

Château Lilian Ladouys 2020

CSPC# 749582

750mlx12

13.73% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety
Appellation**

50% Merlot, 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc
Saint-Estèphe

**Website
Sustainability**

<https://www.chateau-lilian-ladouys.com/en/wine/chateau-lilian-ladouys-2/>
Converting to Organic since 2020.

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. Since the arrival of the Lorenzetti family in 2008, the estate has benefited from numerous investments and renovations. Drawing lessons from previous years, the wines improved from vintage to vintage. In 2020, Château Lilian Ladouys has been consecrated Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel: a new status rewarding all of the hard work and efforts undertaken over the past 10 years by our passionate team.

**Winemaker
Vintage**

Frédéric Godart. Eric Boissenot consults.

When it came to accommodating the hottest year on record since 1900, we relied on our in-depth knowledge of our soils and the resilience of our vineyards, which are in the process of conversion to organic agriculture. Thanks to significant levels of rainfall in winter and spring, the soils were able to retain sufficient water to counteract the effects of the summer drought. Very early on, we had to intervene in the vineyards, removing leaves to create a favourable microclimate that helped the vines resist the threat of mildew.

In 2018, we made the choice to refocus on our finest Saint-Estèphe terroir, which consists, in essence, of deep clay gravels (80% of our vineyards). That decision really paid off this year, with flowering taking place a week earlier on those gravels compared to the clay-limestone plots.

This early flowering, combined with the summer heat, permitted us to begin harvesting a few days earlier than in 2019, with the aim of preserving the 'al dente' character of the fruit. So, we started picking on 15th September and finished on 30th September 2020. The Merlots distinguish themselves by their remarkable depth. The Cabernet Sauvignon berries we picked were very small and concentrated, meaning that yields were lower than usual.

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 soil 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 15th September and finished on 30th September 2020



Vinification/ Maturation	<p>After intense effort to chill the vats down, to prevent any excess in the vinification process, gentleness was the watchword when it came to making this year's wine. To make sure that the harmony we sought wasn't unbalanced by the exceptional tannic potential of the grapes, our team worked with great precision to keep everything in perfect equilibrium. The Merlots, which are beautifully intense, dominate the blend, just as they did in 2019.</p> <p>At harvest time, the fruit is sorted in the vineyard and on arrival at the <i>chai</i>, 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. 40% new oak barrels.</p>
Tasting Notes	The fragrance of Château Lilian Ladouys 2020 blends fresh blackberries and notes of Burlat cherry; the palate is rounded, powerful and intense, with velvety tannins. The wine has the breadth and generosity to encompass notes of liquorice, orange peel and cocoa.
Serve with	Pair with bone-in ribeye steak, wild boar, lamb stew. Lilian Ladouys is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted braised, and grilled dishes. Lilian Ladouys is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	20,000 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2027-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>90+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>89 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p>92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>90 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"The 2020 Lilian Ladouys offers up aromas of cassis, licorice, and a deft touch of creamy new oak, followed by a medium to full-bodied, rather rich, and broad palate framed by powdery tannins that assert themselves on the finish. It's a touch more structured than the demonstrative 2019 and will require a little patience."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 Lilian Ladouys comes bounding out of the glass with exuberant notes of crushed black cherries, kirsch, and warm cassis, plus hints of cinnamon stick, dusty soil, and wild sage. The medium-bodied palate delivers mouth-filling black berry and earthy layers, supported by ripe, approachable tannins and a racy backbone, finishing on a lingering mineral note. A property to watch—in 2018, the Lorenzetti family purchased two neighboring 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 typical 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 37 years in 2020."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The combination of powerful tannins and equally generous black fruits is a fine harbinger for this wine's development. Big, bold, and juicy with a dense structure, the wine is for long-term aging. Barrel Sample: 93-95."</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"Juicy, well balanced, plenty of personality, with enough juice through the mid palate to balance out the big tannins that are pretty inescapable in any wines of ambition in 2020. The finish closes in sharply, but this is an enjoyable wine from the Lorenzetti-owned Lilian Ladouys (and for me one of the clear leaders of the new Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel category). Barrel Sample: 93."</i></p> <p>- JA, Decanter.com</p>

Reviews *“Fresh espresso, blackberries, flowers, spice box, chocolate and spearmint create the complex nose. On the palate, the wine really shines with its layers of ripe, sweet, fresh, and vibrant cherries and blackberries, creamy tannins, and hint of cocoa in the finish. And as good as this wine is, it sells for a song. Fans of Left Bank Bordeaux should be all over this gem. Drink from 2024-2040.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“I am really liking the spicy quality to the fresh, sweet red fruits, cigar wrapper, cedar and blackberries on the nose. Medium/full-bodied, round, soft and energetic, there is richness along with soft textured tannins, ripe dark red fruits, and a hint of cocoa in the finish.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2020 Lilian Ladouys offers light blackberry, raspberry, and sous-bois scents on the nose, although to my recollection, the previous two vintages demonstrated a little more fruit intensity. The medium-bodied palate offers grainy tannins and fine acidity. Quite peppery, especially toward the finish, with bay leaf and tea leaf notes infusing the black fruit. Classic Saint-Estèphe in style. This should drink well for 12–15 years.”
- NM, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

“The 2020 Lilian Ladouys is deep, fleshy, and super-expressive. This midweight, gracious Saint-Estèphe has so much to offer. Silky tannins and bright aromatics complement a core of bright red fruit in the 2020, a gorgeous wine that will drink well right out of the gate. As always, this Merlot-driven Saint-Estèphe offers quite a bit of immediacy. This is the first vintage in the conversion to organic farming. Warm temperatures caused concentration on the vine, especially for the Cabernet Sauvignon. Yields at the property were 45 hectoliters per hectare as opposed to the normal 52 or so.”
- AG, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

“Seemingly always terrific, the 2020 Chateau Lilian Ladouys shows the class of the vintage and has a medium to full-bodied, concentrated, yet silky, perfectly balanced style with tons to love. Darker fruits, damp earth, truffle, and beautiful spice-driven aromatics define this beauty, and while it's already accessible, I'm sure will evolve gracefully for 10-15 years. Best After 2023.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“This estate continues to deliver the goods, and the 2020 Château Lilian Ladouys is another smoking wine readers will love. Lots of ripe black fruits, tobacco leaf, chocolate, and damp earth give way to a medium to full-bodied, nicely concentrated, textured, beautifully balanced red that will drink well for 20 years or more.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Pure and classic nose showing ripe and inky fruit, small dark berries, some graphite with mild oak, dense palate with a fine polish, ample dark fruit and fine length.”
- AL, Tasted.com
