceptional sunshine allowed us to have an early budbreak and flowering, we were ahead of 15 days. Rainfalls and fresh temperatures between May and August lost the time gained and the veraison spread over August. In September and October, we had a real Indian Summer, the sunshine was worthy of an August weather. So, we could get a perfect ripeness and an optimal concentration thanks to these hot and sunny days.

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 15 months before an egg-white fining, filtration and bottling.

Tasting Notes

This Lilian Ladouys 2014 has a beautiful and intense purple color. The bouquet is very open, dominated by the Merlots from gravels on bedrock clay-limestone soils, exhibits notes of small red fruits and orange peels. After aeration, the wine is on the rise and reveals flavors of cedar and gunflint aromas. The palate is expressive, it has a lovely attack extended by a chewy structure. The finish has some powdered tannins with a lot of mocha and toasted almonds flavors. 2014 is probably the best vintage made since the purchase done by Jacky and Françoise Lorenzetti.

Production

18,335 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2018-2026



Scores/Awards **90 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017
87-90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015
90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - March 2017
90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #227 - October 2016
90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015
93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017
91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2015
92 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017
87-89 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 2015
16 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2015
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 25, 2017
89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
85-87 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2015
89 points - Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants - April 2015
91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015
88-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
16 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

Reviews *"Juicy, with good briary energy to the core of crushed plum and black currant fruit. Bay and tobacco notes fill in on the finish, adding range, though the fruit holds the upper hand easily. Best from 2018 through 2026. 18,335 cases made.*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"A bright, high-pitched style, with bitter cherry, Campari and pomegranate fruit, followed by an iron hint and a floral finish. Shows good purity but needs to fill in a bit. Score range: 87-90"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2014 Lilian Ladouys 2014 has a crisp, masculine, tightly wound bouquet with blackberry, briary and cedar emerging with aeration. There is clearly prudent use of oak here, complementing rather than dominating the wine. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp tannin, a pleasant sous-Bois note underpinning the layers of cedary black fruit and a touch of spiciness on the finish. This comes highly recommended plus great value. Tasted February 2017."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2014 Lilian Ladouys has an upfront blackberry and blueberry-scented bouquet, quite showy compared to its peers. All the same, it seems very pure with some luscious blackberry and bilberry scents neatly entwined with the oak. The palate is medium bodied with firm tannin and it is a little rigid at the moment, yet it offers commendable depth and grip. Afford this 3-4 years in bottle as it feels "uptight" at the moment, but there is certainly focus and class in situ. Tasted September 2016."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The Château Lilian-Ladouys 2014 is a blend of 55% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot cropped at 44hl/ha. Aged in 30% new oak from several cooperages, it veers towards fleshy red berry fruit on the nose with hints of dried herbs and sous-bois lending personality, something to talk about. The palate is medium bodied with tobacco infused black fruit, masculine in style with good backbone and impressive precision on the finish. This Saint Estèphe cru has seen a rapid improvement in recent years and this is another fine wine to add to their roster. I expect the bottle sample to land at the upper end of the band and continue the upswing in fortunes since its acquisition by Jacky Lorenzetti."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"Fantastic aromas of blueberries, orange peel and flowers. Full-bodied, fruity — yet silky and focused with a beautiful center palate of fruit and ripe tannins. Remains fresh and gorgeous. Best ever."

- JS, James Suckling.com

"This is a very serious and structured wine from here. Best ever? Full, chewy and structured. Plenty of fruit. Chewy."

- JS, James Suckling.com

- Reviews** *“Under the ownership of Jacky Lorenzetti, president of one of France's top rugby clubs, this estate is now performing impressively. The wine is finely structured with dark tannins and tight acidity and a hint of minerality. It is Merlot dominated, although it is the 40% Cabernet Sauvignon that brings out the black-currant fruitiness. Drink from 2022.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “87–89. Barrel Sample. This wine is so full of tannins and acidity that you wonder where the fruit has gone. It is seriously tough and extracted.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “ Good rich cassis fruit, broad yet balanced, with good depth.”*
- SS, Decanter.com
- “Licorice, black raspberries, tobacco, smoky cherries, spice and cedar characteristics come out in the medium/full bodied, dusty textured finish. “*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Fresh, sweet but sassy black raspberries and cherries, licorice, espresso and fertile soil, this wine finishes with soft but dusty tannins. 89-91 Pts. “*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Deep colour; black fruits; some wet rock; tar; cake spices; textured almost verging towards the thick; gutsy with some tannic clout; chewy finish. Drink 2022-2028. Tasted at Cru Bourgeois event at d’Arsac, 2 April 2015. 85-87”*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “2% Petit Verdot adds a nice element to this ample, full and impressive wine. There is a touch of chewy intensity to the deep fruit - but ripeness is spot-on, broad but balance is there too. Nicely done with a touch of modernity. Another stylish St Estephe! Will be a good one for the cellar and mid-term drinking.”*
- Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants
- “Juicy and ripe with crunchy red berries and cassis. This wine is joyful and bright with wonderful vibrancy and flavors. A successful vintage for Lilian Ladouys. A great value wine at less than 15 euros per bottle”*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- “Lillian Ladouys is soft, plump and juicy, with lovely immediacy in its fruit and terrific overall balance. Dark red cherry, plum and spice notes flesh out in the glass, but it is the wine's textured, layered personality that is most appealing. The 2014 will drink well early and should be a terrific value as well. There is a lot to like. The blend is 55% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot. This is a terrific effort from Lilian Ladouys and the team headed Technical Director Vincent Bache-Gabrielsen and Consulting Winemaker Eric Boissenot.”*
- AG, Vinous
-