

Château Barde-Haut 2020

CSPC# 831114

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

Promoted to Grand Cru Classé, in the 2012 classification of Saint-Emilion wine

Website

<http://www.chateaubardehaut.com>

Sustainability

Organic.

With respect for the environment, the vineyard is worked according to the principles of sustainable viticulture, with regular ploughing of the soil and manual harvesting. Since 2011, major investments have been made with the acquisition of new cellars and equipment to optimise environmental protection.

General Info

This property was bought by Sylviane Garcin-Cathiard in September 2000, Chateau Barde-Haut is a 17-hectare estate located at the extreme east of the village of Saint-Emilion. The vineyard forms a natural amphitheater and is particularly well exposed to the south with views over the Dordogne valley.

It is the combination of exceptional soil and the introduction of natural wine producing and winegrowing technologies combining tradition and modernity that have made Chateau Barde-Haut one of the rising stars of Saint Emilion.

Sylviane Garcin-Cathiard also owns Clos L'Eglise in Pomerol, Château Haut-Bergey and Château Branon in Pessac Léognan.

Winemaker

Patrice Garcin-Levêque

Vintage

2020 was a highly contrasted vintage that got off to a difficult start. The year began with an exceptionally rainy winter followed by a very mild spring. In this context, protecting the vines against mildew and managing the soil was a real struggle. The first miracle appeared in mid-May, with dry and warm conditions during one of the earliest flowerings we have seen, two weeks ahead of schedule. The second miracle was on 19 June when the rain stopped, and the weather turned dry and cool until the beginning of the grape colour-change in mid-July. It is at this point in time that summer settled in for good, with some spells of heat through to mid-August when thunderstorms provided some relief and allowed the Merlot grapes to swell. The later-ripening Cabernets remained the size of blueberries until harvest, and the Merlots will ripen slowly until mid-September. The result was a vintage harvested about ten days early, mostly in sunny conditions. Both the Merlot and Cabernet were tannic, colourful and perfectly balanced. The grapes quickly expressed an intense aromatic expression in the vats.

Vineyards

The soil is very typical of Saint Emilion, being mainly composed of clay which is found on a layer of chalk. Grape varieties 85% Merlot / 15% Cabernet Franc. The average vine age is 35 years.

Harvest

Hand-picked.

Winemaking

In terms of winemaking, Hélène and Patrice have made some small but significant changes over the years, with a distinct less-is-more approach in terms of maceration/extraction and judicious use of oak, with more of the larger 300-liter barrels being employed. They have also stopped using the optical sorting table, which selected berries based on size. Instead, they have gone back to hand sorting in the vineyard and the winery. No longer looking for uniformity in grapes, now they are looking for some diversity in sizes to offer more complexity

**Vinification/
Maturation**

There has been significant investment in renovating the cellar so that all work is completely done by gravity to ensure that the precious grapes of the Château are well respected. The cellar is equipped with wooden vats, stainless steel tanks and concrete vats of 50 to 70 hl. A strict policy of selection to ensure the quality is undertaken and individual steps including pigeage are all carried out by hand. Malolactic fermentation is done in new french oak barrels specially selected from different coopers for the property. The wine is then aged for 18 months in 80% new French oak barrels.

Tasting Notes

The wine of Château Barde-Haut offer an admirably balanced dialogue between power and freshness, resulting in a product of rare elegance.

Production

70 000 bottles.

Cellaring

Drink 2025-2045



Scores/Awards **93 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023
93-95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021
94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023
95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021
94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023
94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021
93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021
95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023
93-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021
95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023
94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021
92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2021
94-95 points - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2021
93-94 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021
16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021

Reviews *"The 2020 Barde-Haut unwinds in the glass with aromas of blackberries, cassis and blueberries mingled with hints of violets and spices. Medium to full-bodied, rich, and fleshy, with a deep core of ripe but lively fruit, powdery tannins, and a floral finish, it's the usual blend of more or less 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc (the latter increasingly deriving from massal selections taken at Clos l'Eglise)."*
- WK, Wine Advocate

"Opaque purple-black in color, the 2020 Barde-Haut opens with a beguiling perfume of wild blueberries, dark chocolate, and candied violets before giving way to notes of kirsch, forest floor and spice cake with a waft of dried mint. The medium to full-bodied palate bursts with juicy black and blue fruits, supported by a lovely line of freshness and beautifully soft tannins, finishing with impressive restraint and a long-lingering mineral note."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Aromas of black and blue fruit, toasted spices, walnut, and dark chocolate. Medium- to full-bodied with a juicy character and firm, polished tannins which build on the palate. Well-balanced, structured, and compact with velvety texture and hints of spices and bark to close. Lingering finish. Try after 2027."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A young red with blackberry, chocolate and walnut character that follows through to a medium to full body with creamy tannins and a flavorful finish. Subtle in the end.
Barrel Sample: 94-95."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"A good drop of damson and black cherry fruits right up front and holds its line while the more austere tannins come in towards the finish. Expertly extracted, self-contained right now, firm fruits that don't dip through the mid palate alongside a glossy wash of liquorice, black chocolate, sage and anis. This is clearly going to age well. 60% new oak for ageing. Owned by Hélène Garcin-Leveque, this is located right next to Troplong Mondot.
Barrel Sample: 94."*
- JA, Decanter.com

"The solid depth of color lets you know there is a lot going on here, and the striking perfume, with its display of dried flowers, black, red and blue fruit, espresso, cocoa, licorice and spices agrees. On the palate, the wine is rich, ripe, silky and pure, leaving you with waves of plums, cherries, blue fruits, chocolate, espresso and crushed stones in the lingering finish. Drink from 2025-2050."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"With a striking combination of black, red, and blue fruit, there is a sense of ripeness and purity here, along with sensuous, velvety textures that feel just great. There is length, complexity, richness, balance, and opulence with the ability to age for 20-25 years. The wine was made from 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Franc, 14.5% ABV. This is a serious contender for the best vintage of Barde Haut ever produced."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“The 2020 Barde-Haut has an intense bouquet with black cherries, wild strawberries, freshly pressed violets, and light incense aromas, harmonious yet fairly backward. The palate has a very sensual opening: sweet blackberry, balsamic, white pepper, and light graphite notes from the 20% Cabernet Franc. It feels linear and strict at the moment, which bodes well for the future. Very fine, but patience is necessary if you want to see this Saint-Émilion at its peak.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2020 Barde-Haut clearly benefited from its limestone soils in this vintage. Picked September 21–30 at 42hl/ha, it does not disguise its opulent nose and displays more blue fruit than some of its peers, gaining purity with aeration and delivering macerated black cherries, loganberry, crushed violet, and very subtle hints of fresh fig. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins that disguise the structure of this Saint-Émilion Grand Cru. It has the same harmony and detail as its stablemate, but there is more depth and length toward the finish, which shows real panache. Gorgeous.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2020 Barde-Haut is just as compelling it was from barrel. Blueberry jam, crème de cassis, hard candy, spice, new leather, and lavender infuse the 2020 with exotic beauty. Soft contours and silky tannins add to its immediacy. Bright acids lend vibrancy to play off all the natural opulence. The 2020 is a fine vintage of Barde-Haut, one of the best in recent memory. The intensely saline finish alone is a thing of beauty.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2020 Barde-Haut is packed with inky dark fruit, blackberry jam, chocolate, licorice, cloves, and new French oak. Deep and muscular in the glass, the 2020 possesses off the chart’s intensity married to equally imposing tannins. The 2020 is a huge, virile wine that is going to need time to fully come together. It sure is impressive today. Harvest took place between September 15 and 29, a compact time frame by historical standards.”

- AG, Vinous

“I always love this wine, and the 2020 Chateau Barde-Haut is a quintessential Saint-Emilion revealing a deep ruby/purple hue, awesome notes of red plum, cherries, tobacco leaf, and chalky earth, full-bodied richness, bright acidity, and fine tannins. A gorgeous wine, it will benefit from 4-5 years of bottle age and keep for two decades. Best After 2027.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Coming from a gorgeous vineyard on the eastern, cooler side of Saint-Emilion, and 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, the 2020 Château Barde-Haut has a bright, juicy, yet powerful bouquet of ripe blue fruits, scorched earth, tobacco, and cedary herbs. It has a kiss of background oak (it’s aging in 60% new barrels), medium to full-bodied richness, a ripe, textured mouthfeel, and serious underlying structure that comes out with time in the glass.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Deep ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, faint brightening on rim. Fine noble wood touch, a hint of blackberry and liquorice, dark cherry, a touch of orange zest, inviting bouquet. Juicy, ripe cherry, fresh and lively, fine, integrated tannins, mineral and long, delicate nougat on the finish.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“Beautiful fruity intensity revealing notes of blackcurrant and cherries. Elegant shades breeding. On the palate, the wine is silky while being endowed with powerful tannins which slowly reveal. The wine is balanced and well supported by its grainy tannins fine while the acid structure gives ardor to the whole palate. Bard- Haut is certainly powerful but tense and elegant as well. beautiful expression aromatic on the finish. Very good success taking up the challenge of finesse and power.”

- Yves Beck