

Château Léoville Barton 2009

CSPC# 785924

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Julien

Classification

Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

Website

<http://leoville-barton.com/>

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

Wednesday, September 23-Saturday, October 03, 2009

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. Typically, the oak is now 75% new each year.

Tasting Notes

Full colour. Very lovely, concentrated Cabernet fruit. Very classy, full body, very harmonious. Very concentrated, excellent tannins and a very classy finish.

Serve with

Chateau Leoville Barton is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Leoville Barton is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese.

Production

19,165 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2009-2022

Scores/Awards

- 91 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
- 89 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2002
- 88-90 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2000
- 88 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #140 - April 29, 2002
- 88-90 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 22, 2001
- 90-93 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #128- April 20, 2000
- 91 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 30, 2009
- 90-92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - December 31, 1999
- 89 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2002
- 17+ points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - September 2009
- 18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2005



Scores/Awards **16 points** - Farr Vintner - June 2000
16+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2006
17 points - Andrew Jefford, Decanter.com - June 2000 (score only)
92 points - Wine & Spirits Magazine - April 2002 (score only)
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
3 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2003
91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

Reviews *"A powerful nose, with sweet tobacco and sultana, follows through to a full body, featuring ultrafine tannins and a long, long finish, as well as lovely texture. This needs more time. Still tight and structured. —'89/'99 Bordeaux blind retrospective (2009). Best after 2011. 19,165 cases made."*
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Black licorice and roasted coffee aromas. Medium- to full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long finish. Tight wine. Give it time. Solid Barton. Best after 2004. 19,165 cases made."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Plenty of mineral, tar and berry aroma. Medium-bodied, with well-integrated tannins, good fruit and a medium finish. Score range: 88-90"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Dry tannin and a backward, austere, muscular, brooding personality characterize Leoville Barton's 1999. However, it is packed with grip, body, and depth. Give it 5-6 years of cellaring and hope the tannin melts away sufficiently for the fruit to come forward. It should last for two decades, but will it ever be balanced?"
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The vintage's lower acids give the 1999 Leoville-Barton a more forward character than normal. The color is a dense ruby/purple. The wine reveals fine body, a softer, friendlier, mainstream style, in addition to abundant weight and richness. Cedar, cassis, minerals, underbrush, and earth dominate both the aromatics and flavors. I suspect it will firm up after bottling. Anticipated maturity: 2004-2025. Readers seeking classic, muscular, extremely long-lived Bordeaux should always keep this outstanding classified growth in mind. It continues to sell for a price well below its intrinsic value."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Leoville-Barton's wines are consistently well-made, so it is not surprising that their 1999 is a muscular, serious, broodingly rich effort. An opaque ruby/purple color is accompanied by impressive aromas of cedar wood, black fruits, spice box, and loamy soil. Dense, chewy, and built to age, this unflattering yet potentially outstanding, full-bodied Leoville-Barton is one of the most concentrated and age-worthy wines of the vintage. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2022."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the 1999 horizontal at Bordeaux Index. The Leoville-Barton '99 has a well-defined nose, more restrained and extrovert than the Langoa, with notes of blackberry, wild hedgerow/woodland, Chinese tea and a dash of white pepper. Very good definition. The palate is medium-bodied, sturdy tannins, a little pepper again on the entry with very good structure on the mid-palate. Quite foursquare and "correct" with an edgy, off-dry, very "Saint Julien" finish. Very fine – very...English! Drink now-2020. Tasted June 2009."
- NM, Wine Journal

"First tasted at the chateau in February 2002: a superb Barton this year. Deep plummy/blackcurrant nose. Pure. Good structure/tannins. Ripe sweet black cherry fruit. Stylish wine. After 1 yr., wonderful integration and smoothness. Divine. Again, at the MW tasting in November 2003: it had lost a little of its initial promise but still an excellent wine. A perfumed red-berried nose. The oak is still quite pronounced, very sweet and vanillary. The palate is dominated by the Cabernet and does not quite have the depth that I remember. Well-integrated oak. Smooth and seductive - I think this will be earlier drinking than I initially thought but the persistent finish augurs well."
- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews *“Perfumed, brooding aromas of blueberry, blackberry and mint. Cooler, tighter and more austere than the Langoa, with solid density and an almost medicinal aspect. Less obviously sweet today than the Langoa-Barton but has a more serious tannic structure for aging. Rather backward for a '99, and in a tough stage today. (ST)”*
- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Dark, mossy nose. Lots of luscious fruit. Very dense and complete. Bit dusty but great balance. Would not disappoint any claret lover and may gain exciting complexity. 17+/20 points. Drink to 2024. (JR)”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Exceptionally deep blackish crimson. Low-key, but subtle, nose. Very intense. Dry. Glamorous. Convincing tannins.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Consistently brilliant quality in recent years and a reasonable pricing policy makes this one of our bestselling wines. Very good colour, this is serious, with plenty of deep Cabernet Sauvignon cassis fruit. There is nice interplay of power and depth and an enveloping cloak of sweet vanilla oak. As good as the marvelous 1998.”
- Farr Vintners

“This has a good colour, just fading a little bit but this is quite appropriate for the vintage. Obvious advancing maturity on the nose, with a bloody, beefy, iron nail character. Rather severe style on the palate, very precise and perhaps even austere. Hard-edged tannins, reserved, even brutal. There is some decent fruit, but I'm a little concerned as to how this will pan out. Will there be anything of interest left when the tannins have resolved? Nevertheless, there is appeal in parts.”
- CK, The Wine Doctor
