
Sarget de Gruaud Larose 2011

CSPC# 721260

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint-Julien
Website	http://www.gruaud-larose.com/gruaud-larose-millesime-2011.html
General Info	Sarget de Gruaud Larose is the second label of the esteemed Gruaud Larose, and certainly one of the best buys in the region. For many years Gruaud-Larose was owned by the négociants Cordier, who also own Château Talbot. It was sold in 1993 to the French conglomerate, Alcastel Alstom, which in turn sold it to the Taillan Group, owners of Chasse-Spleen and Haut-Bages-Libéral, in 1997. The talented <i>Georges Pauli</i> has remained as régisseur and winemaker throughout all these changes.
Vintage	Atypical vintage: mild winter, hot spring, summer with low temperatures. Water stress in the vines early September followed by warm and dry weather. These final favourable circumstances allowed a harvest with an excellent level of maturity and perfect sanitary conditions.
Vineyards	The large vineyard has 66 different parcels planted to 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 7.5% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot and 1.5% Malbec with old vines averaging 40 years. The Sarget is made from younger vines and spends less time in oak than the first label.
Harvest	The fruit, harvested by hand, is managed by a winemaking team overseen by Jacques Merlaut's son, Jean.
Vinification/ Maturation	The fruit is sorted then undergoes a cold soak prior to temperature controlled fermentation in a mixture of wooden and concrete vats, with pumping over of the fermenting must twice a day. Then up to a third of the vintage undergoes malolactic in oak barrels, before ageing the entire wine in <i>Alliers</i> and <i>Nevers</i> oak for 18 months, and there is a light fining and filtration before bottling. The wine is sourced from the younger vines between 3 to 20 years of age that cover around 55% of the vineyard.
Tasting Notes	What a superb, delicious, decadent treat this is! It is really generous with ripe, plump, sweet blackberries and a fabulous creamy texture that is like silk. It's obviously not quite as great as Gruaud itself but shows the essence of the Grand Vin and is a real treat.
Production	Approx. 16,000 made annually
Cellaring	Drink now through 2015
Scores/Awards	87 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014 85-87 points - Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com - April 2012 86 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2011 (score only) 14.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) Review Only - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants
Reviews	<i>"Slightly high-toned, with a whiff of pomegranate giving way to red currant and bergamot notes, backed by a sandalwood edge on the finish. Drink now through 2015."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator <i>"This is missing some fruit intensity on the nose and displays a touch of greenness. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannins and quite a refined finish that does not have great depth but is well balanced. Fine."</i> - NM, erobertparker.com <i>"This really is a very affordable, smaller version of the Grand Vin. Vibrant, red and black fruit with a really charming creaminess that makes it extremely quaffable. Great fun to have put in large bottles for a few years time – we all go for this in the office."</i> - SS, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

