

Château Leoville Barton 2010

CSPC# 742349

750mlx12

13.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 2% 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. 75% new oak each year.

Tasting Notes

Pure cassis on the nose with a classy overlay of oak. On the palate this is classically structured with a black cherry and blackcurrant core, ripe, rounded cedary tannins, freshness and impeccable balance. Intense sweet fruit yet dry and firm. Controlled and refined. This is what great Bordeaux is all about.

Cellaring

Cellar for up to 30+ years. Drink 2021-2051

Scores/Awards

96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013
94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011
96+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013
91-93+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - May 2011
96-98 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011
97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013
97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011
100 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2013
97-99 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011
93-96 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011
17.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011
19 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2012
18-19 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2011
18.5 points/5 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011
94-95 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2011
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 8, 2013
94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 23, 2011
95 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2011 (no review)
96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2011 (no review)
93-96 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011



Reviews

"Takes a modern approach, with dark mocha- and espresso-infused toast leading the way, featuring an extra ganache kicker before dark currant preserves and roasted plum fruit strides in. Dense and extracted through the polished finish, this features a charcoal spine that gives rise to extra blueberry and pastis notes. Should cruise in the cellar. Best from 2018 through 2038."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Dark and winey, with a terrific core of plum and macerated black currant fruit woven with a note of black cherry reduction. Tarry but polished. Grippy but velvety. And plenty long. Score range: 94-97."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"A splendid showing, much stronger from bottle than it was from barrel, the Leoville Barton is one of the spectacular wines of the vintage. Inky purple to the rim, its huge tannin gives this wine real potential for 30-50 years of longevity. It is a classic, powerful Bordeaux made with no compromise. A superstar of the vintage, the wine has notes of pen ink and creme de cassis, good acidity, sweet, subtle oak, and massive extraction and concentration. I thought it was one of the most backward wines of the vintage two years ago, and nothing has changed in the ensuing upbringing of the wine in cask except that the wine now seems even richer, denser and fuller than I previously thought. The beautiful purity, symmetry, and huge finish of nearly a minute make this one of the all-time great classics from Leoville Barton. Anticipated maturity: 2028-2065+."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2010 Leoville Barton was almost impossible to evaluate because of its highly extracted, masculine, muscular style. However, it exhibits a dense purple color along with surprising amounts of oak, excruciatingly painful tannin levels, good acidity and a massive mouthfeel. One of the biggest, most backward wines of the vintage, forget it for a decade and drink it over the following 30+ years. Unfortunately, I have passed the age where it makes sense to buy a wine such as this."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the chateau and twice at the UGC, the Leoville-Barton is a touch more timid than the Langoa at this stage, but it opens up to reveal blackberry, cassis, violets and a touch of cedar, quite Margaux-like in profile. The palate is full-bodied with exquisite purity, insistent grippy tannins, a seamless texture like the Langoa and harmonious towards the long, refined, velvety finish. Gorgeous from head to toe. Drink 2020- Tasted April 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Aromas of pure blackberries and violets follow through to a full body, with super velvety tannins and a delicious balance of sweet fruit, light vanilla and nuts. Really savory and beautiful. Superb wine. I like this better than 2009. Try in 2018."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This is phenomenal, with dark fruits, with cassis and blackberries Full and super silky, with incredible fruit and ripe tannins. It goes on and on. So much depth of fruit here. Barton is on a roll again in this vintage."

- NM, Wine Journal

"A magnificently solid wine, initially severe. At this young stage, the tannins dominate in a wine that also reveals a full fruit salad bowl of black fruits. Very dense, concentrated, this is a wine that's even better than the legendary 2005. The structure tells of its extraordinary aging potential: don't even attempt to drink this for 10 years."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"97-99 A big, solid, wood powered wine. The power is all there, new wood offering an immense structure, while the acidity gives the necessary freshness. A solid wine, very concentrated, with an immensely long future."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Fine concentration, quite understated at the start, then the purity and depth of fruit, classical Leoville Barton firm texture and length becomes plain, a wine that repays keeping."

- SS, Decanter.com

Reviews

“Deep inky-purple. Knockout aromas of smoky plum, chocolate-coated blackcurrant, balsamic vinegar and aromatic herbs. Suave, sweet and fine-grained, with creamy-rich cassis, smoke and sweet spice flavors given definition by firm acidity. Finishes with subtly powerful, building length and fully ripe tannins. This strikes me as the best Leoville Barton in years, a really mesmerizing wine that's already remarkably pliant and accessible but also has a great future ahead of it. Drink from 2018 through 2040.”

- ID, International Wine Cellar

“Black with a purple edge. Less obviously aromatic than the Langoa 2010. Drier but still very ripe and voluptuous. Tea leaves and a savoury note. Real energy. This should be a very long-term player. Tasted blind 8 Apr: Still lots of blue in the colour here. Scented and mineral. Relatively lightweight. Bone dry. A bit austere at the moment. Makes me think that these 2010s need a fair amount of weight to work? Quite long though. This wine may overtake Langoa in the long term but is certainly less expressive at this stage.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“The fruit expression here is unparalleled, with creamed black cherries and blackberries just leaping from the glass, pure and yet ripe and confident. It has all sorts of smoky and creamy nuances to it, reflecting the oak and the ripeness of the vintage, but mostly this is just beautifully expressed fruit. The palate is clean-lined, with great purity and with a fine, elegant raft of tannins and acids beneath the fruit. For this château the fruit takes on something of an exotic character, with spiced cherries and plums, and the overall impression is very exciting. The tannins sit perfectly within the wine and give structure but never detract from what is a very harmonious experience. Long and grippy, still showing that old Barton upright stance. The composition that will see out many decades in the cellar is here. From my Bordeaux 2010 assessment at two years. 19/20 (November 2012).”

- CK, The Wine Doctor

“This wine is dark and glossy, a touch darker and deeper even than the Léoville-Poyferré tasted alongside. It has a very refined and restrained but dark perfume on the nose, giving the wine a sense of appealing but somewhat brooding concentration. Very supple on the palate, where it is composed and elegant, showing a very relaxed and unforced balance of gently creamed fruit, well hidden tannins and fine acidity. There is a supple composition to it, all purity and harmony here, wrapped up in elegance, but with an undeniable substance beneath. An impressively reposed finish, very long, showing ripe and almost silky tannins. Potentially stunning. 18-19/20 (April 2011).”

- CK, The Wine Doctor

“The days when this was truly a value wine are being left behind, but it still offers wonderful pleasure, at a price that remains reasonable compared to some of its neighbours. Rich, pure, vibrant colour. Great whoosh of the holy trinity of acidity-tannin-fruit here, very polished. 94-95/100. Drink 2020-2040.”

- JA, The New Bordeaux

“Powerful, concentrated, tannic and intense, there is good volume, mouth searing tannins and a richness of vibrant, ripe, crisp fruit that create a long-lived wine. ...fans of this estate, with patience and the funds should definitely be on the lookout for it.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep ruby with purple accents, cassis, earth and spice aromas open to a big mouthful of juicy, chewy, tannic, cabernet sauvignon. While tannic and broad shouldered, the tannins are soft and round. This is one of my favorite vintages of Leoville Barton. Like all the estates wines, this will age well.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The nose is packed out with black fruits all very cassis driven. Hints of cedar wood, liquorice and coffee beans add complexity to the palate the richness sweetness of the fruit balanced by bilberry freshness. It is complex with layers of flavour on the back palate. The nose is packed out with black fruits all very cassis driven. Hints of cedar wood, liquorice and coffee beans add complexity to the palate the richness sweetness of the fruit balanced by bilberry freshness. It is complex with layers of flavour on the back palate.”

- Derek Smedley MW