

# Château Leoville Barton 2013

CSPC# 742349

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot

**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**

A vintage calling for great technical expertise! One of the main characteristics of the 2013 vintage was late flowering during cold, wet weather that led to severe coulure in Merlot. Green pruning needed to be extremely meticulous and the grapes had to be picked very quickly. Precision winemaking was conducive to deeply-coloured, fruity wines despite the difficult weather conditions.

**Harvest**

The harvest time was the shortest with 12 days of picking from the 2<sup>nd</sup> until 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

**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 word "classic" gets thrown around way too much when discussing Bordeaux, but in the case of Léoville-Barton it's definitely merited. 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. Notes of black cherry cola and hints of raspberry. Layered and complex, with good depth and density. Really well-made.

**Production**

11667 cases made

**Cellaring**

Drink 2018-2025

**Scores/Awards**

**91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2016

**90-93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014

**90-92 points** - Robert M. Parker Jr., Wine Advocate #214 - August 2014

**89-91 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2014

**93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2016

**91-92 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2014

**93 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016

**93-95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 4, 2014

**86-89 points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - Aug 2014



**Scores/Awards** **15 points** - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - April 2014  
**17.5 points** - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2014  
**94 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2014  
**90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 9, 2016  
**89-92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2014  
**89-91 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2, 2014  
**89 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**16 points** - Farr Vintner - April 2014  
**91-94 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2014  
**17.5+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2014  
**90 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2014  
**85-88 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2014  
**92-93 points** - Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants - April 2013  
**88-90 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)  
**16.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)  
**93 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)  
**16.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

**Reviews** *"This has grip and focus from the start, with a lively brambly spine carrying plum cake, raspberry coulis and black currant flavors before yielding to an ample roasted apple wood note on the finish. A lightly tarry hint echoes. Best from 2018 through 2025. 11,667 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The flesh sets this apart from the pack, with layers of black cherry, black currant and plum skin lined with well-integrated apple wood and briar notes. The long, muscular finish maintains the dark profile. Rock-solid. 90-93"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"One of the more pigmented and denser colored 2013s, Leoville Barton is atypically forward and tasty at this stage of its development. It possesses a dense ruby/plum color in addition to abundant cassis notes, sound acidity, pure fruit, and a broad, savory mouthfeel. Medium-bodied and packed, it should drink nicely for 10-15 years, and will be one of the longer-lived 2013s. 2014-2029 90-92"*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The Château Leoville Barton 2013 is a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot picked between 2 and 15 October cropped at 35hl/ha. It has a very elegant bouquet with blackberry, cedar and cigar box with hints of orange rind. The palate is well balanced with fine tannins. It is very natural and poised with a light chalky finish, a Saint Julien that is harmonious and unapologetically "classic" in style. 89-91"*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Part of the select group of impressive wines from this year, this wine is ripe, rich and firmly structured. Black-currant fruitiness forms the base for solid tannins and a concentrated texture. The hints of wood-aging need to soften. Drink from 2022."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"93-95. Barrel Sample. With delicious acidity, this is a fine wine. It has taken advantage of the fruitiness of the year without burdening the wine with too much tannic structure. The result is fine balance."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"This is very pretty with currant, plum and chocolate aromas and flavors. Medium to full body, silky mouthfeel and a savory finish. Bright and delicious. Drink now or hold."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This shows a solid core of fruit, with a wonderful asphalt, berry and mineral character. Full body with excellent tannin, fruit and acid balance. Impressive. The extra dose of cabernet sauvignon at 85% and the absence of cabernet franc make this wine exceptional for the vintage. 91 - 92/100"*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *“Ruby-red. Aromas of plum, raspberry, coffee and orange peel. Bright and lively, with an enticing hint of woodsmoke complicating the red berry, citrus and herb flavors. Offers considerable immediate appeal, but the high acidity and strong dusting of tannins camouflage the little fruit that's present. Sexy notes of coffee and mocha emerge on the back end, but this is youthfully clenched right now and, much like Langoa, doesn't exactly stand out for its fruit concentration. Perhaps it will put on some weight with a couple years in bottle 86-89”*  
- ID, International Wine Cellar
- “Jammy, rich fruit. Higher than average acidity on the palate. Furry tannins, light body. Not quite balanced. 2017-2023 15”*  
- RH, JancisRobinson.com
- “Dense young red, fine Cabernet-dominated cassis fruit, a touch of florality, very good middle palate and fine tannins for the future. Drink: 2018-2030. 17.5”*  
- SS, Decanter.com
- “Anthony Barton has a knack of making excellent wines in tricky vintages. This Cabernet Sauvignon dominated blend (85%) has more stuffing than the Langoa. It's smoothly oaked, refined and well balanced with notes of cedarwood, cassis and spice. 2020-28 94”*  
- TA, timatkin.com
- “Quite nice for the vintage, and it's going to drink well young, which is something you do not often find in Leoville Barton. The wine provides a medium bodied, early drinking, soft textured, cassis and plum character, with hints of cedar, tobacco and earth. A few years in the cellar should be about right.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Using 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot, the wine reached 13% alcohol and will be aged in 60% new French oak barrels. Licorice, coffee bean, cassis and dark cherry aromas open to a forward, classic style with an easy dark cherry finish. Unlike many vintages of Leoville Barton, this should drink well quite early. 89-92 Pts”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Deep and saturated; tight to the rim; inky look; cool blackcurrant fruit with some black cherry tones; feels full; blackcurrant fruit tones on the palate; nicely layered; more grip and tannin than Langoa Barton. Classical Leoville Barton. Nice extract overall. Needs to settle but all the elements are there. [85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 60% new oak, 13% alc]. Tasted UGC 1/4/14. Drink 2020-2035. 89-91+”- 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. Deep ruby with a purple rim. A nose of smoke and liquorice with fresh blackcurrant and black cherry. The palate has a strong core of black fruit with a classic structure from firm but ripe tannins. Layered and textured with cedary notes and nutmeg rising on the finish. Proper Léoville Barton.”*  
- Farr Vintners
- “The nose is closed the start of the palate has black cherry and sloe firmness but there is a greater depth and breadth in the middle the black fruited mix underpinned by liquorice and coffee beans. There is a hint of oak a cedar wood character all adding to the complexity. 2020-30 91-94”*  
- Derek Smedley MW
- “Soft, supple and elegant with flavours that are delicate but with firm, ripe tannins. This is a good wine for early term drinking as the flavours re quite open and accessible. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Drink. (01-Apr-2014)”*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com

**Reviews** *"85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot. Reasonably deep purple. Crunchy fruit - there is a similarity to stablemate Langoa, but Léoville has a coarser grain, a texture of tapestry, a more interesting depth, spicy red and black fruit, it has some mineral depth and that very Barton savour which comes across as very 'grand' - but in miniature. It is slightly longer-term, but the balance remains attractive and it is long too. 2020-2030."*  
- Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants

*"(85 Cabernet Sauvignon, 15 Merlot) Yields were 35 hl/ha. New oak is a very controlled 60%. The fruit is strict, tight, focused and dark. The tannins are firm and grainy, but they are complemented by lovely, dark, cassis fruit. There is a touch of blackcurrant leaf and plum, too. The tannins are not too heavy on the finish and it will soften well in the short term. Impressive claret with very nice, classical lines. 17.5+"*  
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

*"Dark red cherry, plum, violets and mint meld together in the 2013 Léoville-Barton. The style is feminine and delicate, with hints of dilution. At this stage, the 2013 looks to be a near-term drinker given its modest concentration. The 2013 is 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot. I tasted the 2013 twice. Both times it lacked depth and resonance, even within the context of the vintage. 85-88"*  
- AG, Vinous

*"A welcome return to the 2013 Primeurs Bordeaux. This wine has charmed us with its substance and finesse. In 1826, Hugh Barton acquired a portion of the Léoville estate following its division. More than 150 years later, in 1983, the charismatic Anthony Barton took over from his uncle Ronald and became in charge of this Saint-Julien property. Anthony was born in Ireland and arrived in Bordeaux in 1951, working for Barton & Guestier, the family business. Today, the smallest of the three Léoville vineyards is managed in good part by his daughter, Lilian Barton Sartorius, under the guidance of the oenologist Éric Boissenot. Léoville-Barton's wise pricing policy, paired with the infallible quality of its wines, make this property an absolute must with every vintage. Tradition and balance make this a great Saint-Julien."*  
- SAQ (Quebec Liquor Stores)

---