

Château Léoville Barton 2017

CSPC# 742349

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot
Appellation	Saint Julien
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.leoville-barton.com/en/
General Info	<p>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.</p>
Winemaker	Anthony Barton - owner/winemaker; Melanie Barton - Assistant winemaker
Vintage	<p>Saint Julien is perhaps the second most consistent appellation in the 2017 vintage. The wines have character, soft tannins, complexity and early approachability, which is a winning combination. 2017 St. Julien wines are quite good. As you would expect, Cabernet Sauvignon is the king of the vintage and takes over the preponderance of the blends. This is a good thing because that led to a vintage character with freshness, silky tannins, length and a focus on purity of fruit. The freshness is not overwhelming, but it is a present part of the wines character and style. Most of the 2017 St. Julien wines are going to drink well young, which is good thing, as you can enjoy them while waiting for the 2016 and 2015 wines to come around.</p>
Harvest	From 15 to 18 September (Merlot), then from 22 to 29 September.
Vineyards	<p>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</p>
Maturation	<p>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. 60% new oak barrels. Aged 16-18 months in French oak barrels in a cellar kept at a constant temperature of 15°C.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>With its blend dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon (93%) and complemented by Merlot (7%), the Chateau Leoville Barton 2017 presents the easily identifiable imprint of the flagship red grape variety of Bordeaux's Left Bank. The bewitching bouquet springs from the glass, releasing tasty notes of creme de cassis, lavender and cedar, while the nose also reveals fresh white flowers and a powerful minerality. Intense purple color with a bright nose of black fruit, graphite and toast. In a sublime burst of generosity and flavor, the wine coats the palate with its juicy texture and silky tannins. Meanwhile, discreet notes of oak underline the generous fruit. Persistent and elegant, the end of the mouth unfolds a long, chocolatey finish, punctuated with notes of licorice. Concentrated, elegant and generous, a fabulous Leoville Barton promising a beautiful evolution.</p>



Serve with	Leoville Barton is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. 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.
Production	10,833 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2037
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020</p> <p>93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2018</p> <p>95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p>91-93+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p>96 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018</p> <p>17- points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2019</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p>95 points - Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p>93-95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018</p> <p>16.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2018</p> <p>90-94 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p>93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018</p> <p>18+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Packed with ripe, lively plum, blackberry and black currant fruit, backed by melted black licorice and bramble accents throughout, this retains a sense of polish despite the energetic fruit and structure. Ends with an encore of warm plum reduction. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2023 through 2037. 10,833 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This manages to pack in some serious plum, blackberry and black currant compote flavors, along with layers of melted black licorice and tar on the finish. This has a density that sets it apart from the pack in the vintage, with a lovely roasted apple wood note on the finish. 10,833 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Leoville Barton charges out of the gate with bold notions of baked plums, creme de cassis and blueberry preserves plus wafts of pencil shavings, fragrant earth and cedar chest. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers mouth-coating black fruit preserves with compelling herbal sparks and a firm, grainy texture, finishing long and lively."</i></p> <p><i>"The 2017 Leoville Barton is deep garnet-purple in color with a nose of warm cassis, fresh blackberries and blueberries with hints of violets, dark chocolate and licorice. Medium-bodied with a rock-solid frame of grainy tannins and wonderful freshness, it gives a fantastic core of fruit and wonderful length."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The purity of cabernet sauvignon really comes through here with currants, blackberries and stones. Perfumed, too. Medium to full body. Very fine, polished tannins and a fresh, fruity finish. This shows a compact palate with a polished, creamy finish. Much higher percentage of cabernet than is usual. Drink after 2023."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is a really excellent Leoville-Barton with wonderful cabernet sauvignon character of blackberries, blackcurrants and flowers. Full body, firm and lightly chewy tannins and a long and beautiful finish. This has tension and brightness."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *“This boldly tannic wine has a firm structure that gives it an excellent potential. That's because the great blackberry fruits are just as important, offering a ripe, juicy character that is already succulent and delicious.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “This is an impressive wine, full of both plush fruit and firm tannins. It is rich, generously structured supporting layers of ripe black fruits. It is concentrated, yet elegant with a full mouthfeel. This is a wine to age. Drink this major wine from 2024.”*
- “93% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot. Deep crimson and not quite as blue as the Langoa 2017. Very dry and savoury and stereotypically masculine. More demanding but presumably longer-lived than the Langoa. Rather austere at the moment, less fun.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Deepest crimson. Dark, savoury and spicy black fruit with a lovely balsamic note but also a light vanilla sweetness and a more subdued graphite layer. Complex already. On the palate, this is succulent, firm but polished. Tannins are very fine, definite. A harmonious whole and a juicy finish. Drink 2025-2037.”*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “This has a stronger, tighter and more concentrated expression in this vintage than its sister property, although it's not as concentrated as its last few vintages. It's back to a more old-school expression for the appellation, suiting the vintage, and it's one of the better-framed wines on display here. Good quality, with ground coffee, dark chocolate and tight cassis notes, all subtly and harmoniously put together. Drinking Window 2024 – 2038”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Great depth through the mid palate, and as with Poyferré there is both delicacy and finesse to the expression that suggests the style of the vintage emphasizes the classical side of St-Julien. As things open in the glass sweet black cherry with liquorice root and crushed earth comes through in the mid palate. This has poise, concentration and confidence, easily one of the best in the appellation.”*
- Decanter.com
- “A striking blood red in color, this wine opens easily with smoldering cedar, tobacco and an unhurried pour of cassis. On the palate, the wine is concentrated, full bodied, fresh and classically styled. Buoyancy, creaminess, smart tannins with a crisp, juicy finish wrap everything up nicely. Blending 93% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Merlot, the wine reached 13% alcohol and is aging in 60% new, French oak barrels.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Inky black colour. Concentrated and super-spicy aromas of coffee and black fruit, with some earth and even tar. Inviting and complex. Big juicy fruit extraction with concentration and depth. Rich black fruit flavours. Deep and profound. Very good. A star of the vintage. Barrel Sample: 93-95 “*
- TA, timatkin.com
- “With 93% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Merlot in the mix, this is the most strongly Cabernet wine ever produced here. Picked 15-29 September with maturation in 60% new oak. A deep and brooding nose of cassis with a hint of dried violets and smoky liquorice. The palate is richly tannic but ripe. This mouthcoating structure provides an ample frame for pure cassis and cedar. This wine has great delineation of fruit and supreme elegance, but still the power and ripeness to linger with lightly exotic spices of nutmeg and clove on the finish.”*
- Farr Vintners
- “Concentrated black fruits the nose is firm the palate has a rich mix of black cherry and cassis. Power in a velvet glove there is mid structure the fruit wrapped around with generous rich flavours the back palate and finish lighter streamlined and elegant. 2026-40.”*
- Derek Smedley MW

Reviews

“The 2017 Léoville-Barton, which is aged in 60% new oak, is endowed with far more concentration on the nose compared to the Langoa with layers of blackberry, dark plum, violet and orange pith scents that are beautifully defined. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins, so fresh and vibrant, silky smooth in texture with a vivid, refined finish. There is a sense of panache about this Léoville-Barton, a fabulous wine for the vintage. Drink 2022-2045.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2017 Léoville Barton has a high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon this year at 93%, the remainder is Merlot. It was picked between 15 and 18 September for the Merlot and 22 to 29 September for the Cabernet Sauvignon, then aged in 60% new oak. It has a perfumed and pure bouquet that demonstrates a little more cohesion and refinement than some of its Saint-Julien peers. Blackberry and touches of bilberry fruit, cedar and crushed stone – this is a knockout nose with bags of potential. The palate is medium bodied with filigree tannin, perfectly pitched acidity and beautifully integrated oak. Seriously, this is nudging (not equaling, nudging!) the 2016 in terms of quality and there are just a handful of properties where I can state that this year. 2022 – 2045”

- NM, Vinous

“Léoville-Barton is one of the very few wines, from any appellation, that combines power and finesse with such grace in 2017. Rich, deep and wonderfully expressive, the 2017 has so much offer. The high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon comes through loud and clear. Inky dark, fruit, game, spice, mint, licorice and lavender all build in a wine of regal elegance and head spinning beauty. For its combination of quality and price, Léoville-Barton remains one the most consumer-friendly wines of the Left Bank. The blend is 93% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Merlot. The September rains were especially challenging for the Merlot and Cabernet Franc. As a result, Cabernet is pushed up in the blend, while there is no Franc at all. 2025 - 2047.”

- AG, Vinous

“One of the few truly exceptional Left Bank wines of the vintage, the 2017 Léoville-Barton is simply fabulous. The 2017 also has the distinction of having a very high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon. Inky crème de cassis, white flowers, lavender, crushed rocks, menthol and spice give the 2017 a distinctly layered, resonant feel. The 2017 offers fabulous density and structure, although the tannins need time. The blend is 93% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Merlot. The September rains were especially challenging for the Merlot and Cabernet Franc. As a result, Cabernet is pushed up in the blend, while there is no Franc at all. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“The deep, inky-colored 2017 Léoville-Barton is a classic, powerhouse wine from this estate that’s going to need bottle age. Loads of black and blue fruits, violets, classy oak, and ample minerality all soar from the glass. It’s medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and backward on the palate. With fabulous purity and integrated acidity, forget bottles for 5-6 years and enjoy over the following two decades. The blend in 2017 is 93% Cabernet Sauvignon and 7% Merlot, harvested from the 15th to the 29th of September, and aging in 60% new French oak.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Rather more structured than Langoa, as usual, but also a little more feisty, dense and rather more tannic and active on the palate, too. There is the traditional cassis theme and the tannins and oak are not dominant, allowing the fruit to expand and develop during the experience. There is some tension with the tannins, but they do not shut the wine down as I have seen in other properties. I expect it to age slowly and incrementally, waiting some time before it softens - perhaps a decade or more.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
