

Château Lilian Ladouys 2018

CSPC# 749582

750mlx12

14.41% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety
Appellation**

59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot
Saint-Estèphe

Website

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

General Info

The Château Lilian Ladouys is located in Saint-Estèphe, 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-Estèphe, 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. Since Jacky and Françoise Lorenzetti purchased Château Lilian Ladouys 10 years ago, the quality of their wine has tremendously improved. It was even awarded the 2015 Crus Bourgeois' Cup. Parcel reorganization, building of a semi-gravitational vat, precise breeding, tilling of soil, sowing of green manures and grassing are truly paying off and keep revealing each year a bit more of the soil's potential.

Winemaker

Frédéric Godart. Eric Boissenot consults.

Vintage

All the wines show good, dark color, rich, opulent fruits and supple tannins. 2018 Saint Estèphe is relatively forward as well so even the best wines are probably going to start showing well with just a decade of age, while the smaller wines will be enjoyable much younger than that.

The 2018 vintage is the result of a long, wet period, followed by very dry, warm weather that lasted until the harvest. These climatic events and the often-low yields helped build powerful but also very fresh wines.

2018 Saint Estèphe wines can be alcoholic with some hitting 14.5% alcohol, but there was no sensation of heat or jammy qualities. Instead, you have beautiful, supple characteristics with freshness and concentration that comes from low yields in the vineyard.

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

Harvest from September 29 to October 13

**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

**Vinification/
Maturation**

are new with each vintage, where malolactic occurs. The wine will remain here 15 months before an egg-white fining, filtration and bottling. 40% new oak barrels.



Tasting Notes	An intense nose of red fruits blends raspberry, redcurrant and cherry. Notes of peppermint and mint are complemented by the spices brought by Petit Verdot. Full-bodied, the mouth of Château Lilian Ladouys 2018 is racy and noble thanks to its high proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a beautiful amplitude and a length still unknown in this wine. The finish is supported by a succulent note of salted butter caramel, all in delicacy.
Serve with	Pair with bone-in ribeye steak, wild boar, lamb stew
Production	28,300 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink now-2031
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2021</p> <p>90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>94 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2021</p> <p>93-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019</p> <p>16.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - December 2020</p> <p>16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - March 2021</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p>91-94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p>90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021</p> <p>15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This has a nice winey core of steeped red and black currant fruit laced with bay, charcoal, savory and olive notes. The fruit keeps pace through the mineral-edged finish, with a late tug of dark earth. Solid, if just slightly on the rustic side of the stylistic ledger. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2022-2031."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This has a very pretty lilac note out front, followed by fresh plum and black cherry fruit flavors. Juicy in feel, with the minerality buried at the very end. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. 28,300 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"In 2018, the Lorenzetti family purchased two neighbor estates, Château Clauzet and Château Tour de Pez, adding these to the Lilian Ladouys vineyard to almost double its planted area to 77 hectares. These additional vineyards are composed of gravelly soils of the same level as the best blocks of Lilian Ladouys. Soils are a typically Saint-Estèphe mix of sandy-gravel and clay with some limestone deposits. It is planted at 8,500-10,000 vines per hectare, with an average vine age of 35 years in 2018. The wine will see 12 months aging in 35% new and 65% two-year-old barriques. The blend is 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot, and it has 14.41% alcohol. From the lieu-dit Blanquet and with a deep purple-black color, the 2018 Lilian Ladouys gives up wonderfully spicy black fruit preserves notions: plum preserves, crème de cassis and blueberry with hints of exotic spices, menthol and violets. Medium to full-bodied, firm and fine-grained in the mouth, it has layer upon layer of rich, spicy black fruits with a lift to the finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Blackcurrant, bitter-chocolate, dried-lavender and graphite aromas. It's full-bodied with firm, tightly knit tannins. Tight and mineral at the moment. Really well-crafted. Try from 2024."</i> - JS, James Suckling.com</p> <p><i>"Very pretty blueberries and light wet earth with minerals and lavender. Medium to full body and firm tannins. Lots of stone character. This has almost 60 per cent cabernet sauvignon in the blend now (50 per cent more), which gives it real line and length. Racy."</i> - JS, James Suckling.com</p>

Reviews *“Considerable renovation work is beginning to pay off in the quality of this latest vintage from this estate. The wine has depth, concentration, dark-chocolate flavors, rich tannins and equally rich blackberry fruits. With its high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is set for aging and will not be ready before 2025.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel. 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot. Fine and fragrant with blueberry and blackcurrant notes. Finely textured tannins with lovely purity of fruit. Builds on the palate. Firm, long finish. Manages freshness although the alcohol is perceptible. Ageing potential.”

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

“Barrel sample. Black core with purple rim. Lively and open on the nose, a touch floral as well as plenty of black fruit, plus an attractive savoury black-olive-like layer even though the oak is quite evident too. Lots of everything. Really chewy on the palate, compact, dry tannins but they are not overworked. Freshness on the finish though the tannins block the very end. (JH)”

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“A little subdued on the nose, but with real power and direction. Tasted a few times and extremely impressed with the layers of liquorice, black chocolate and cassis, harnessing the power of a St-Estèphe and adding a gourmet twist.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“This was the first estate that Jacky Lorenzetti bought back in 2007, and it has recently been enlarged to 80ha with the addition of vineyards from both Tour de Pez and Clauzet (both high quality names, so not sacrificing quality for expansion). Taking into account the new purchases, Lilian Ladouys is planted as of 2018 to 50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. The colour is rich and red, not as concentrated as some. There's a real bounce and juiciness through the palate, but also a sense of restraint and austerity. It feels ripe but not overripe, and well held together. A relatively gentle, appetising wine with a floral touch, this will be ready to drink relatively soon.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Full-bodied, spicy, smoky and floral with layers of tobacco and black currants. Full-bodied, round, lush and loaded with sweet, juicy red and black fruits, give it time to come around, at least 6 years or so.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Definitely the best vintage of Lilian Ladouys to date. The wine is loaded with licorice, black fruits, smoke, and wet earth. Medium/full-bodied with a round, juicy, lush mouth feel, there is a nice spicy character in the finish due to the increase of Cabernet Sauvignon in the vineyard and the blend.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2018 Lilian Ladouys now comes from double the size of vineyard since they acquired and amalgamated two new estates: Tour de Pez and Clauzet. It has an extrovert bouquet with multi-layered red and black fruit, iris flowers and iodine scents, though it does not possess the delineation of the finest recent vintages. The palate is medium bodied with firm and quite bold tannins. This is a very intense Saint-Estèphe, cohesive and focused, though it needs just a little more finesse on the finish. (NM)”

- NM, Vinous

“A perennial over-achiever, the 2018 Château Lilian Ladouys doesn't disappoint and offers classic notes of black and blue fruits, damp earth, violets, and a touch of minerality. Made from 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and 4% Petit Verdot aging in 35% new French oak, this medium to full-bodied 2018 has beautiful purity, ripe tannins, and a great finish. It's going to be a brilliant value.”

- Jeb Dunnuck