

Château Leoville Barton 2012

CSPC# 742349 750mlx12 13.0% alc./vol.
CSPC# 742369 750mlx6 13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc
Appellation Saint Julien
Classification Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
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 The 2012 vintage was characterised by a slow, late growth cycle due to a very cool and wet spring. The budburst was spread out over time and created a variation in the stages of development that was to be partially evened out by the dry, sunny period that began in mid-July. The colour change and ripening occurred in ideal weather conditions that continued through to harvest-time. The grapes remained perfectly healthy despite rainy spells during picking.

Harvest Produced from 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc harvested between the 3rd and 15th of October and aged in 60% new oak barrels. Yields were low in 2012, just 32hl/ha.

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 The Barton's have got this spot on. 2012 is not a vintage to extract hard and make monumental wines. This is all about purity and precision. Notes of minerals, graphite, cherry liqueur, cut flowers and seductive fruit leap from the glass. The palate is tight knit and focused with pure plum liqueur notes. Persistent, but not profound, there is good structure and dependably ripe tannins.

Production 12,500 cases made

Cellaring Drink 2023-2053

Scores/Awards **89 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015
90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013
92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015
90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013
91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015
91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013



Scores/Awards **94-96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 11, 2013
88-90 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - April 2013
17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013
17.75 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013
94-95 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 11, 2015
91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 23, 2013
90-92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013
90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2013 (score only)
16.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2013
87-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - May 2013
87 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013
92-94 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 16, 2013
91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (no review)
90-92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
19 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
17 points - Gault & Millau - April 2012 (score only)

Reviews *"Features a chewy edge, with anise, blackberry and black currant fruit notes held together by an ample dose of roasted apple wood. A chewy feel holds the finish, with plum skin and singed wood details lingering. This feels like it may have dried out just a bit since the barrel tasting. Best from 2016 through 2022. 12,500 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Tight, with an iron spine driving through the red currant, steeped cherry and blackberry core. The toast emerges on the finish, showing well-integrated briary grip. Features solid stuffing for the vintage. Score range: 90-93"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Dense ruby/purple, with cassis licorice and forest floors notes in the aromatics, Léoville-Barton's 2012 is a relatively big, rich, masculine style of wine. This full-bodied wine needs 5-8 years of cellaring and should evolve easily for 25-30 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"This well-made, complete St.-Julien possesses a dense purple color as well as surprisingly soft tannins for this wine which tends to be jacked up with a lot of structure, masculinity and muscle in most vintages. The 2012 offers attractive cedary, black currant fruit and vanilla notes, and a medium-bodied, denser mid-palate than many of its peers'. The tannins are noticeable in the finish, so give this wine 4-5 years of cellaring and drink it over the following two decades as it will be one of the longer-lived wines of the vintage."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The Grand Vin is a blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc picked between 3 and 15 October at 32hl/ha. It is more introspective than the Langoa at this early stage, but perhaps more complex with subtle tertiary and pencil lead scents infusing the black fruit profile. The palate is superbly balanced with fine tannins, delineated black and red fruit infused with graphite borrowed north from Pauillac. It exudes focus and precision and should be one of the finest Saint Julien 2012s. Tasted April 2013."
- NM, Wine Journal

"94-96. Barrel sample. Firmly tannic in character, this wine is dry and extracted. There's potential for this powerful, impressive wine to bear the wine's very dry character with the weight of its fruit."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Floral and fruity red with hints of vanilla. Medium to full body, fine tannins and a crisp finish. Loosely knit. This needs three or four years to come together. Better after 2018."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A wine with a very good depth of fruit with currants, hints of herbs and juicy fruit. Full body."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews

"Dark ruby. Delicately smoky nuances complement dark plum and fresh blackcurrant on the subdued nose. Lively flavors of red cherry, violet, minerals and bitter chocolate show less fat but more cut than those of the Langoa Barton, with a slightly edgy quality to the wine's acidity. The moderately long finish comes across as a little tart today. I did not find the usual ripeness of Leoville Barton."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Very neutral nose that opened out to something pretty savoury. Very attractive, fine, top-quality oak on the finish. Lovely balance. Should just get better and better. Everything seems ripe and in balance here."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Dense black-red, firm, quite spicy Cabernet Sauvignon, both ripeness and firmness are there, elegance over power and a good future."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Deep rich colour, good purple rim, feel might be getting somewhere here. Like the nose, and like the fruit expression, yes!!! This has some really pretty fruit, grown up smoky coffee bean toast, lovely loganberry and cassis fruit, touch of nutty tannins (very rarely seen this year, as they just didn't get ripe enough). Well done Léoville, really outshone its sister property in this vintage. 94-95 / 18.25-18.5. Highly recommended to outstanding. Drink 2021-2040."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Filled with juicy, ripe cassis, cedar wood, tobacco, soft tannins, length and freshness, this is a really nice wine that will improve with age."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Reticent aromas of oak, forest and cassis opened to a soft, medium/full-bodied wine dominated by fresh black cherries and cassis. Produced from a blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, the wine will be aged in 60% new French oak. Tannic, but refined, this will need time to come together. 91-93 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep colour; vibrant at edge; some blackcurrant; black cherry; quite deep; fresh and grippy palate; correct; has purity and tannin but will come good. Fresh. 89-91 Tasted UGC Thursday April 11, 2013 [Earlier note - better showing] Deep colour; very nice purity of fruit; cassis; blackcurrant; fruit compote; blackcurrants on the palate; quite fresh; stalky Cab; but clean and fresh with sap and tannin [and plenty of material]. 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc 60% new oak 13% alc. 90-92"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Consistently brilliant quality in recent years and a reasonable pricing policy makes this one of our bestselling wines. Anthony Barton always makes a top-quality Bordeaux of classic proportions here. The yield in 2012 was only 32 hl/ha, and the wine is made from 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc in 60% new oak. This has a classic cedary Medocain nose with hints of pencil shavings and cigar box. On the palate it is brooding and powerful with strong cassis fruit. There is an attractive touch of spice and great complexity. Proper Claret."

- Farr Vintners

"The fruit on the nose is deep and brooding and although the palate has a nice weight of fruit the mid palate is quite lean lacking richness and depth. Towards the back ripe cassis does give a little more weight but the finish is lacking in intensity. 2020-30."

- Derek Smedley MW

"Approachable, classic St-Julien red with elegance and finesse. Subtle flavours, hint of green beans and leafy character with supple tannins. Not that concentrated but a pleasure to enjoy near term. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (06-Apr-2013)"

- JCL, asianpalate.com

Reviews *“Muted on the nose. Black fruits. Seductive palate with notes of smoke, morello cherry and cranberries. Elegant tannins and wonderful freshness. Subtle notes of toffee. (16-Apr-2013)”*
- en.gilbertgaillard.com
