

Château Leoville Barton 2011

CSPC# 742349

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

CSPC# 742369

750mlx6

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Saint Julien

Website

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

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.

Vintage

Winter 2010-2011: This year again, winter was dry, one of the driest in the decade. The winter chill was indeed present from December to February... for the benefit of our ecosystem.

Spring 2010-2011: The sharp rise in temperature in March resulted in an early budding of the vines at the beginning of April. Then, Bordeaux enjoyed a quite exceptional spring from April to June, with a severe drought and historically high temperatures. We thus experienced 40 days with maximum temperatures exceeding 25°C and a heat wave (with temperatures of 37 to 39°C i.e. +/- 100°F) on the 26th and 27th of June.

At first, the spring conditions

- promoted a precocious growth cycle (budding, flowering, fruit setting)
- limited the vegetative expression of the vines in favour of the fruits.

In summer, however, we returned to more traditional Atlantic conditions with a few wet and cool days between the 14th July and the 15th August. Ultimately, rains, throughout, the cycle remained within the seasonal average for Bordeaux.

An important fact: if, at the outset of summer, the vegetal cycle was three weeks ahead in comparison with 2010, the mediocre weather conditions at midsummer slowed down the process and erased much of the precocity acquired in the spring. This extension of the cycle was an undeniable qualitative element.

Vineyards

Léoville-Barton's 50ha 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 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, and 3% Cabernet Franc with the vines averaging 30 years of age

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. Aged 16-18 months in French oak barrels in a cellar kept at a constant temperature of 15°C.

Tasting Notes

Consistently brilliant quality in recent years and a reasonable pricing policy makes this one of our best-selling wines. There is little need for us to recommend Léoville Barton as it has a dedicated following of loyal, regular customers who buy it faithfully every year en primeur. Our only problem is being able to source enough of it to satisfy demand.



Production 12,500 cases made
Cellaring Cellar for up to 30+ years. Drink 2016-2036
Scores/Awards **#53** - Wine Enthusiast's Top 100 Cellar Selections of 2014
92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014
90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012
88+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014
90-92+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012
92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2014
93-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2012
95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2014
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012
89-92 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - April 2012
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012
17.5 points - Decanter.com - April 2012
91 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012
90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 16, 2014
91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 13, 2012
92-95+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012
91-92 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012
91-94 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012
90 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 24, 2011 (score only)
94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (no review)
19 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
93 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)
17 points - Gault & Millau - April 2012 (score only)

Reviews *"This has some slightly rugged grip, with a prominent charcoal frame. Delivers ample flesh at the core, offering plum cake, currant preserves and smoldering tobacco leaf notes, offset by a tangy hint of anise. Should settle in well enough after modest cellaring. Best from 2016 through 2026. 12,500 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Focused blackberry, currant and cherry sauce flavors show notes of sweet tobacco and nicely roasted spice on the finish, with integrated grip. Score range: 90-93"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Firmly structured, dense and medium-bodied with moderate tannin, this austere and backward yet well-endowed 2011 needs 5-7 years of bottle age. Whether the fruit holds up to the tannic structure remains to be seen, but the dark ruby/purple color, purity and impressive depth as well as concentration augur well for future positive development. Forget this 2011 for 5-6 years and drink it over the following 15-20."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Leoville Barton's 2011 is head and shoulders above its sister offering, Langoa Barton. Although not as backward as I expected given the general style that emerges from Anthony Barton's beloved St.-Julien estate, this wine will need time in the bottle once it is released in several years. An opaque purple color is followed by aromas of damp earth, underbrush, black currants, cedar and hints of vanillin and incense. Medium to full-bodied and moderately tannic with good acidity as well as excellent delineation and purity, it should be forgotten for 4-5 years, and drunk over the following two decades."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The Leoville Barton has a very elegant bouquet that takes time to unfurl. There are lovely notes of blackberry, dark plum and a touch of graphite. It unfurls beautifully if you lend it five minutes. The palate is very well balanced with fine tannins, good substance, very elegant and refined with a natural, slightly earthy finish that is long in the mouth. Superb persistency – this is one of the top Saint Julien wines. Tasted April 2012."
- NM, Wine Journal

- Reviews** *“Great swathes of fruit cross the tannic core in this impressive wine. Hints of wood aging peek out from beneath the sumptuous richness and spice. It is ripe, dense and obviously set for long aging. Drink from 2018.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “95-97. Barrel sample. The wine is immensely dark, powered by black plum and a ripe, complex structure. Already, the elements are molding into place. Expect great things of this wine.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “A sleek, refined wine with blueberry, mineral and dried-flower character. Medium to full body with firm tannins. Bright and racy. Better in 2018.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Very floral with blueberry and blackberry on the nose. Mineral undertones. Full body, with chewy tannins and long intense finish. Serious structure and balance for the vintage”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Finely expressed intensity of fruit and a firmness of structure over natural aromatic ripeness to give it an assured future.”*
- SS, Decanter.com
- “Opaque purple-ruby. Spicy coffee and cocoa notes complicate plum and blackberry aromas. Fresh and pure on the palate, with enticing blackberry and mineral flavors that could use a bit more flesh and sweetness. Finishes pure and long, with mouthwatering acidity, chewy tannins and a light herbal quality. This very serious Léoville-Barton will make an austere drink if it doesn't develop more fruit and flesh.”*
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- “Appetising and savoury nose. The fresh and lively fruit. Zappy and direct with a dry inky finish.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “A classic Léoville-Barton that deserves to sell well, this is aromatic and bright, with Asian spices, dark plums and some sweet bramble and cassis flavours framed by fresh acidity and grainy, subtly extracted tannins. Fans of "off vintages" from this reliable château would do well to buy a case or two and cellar it. 10+ years.”*
- TA, timatkin.com
- “Good smoky plum nose makes me nervous now. Like the freshness intact and love it this year when they manage to deliver on nose and palate, has seemed to be one or other. Elegant, fresh, not a massive keeper perhaps, but plenty to love here.”*
- JA, The New Bordeaux
- “Surprisingly open and approachable, a light touch was just what the doctor ordered during the vinification, which was perfect for the cassis, earth, spice, smoke, espresso and black cherry filled wine. For Leoville Barton, this will drink well young.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “From an assemblage of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, the wine will be aged in 80% new oak. The wine reached 12.5% alcohol. According to Anthony Barton, with a little more rain, the wines could have been as good as 2009 or 2010. Deep color with lead pencil, earth, flint, cassis and truffle scents in the nose. Tannic, fresh, bright, crisp cassis is found in the finish. 91-93 Pts”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“Deeper hue than Langoa with more depth; stalky blackcurrants with some wine gums; fresh and slightly compact palate; fruit currently subdued and backward – feels very tight and taut at present [acid]. Needs time. Drink 2020-2030. 87+ UGC Oct ’13 [Earlier note] Deep and saturated, blackcurrant purity, fruit compote, fabulous purity – loads of blackcurrant aromas; sweet brambly entry, fruit compote then the structure and grip – tannin too – cooler blue fruits here but really fab fruit – blackcurrants and blackberry tones. Excellent effort. One of the standout wines of the appellation. Nice grip and tannin ripe. 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc. Harvest dates 12-23 September]. Tasted twice at UGC. 93-95+ Apr ’12 UGC primeur tasting”*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“A firm delicious Leoville Barton and very successful given the vintage conditions. The tannins are sturdy but ripe and polished. The savoury flavour profile adds to the blackberry notes. There is a fair amount of restraint, but the wine shows promise that after five or more years of ageing, its true potential will reveal itself. Nice mid palate intensity and long length.”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“EN PRIMEUR - Intense hue. Nose of ripe fruit, cherry, plum and graphite. Medium body on the palate, full, fruit-forward attack, cleaner, more linear and tense mid-palate. Length yet not very expressive to date.”
- en.gilbertgaillard.com

“The nose is deep brooding black fruited with black cherry and sloe backed by slightly sweeter cassis. Liquorice and coffee back the fruit on the palate the layers of flavour giving complexity and right at the back the bilberry freshness brings out the mint.”
- Derek Smedley MW
