

Sarget de Gruaud Larose 2014

CSPC# 721260

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint-Julien
Classification	NA – 2 nd label of Ch Gruaud Larose
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	The winter was very humid with mild temperatures. Vegetative growth was slowed by a wet spring with lower-than normal-temperatures. Beginning of summer quite cool followed by a month of July in keeping with most seasons, with a peak temperature on the 17 th that slightly burnt the grapes. August wasn't very sunny but rather chilly which staggered the veraison. Summer finally came along in September and October and allowed to wait for full ripeness of the grapes.
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	Merlot - September 24 th ; Cabernet Sauvignon - October 6 th ; Cabernet Franc - October 2 nd ; Petit Verdot - October 11 th . 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. 14 months in French oak barrels (15% new, the rest 2-3 years old)
Tasting Notes	Sarget de Gruaud Larose is an excellent introduction to Saint Julien and offers the fresh, clean fruit and crunchy mineral character that typifies the appellation. This 2014 vintage exhibits great purity on the nose with cassis and blackberry with hints of eucalyptus and mint. It is a serious wine that will take some age quite nicely but will develop much earlier than the grand vin. A great option for those who want something proper to drink while waiting for the grand vin to develop.
Production	15,708 cases made
Cellaring	Drink now through 2026
Scores/Awards	88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017 86-89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015 90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015 (score only) 15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) 14.5 points - Jacques Dupont, The Point - May 2015
Reviews	<i>"On the softer side for St.-Julien, but with an ample core of blackberry and black currant fruit, an energetic structure and lively licorice snap and violet notes. Best from 2019 through 2026. 15,708 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator <i>"The fleshy, forward-styled plum and blackberry fruit gets a shot of licorice for spine on the finish. Tasty, but frankly open knit. Score range: 86-89"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator



Reviews *"Very attractive ripe and clean fruit here. Full body with compacted fruits and silky tannins. Second wine of Gruaud-Larose."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Blackberry, black fruits, spicy mouth, ripe fruit, round, tender, supple, final plum and spices."

- JD, The Point
