

Château Langoa Barton 2020

CSPC# 866171

750mlx12

13.92% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

53.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 8.5% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Julien

Classification

3rd Grand Cru Classé

Website

<https://www.langoa-barton.com/>

General Info

The Barton family, the current owners of Chateau Langoa Barton, are able to trace their Bordeaux roots all the way back to 1722. That was the year that Thomas Barton left Ireland and made his way over to Bordeaux. Like many successful owners, Thomas Barton started out as a Bordeaux negociant, or wine merchant.

The first foray into ownership for the Barton family was in St. Estèphe, with Chateau Le Boscq in 1745. The family continued being active in not only buying and managing Bordeaux chateaux in the Medoc, but as successful wine merchants.

They eventually partnered with another powerful Bordeaux family to form a massive Bordeaux wine negociant company, Barton & Guestier. Founded in 1745, the firm of Barton and Guestier is still active in the Bordeaux wine business today.

The next major purchase in the Left Bank for the Barton clan took place in 1821. That was the year they bought their next Saint Julien estate, Pontet-Langlois. Shortly after the sale, they renamed it, Chateau Langoa Barton. In 1929 Ronald Barton inherited the chateau and in 1983 handed the property over to Anthony Barton who still runs the property. Stablemate of Château Léoville-Barton, whose wine is made in the same cellars.

Following the purchase of Langoa Barton, they bought a second, St. Julien estate. Culled from the vineyards of Leoville Las Cases, that estate became Chateau Leoville Barton. Interestingly, because no cellar or wine making facilities came with the purchase, they were forced to make both wines at Langoa Barton.

Winemaker

François Brehant. Consulting oenologist: Eric Boissenot

Vintage

2020 - a year of more than the usual challenges. In a few words, 2020 is a high-quality vintage of less than normal quantity. The mild and wet spring led to early flowering which in turn turned into a hot summer including over fifty days of drought, and a heat spike during the summer. The diminished yields of the year resulted from mildew pressure in the spring and a few hail-producing thunderstorms, and in fact is one of the lowest yield vintages in the last decade. The heat throughout but particularly at the end of the summer led to concentrated fruit. And of course, COVID 19 led to most critics' inability to travel to the various Chateau or en premiere events to taste, most were able to taste from home. Not an ideal circumstance but given the year's weather and the expertise of these top producers, critics are overall excited and pleased with the prospects of the 2020 vintage.

Vineyards

The plots that compose the Château Langoa Barton terroir overlook the river. The splendid slopes of quaternary gravel bring the grapes to full maturity and then they undergo a rigorous selection process before being chosen for the Langoa Barton. The plowing is traditional, without weeding or herbicide. The grape varieties are Cabernet Sauvignon 57%, Merlot 34%, and Cabernet Franc 9%.

Harvest

From 14 to 15 September (Merlot) then from 21 to 28 September.

Vinification

The harvesting is done entirely by hand. After the destemming, the berries are carefully sorted, crushed and poured in wooden vats thermo-regulated, according to their plots. The alcoholic fermentation lasts from 7 to 10 days and the extraction is always respectful of the juice by adjusting the number of pumping depending on the cuvées and the vintages. The maceration is about 3 weeks then the juice is drawn in barrels, lot by lot. The wine is then aged between 16 and 18 months in French oak barrels of which 60% are brand new, in a cellar maintained at 15 °. The wines are topped up 3 times a week to avoid any contact between the wine and the air, the racking is traditional using the so-called "à l'esquive" method.

Tasting Notes

The nectar shows firstly its dense and intense purple color. Then it reveals a dazzling nose of black fruits and black cherry with minty and spicy notes. The palate is powerful, structured and reveals the great precision of the tannins. The suppleness and roundness of the wine stretch the endless tasting.



Serve with	Chateau Langoa Barton is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	6,400 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2028-2036
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p>94 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>93-95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Farr Vintners - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p>95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>92-94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021</p> <p>90-92 points - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021</p> <p>17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“Solidly built, with a bright violet note leading the way, followed by cassis and blackberry flavors that are vivid and defined. Shows apple wood and bramble notes that add a grippy, juicy feel to the finish, while an iron note adds cut and drive. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2026 through 2036. 6,400 cases made.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“The 2020 Langoa Barton has turned out superbly in bottle, offering up generous aromas of black cherries, crème de cassis, licorice and pencil shavings deftly framed by classy new oak. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and fleshy, its concentrated core of ripe but vibrant fruit is framed by sweet, powdery tannins and lively acids. Beautifully balanced, it's somewhat more open out of the gates than the excellent 2019 and will offer an especially broad drinking window.”</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Sporting a deep purple-black color, the 2020 Langoa Barton needs a little swirling to unlock youthfully muted scents of warm cassis, black cherry preserves and boysenberries, plus hints of menthol, graphite, tilled soil, and bouquet garni. The medium-bodied palate is delicately played with impressive freshness delivered by the red berry and herbal sparks within a black-fruit core, with grainy tannins to support, finishing long and invigorating.”</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“This is very linear and structured, with blackcurrant, pine-needle, graphite and cedar aromas and flavors. Intense. Full-bodied, chalky, and intense. Superb. Best of the trilogy. Drink after 2027.”</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>“Very pretty blackberry and blueberry character with blackcurrants and mint. It's medium-to full-bodied with linear, tight tannins that are polished and fine.”</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

Reviews *“One of three properties owned by the Barton family, this has become an estate with a great personality, no longer in the shadow of Léoville-Barton. This latest vintage shows both great structure and layers of black fruits. It has a perfumed style that brings complex ripeness and, obviously, a fine potential.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Full bottle 1,345 g. Cask sample taken 6 April. Healthy deep purplish crimson. High-toned, fully ripe nose that is rather seductive before a glossy, polished-tannin dry finish. Promises well for the future while being relatively charming even now. Not the most concentrated 2020 but everything is in balance. Well done. Sappy, dry finish. Very St-Julien. Some restraint despite the initial seduction. 13.5%. Drink 2028 – 2046.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Not quite as generous as Léoville Barton, replaced with classicism and subdued tannins, as we see the impact of a slightly cooler terroir. Juicy finish, black fruits, plenty of life and lift through the palate. Enjoyable, but closed in with clove spice that is very clear on the finish. Tasted twice. A yield of 34hl/ha. Harvest September 14 to 28. Drinking Window 2027 – 2042.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Restrained and serious, in keeping with the character of the vintage. Lovely silky tannins, unrolls slowly, with plenty of black fruits, mint leaf, and pencil lead, this is delicious, restrained power, building on their success of recent vintages. 34hl/ha yield, harvest September 14 to 28.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“Here you find a powerful, fresh blast of ripe, dark currants, blackberries, mint, cedar, tobacco, herbs, and spice that meld perfectly with the powerful, ripe, long, waves of red fruits. The chewy finish offers more refinement than usual in its lingering fruits and tannins. Clearly, all the work they have been doing at Langoa Barton has paid off, as this is the best vintage of Langoa I have ever tasted! Drink from 2027-2050.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Spicy, sweet, fresh, vibrant aromas of currants, cedar, cigar box, herbs, and spice meld perfectly with the powerful, ripe, long, waves of red fruits. Here you find, bite, and crispness to the fruit, a full-body with grainy tannins needing time to expand and soften. The finish, with its tobacco, red currant, cranberry and spice keeps on going. Give this a decade and it should really start to shine.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“This will be the last vintage produced in the current cellar with a new one close to completion. Deep ruby-purple in the glass. Dark fruited, with cassis and sweet cherries on the nose, laced with nutmeg, vanilla, and cedar. The palate is fleshy and full of the same dark fruit. Despite the ripeness, there is an elegance and balance with dried herbs and savoury spice. The tannins are mouthcoating but fine and ripe. Intense yet harmonious, this long, juicy wine is another excellent performer from Langoa Barton.”

- Farr Vintners

“The 2020 Langoa Barton has quite a plush, violet-tinged bouquet, higher-toned than the Léoville Barton, though without the same unerring complexity. This just wants to go out and have fun. The palate has an irresistible rondeur, velvety smooth with black plum, hints of cassis and a sweet and persistent finish. Joyful.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2020 Langoa Barton has a really gorgeous, very pure bouquet of crushed violets infusing black cherry, blueberry and black plummy scents. The new oak seems a little more pronounced compared to recent vintages and yet it is in sync with the fruit. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannins that disguise the structure underneath, the counterbalancing acidity line keeping everything focused and fresh. This is quite an audacious Langoa, and you know what? It pulls it off.”

- NM, Vinous

Reviews

"The 2020 Langoa-Barton is a total charmer, just as it was from barrel. Succulent red cherry fruit, cedar, sweet pipe tobacco and crushed flowers give this radiant, mid-weight Saint-Julien gorgeous aromatic presence. There's good energy to keep things in balance. I imagine the 2020 will drink well pretty much right out of the gate. It is already so alluring."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2020 Langoa Barton is an absolute delight. It offers the radiance of the year but in the mid-weight, understated style that is such a Langoa signature. Bright red cherry fruit, blood orange, mint, rose petal and cedar give the 2020 a whole range of bright aromas and flavors that bristle with energy. This is such a pretty wine."

- AG, Vinous

"Tasted on multiple occasions, the 2020 Chateau Langoa Barton comes from a mix of different sites in Saint-Julien, which makes it a great representation of the vintage and appellation. The blend is 53.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc. It exhibits a deep ruby/purple hue to go with a beautiful bouquet of red and black cherries, currants, leafy tobacco, and cedar pencil, with a touch of damp earth that emerges with time in the glass. Medium to full-bodied, balanced, and elegant on the palate, it has plenty of mid-palate depth and richness, velvety tannins, and a great finish. This plush, up-front, expansive, wonderfully textured Saint-Julien will benefit from just a few years of bottle age and cruise for two decades. It's the finest example from this chateau I've tasted. Bravo! Best After 2026."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Loads of red and black currants, lead pencil shavings, tobacco, and dried flower notes emerge from the 2020 Château Langoa Barton, a gorgeous looking 2020 offering medium to full-bodied richness, ripe tannins, and a great finish. It has the concentrated, backward vibe of the vintage yet brings remarkable opulence and texture. It's impressive."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deep ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, discreet bright rim. Nuances of cedar, fine cassis, notes of liquorice and nuts lie under dark berry fruit. Medium complexity, fresh black cherries, lively structure, appears slender and fresh, a hint of nougat on the finish. Elegant in its youth, has plenty of ageing potential."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"On the nose it is fruity, elegant with power (in freshness and control), a nice multi-layered aspect as the wine opens up in its glass, intensity, a nice ripe/tangy fruit. Notes of bright strawberry, redcurrant and more lightly boysenberry combined with hints of lily, violet, nutmeg as well as discreet hints of star anise, almost a saline minerality and fine toast/sweet spices. The palate is fruity and offers complexity, freshness, minerality, a nice tangy frame, gourmandize, tension as well as some depth and tight berry. On the palate, notes of pulpy/juicy blackberry, juicy/fresh redcurrant and more slightly fresh/tangy cherry associated with touches of fresh raspberry, racy almost saline minerality as well as fine hints of chocolate and caramelization. The tannins are precise, fresh, elegant, and racy. Good length and persistence."

- Vert de Vin

"Fine intensity and purity, herb infused dark fruit with some new oak toast and coffee notes. Ample and ripe yet with fine polish and good proportions, dense and flavour intense with great length."

- AL, Tasted.com

"(54% CS, 38% M, 8% CF; 34hl/ha, 13.5% ABV; 60% new). Light redcurrant and gravel nose; beautifully balanced, with a nice concentration, fresh in acidity, firm in very fine-grained tannins; dense, dry, red-fruit ripe flavor, even and elegant, with excellent length. Taut but not austere, beautifully cut, aromatic, complex, and very good indeed. Complete, restrained, but classy wine. A ripe red fruit and gravel classic. 2028-40+."

- MS, The World of Fine Wine
