

# Château Leoville Barton 2000

CSPC# 742369

750mlx6

12.5% Alc./Vol.

## Grape Variety

72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc

## Appellation

Saint Julien

## General Info

In 1725, ex-pat Irishman Thomas Barton founded what was to become Barton & Guestier in Bordeaux. It was, however, his grandson, Hugh Barton, who cemented the family's fortunes in Bordeaux. Under Hugh's custodianship, the business thrived. Even while living in exile during the French Revolution, with loyal local partners assisting him, the business flourished. In 1821, he purchased Château Langoa and, in 1826, a portion of the Léoville estate, renaming it Château Léoville-Barton. Hugh's great-great-grandson, Ronald Barton, was the first Barton since Hugh to live in France. From 1924 until 1940, leaving only during World War II, he ensured both properties flourished. He returned in 1945 and, with boundless optimism, managed to restore the estates to their former glory. Ronald Barton inherited the property in 1927. He in turn donated it to his nephew Anthony in 1983. Today the vineyards are jointly owned by Anthony Barton, his daughter Lilian Barton-Sartorius and her children Mélanie and Damien, thus making eight generations of Barton family at Léoville Barton. Traditional methods of wine making are maintained to produce a typical Saint-Julien of elegance and distinction.

## Vineyards

Léoville-Barton's 116 acres (47 ha) of vineyard is located in the central part of the appellation along the Gironde river. The soil composition is mostly gravel with a subsoil of clay. The plantings are 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and 8% Cabernet Franc with the vines averaging 30 years of age

## Harvest

Tuesday, September 28-Friday, October 08, 2010

## Maturation

The wines are fermented in the 35 temperature-controlled stainless-steel vats of varying sizes, then macerated for three to four weeks, before selection is made. The *grand vin* is Château Léoville-Poyferré (20000 cases per annum), which goes into barrel where malolactic fermentation occurs. The 2000 vintage was aged 50% in new French oak barrels for 20 months.

## Tasting Notes

This 2000 Léoville Barton has a sumptuous nose of red fruits, banana, raspberry and sandalwood. A very tannic attack, but with no trace of aggressiveness. Beautiful expression of pulped fruits with a palpable intensity, and yet easy and approachable. Leoville Barton has a long, harmonious finish which you know gives it incredible potential. 2000 Leoville Barton is really a masterpiece!

## Cellaring

Cellar for up to 30+ years. Drink 2008-2040

## Scores/Awards

**97 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003

**95-100 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001

**95+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #189 - June 2010

**96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003

**95-97 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 2002

**96-99 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 2001

**92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2010

**94-96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2004

**97 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2003

**97-98 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011

**96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2003

**94 points** - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2003

**17.5+ points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011

**17 points/4 stars** - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - November 2010

**18.5 points/5 stars** - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010

**Review Only** - Decanter.com - August 2005



**Scores/Awards****Review Only** - Decanter.com - February 2003**Review Only** - Decanter.com - March 2001**92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 20, 2011**92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 5, 2010**96 points** - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - November 2011**94 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2003 (no review)

*"Amazingly rich and silky. Lots of chocolate and blackberry aromas with hints of raspberries. Full-bodied, with silky, round tannins. Great concentration. Long, long finish. This is the biggest, most powerful ever from Léoville Barton. Best after 2012. 20,000 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Fresh and fine. Grape and raspberry aromas. Very full-bodied and broad-shouldered. Really great. The biggest, most powerful ever from Barton and family. Score range: 95-100."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"I found this to be one of the more backward wines of the 2000 vintage and gave it a window of maturity of 2015-2040 when I reviewed it in 2003. In my two recent tastings of it, I changed that window to 2018-2050, which probably says more than the following tasting note could say. This is a behemoth – dense, highly extracted, very tannic, broodingly backward, with a dense purple color and very little evolution since it was bottled 8 years ago. Wonderfully sweet cedar and fruitcake notes are intermixed with hints of creme de cassis, licorice, and earthy forest floor. It is full-bodied and tannic, with everything in place, but like so many wines that come from Leoville Barton, it makes a mockery of many modern-day consumers wanting a wine for immediate gratification. Those who bought it should continue to exercise patience and be proud to own a wonderful classic with five decades of longevity ahead of it."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Absolutely spectacular from bottle, but frightfully closed and backward, with massive power and structure, the saturated purple-colored 2000 Leoville Barton is one of the greatest wines ever made at this estate. The wine has smoky, earthy notes intermixed with graphite, camphor, damp earth, jammy cassis, cedar, and a hint of mushroom. Enormous, even monstrous in the mouth, with tremendous extraction, broodingly backward, dense flavors, and copious tannins, this should prove to be one of the longest-lived wines of the vintage and one of the most compelling Leoville Barton's ever made. However, anyone unable to defer gratification for at least a decade should steer clear of this behemoth. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2040."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Undoubtedly one of the most majestic wines ever made at Leoville-Barton, this behemoth displays even more power and structure than it did last year. A prodigious, saturated purple-colored effort, it boasts layers of concentrated fruit along with notes of graphite, camphor, damp earth, and jammy cassis. Immense, even monstrous in the mouth, it possesses awesome extraction and richness, but the boatload of tannin will keep it from being fully appreciated for at least a decade, possibly longer. It is an authentic vin de garde for patient wine connoisseurs. Amazing vino! Anticipated maturity: 2012-2040."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"One of the vintage's undeniable superstars, Leoville-Barton has produced the finest wine I have ever tasted from this winery. To put this in another perspective, this is a wine I purchase and cellar because of my admiration for the proprietor, Anthony Barton, and the fact that his wine is a classic St.-Julien. The 2000 Leoville-Barton transcends anything made at this property in the last fifty years."*

*An opaque purple color is accompanied by reluctant aromas of cassis, earth, oak, and licorice. The spectacular quality becomes even more evident in the mouth. The wine is enormous, but symmetrical, with thrilling levels of concentration, beautifully integrated acidity, tannin, and wood, and a finish that lasts for nearly a minute. This is a massive, complex effort with uncanny balance for a wine of such size and magnitude. It is one of the wines of the vintage and a modern-day classic! Anticipated maturity: 2008-2040."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

## Reviews

*"Tasted blind at Bordeaux Index's 2000 tasting in London. Ripe blackberry, raspberry, fruitcake and mulberry on the nose, more primal than others 2000s, developing touches of leather and Provençal herbs (white fennel) with time. The palate has a chewy entry, spicy and peppery, very attacking but perhaps a little ostentatious? Spiky, spicy black fruits touches of marjoram and cardamom. Dry and tobacco dominated towards the finish, moderate length. It lacks some focus for the first ten minutes but coalesces and tidies itself up. Drink 2012-2030. Tasted March 2010."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"First tasted April 2001 at the chateau: more powerful than Poyferre. Deep round earthy nose. Palate reminds me of hot buttered burnt toast. Very deep and savory. Very complex. More decadent than Poyferre. Perhaps the best Barton I've tasted. Again, at Farr's 2000 tasting: A fabulous exotic nose with oodles of plum and liquorice. A stunning, almost hedonistic palate that is quite out of character for Leoville-Barton. A huge grip, the tannins coat the inside of the mouth. Lush, plump: a fantastically flamboyant wine. Then November 2004. Well, the nose here had gone AWOL since last tasted in September 2003. But the palate is still exceptional. Full-bodied, rich, earthy black fruits with notes of tobacco. Very well-balanced, very focused and still atypically exotic. If anything, the finish is just a little too ostentatious and showy. But you cannot help deriving great pleasure from this wine. Drink from 2012."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Right from the early days of tasting in spring 2001, this was going to be one of the stars of the vintage. And a star it remains. There is big, ripe fruit, with solid, age worthy tannins. It may not be as powerful as some of the blockbusters of the vintage, but it is certainly more opulent, less classical than Léoville-Barton can sometimes be."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Full medium ruby. Knockout super ripe nose combines black cherry, licorice and exotic spices. Compellingly sweet, lush and complete, with harmonious acids giving the wine lovely vinosity and extending the flavors. Finishes with lush, dusty tannins and superb persistence. A great vintage for Leoville-Barton."*

- ID, International Wine Cellar

*"Deep, almost black red, superb concentration of blackcurrant Cabernet, deep firm fruit with fragrant overtones, very good depth with no excesses of any kind. Drink up to 2025. (18.5 points)"*

- Decanter.com

*"Full, fragrant, expressive, lots of depth and character. Full, broad, ripe fruit, very good style. Still a bit youthful and will mature very well. Drink from 2010. (17 points)"*

- Decanter.com

*"Beautiful, black fruit depth and power. Great depth of fruit, lovely flavour. Drink 2011-13."*

- Decanter.com

*"Lovely hedonistic aromas of sweet mulberry fruit, creamy oak, very pure. Mouth filling, fine, loads of flavour. Very pure, very fine, lovely ripe tannins, delicious. Drink 5-10 years."*

- Decanter.com

*"Huge colour, just a little more intensity than Langoa-Barton, still closed on the nose, yet very densely packed fruit and marvelous elegance, a touch of violets and lift on the palate shows real breed, a quintessential vineyard wine, superb fruit, tannins and length. Very fine and hard to imagine how this can be improved upon. Ready 2010-2040."*

- Decanter.com

*"This young, primary wine expresses an elegant style of Leoville Barton. Blackberry, cassis, earth and tobacco scents open up what seems like an early maturing wine for this chateau. The tannins have more softeners and polish that I usually detect in their wine. Give it another couple of years to develop complexities."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

**Reviews** *“Black fruit, truffles and spice in the perfume. Normally, this is a big, brooding, old school wine that takes decades to shed its ample tannin. 2000 is a refined vintage for this Chateau. The wine is already showing well.”*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“12.5% alcohol. Beautiful lively aromatics, showing elegant, pure cherry and berry fruit. Lovely balance on the fresh palate with taut fruit showing structure and minerality. Still youthful in a classic style. 96/100.”*  
- JG, [Wineanorak.com](http://Wineanorak.com)

---