

Château Leoville Barton 2015

CSPC# 742349

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% 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

Everything in 2015 contributes to a remarkable vintage.

Winter cold, strategic rains and summer sun ensure the perfect development of the key stages of the vine cycle. The work of man will make it an exceptional vintage. The winter of 2015 is characterized by frosts succeeding from December to February, the low temperatures allow an optimal rest of the vine. Heavy but dense precipitations, from November to March, give back to the soils all the reserves useful to the vegetative cycle of the vine.

At the beginning of spring, the temperatures rise slowly creating good conditions of budding at different grape varieties. April knows a net warming, accompanied by weak and regular rains. May temperatures are more moderate.

The arrival of hot weather in June allows a homogeneous, rapid and early flowering for all varieties. Follows a beautiful sunny and warm summer.

The regular heat and well-distributed rains make June and July suitable months for the practice of stripping. The grapes thus benefit from maximum exposure to the sun and the bunches, for a better ventilation.

August, a little cooler, will be marked by good rains for a fast and homogeneous veraison. The first checks of maturity are very positive and suggest early harvesting.

In September, good weather and cool nights promote maturity and a beautiful concentration aromatic. A rainy episode slows down the maturity. The berries do not fill with water and the sanitary state remains perfect thanks to the stripping

Harvest Vineyards

from 19th to 22nd September (Merlot) then from 28th September to 5th October. 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. 60% new oak barrels. Aged 16-18 months in French oak barrels in a cellar kept at a constant temperature of 15°C.

Tasting Notes

Intense color, the nose is full of aromas of black fruit, spice and cedar. The palate is fresh and balanced, the juice is intense and delicate.

Production

11,667 cases made.



**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2018-2025

- 95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018
- 92-95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016
- 95 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018
- 94-96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
- 94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018
- 96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
- 94-95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016
- 97 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018
- 94-96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016
- 18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017
- 17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
- 94 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017
- 93 points** - Decanter.com - April 2016
- 96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018
- 94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017
- 93-95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
- 93-95+ points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016
- 94 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
- 17 points** - Farr Vintner - March 2016
- 92-94 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
- 90 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016
- 96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
- 93-96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
- 97 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018
- 18+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016
- 94 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
- 93-95 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016
- 18 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016
- 18 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016
- 17.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016

Reviews

"This delivers some serious wow, dripping with warm fig, blackberry and boysenberry reduction notes, along with melted black licorice and fruitcake flavors. Shows ample grip but remains beautifully polished, letting the fruit sail on. Don't worry though, as long echoes of roasted apple wood and tar signal that this is built for the long haul. Best from 2025 through 2042. 11,667 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Gutsy, with mouthfilling blackberry and black currant compote flavors buttressed with very lively bramble and licorice notes. There's loads of grip, but this is velvety in feel. Score range: 92-95"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2015 Leoville Barton offers up notions of warm red currants, black raspberries and dark chocolate with wafts of cigar box, violets and bay leaves. Elegant, medium-bodied and sporting great freshness, the taut, tightly wound palate of intense red fruits and floral accents is well-framed with firm, grainy tannins, finishing on a lingering mineral note."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Leoville Barton is a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot picked between 19-22 September and 28 September until 5 October for the Merlot and Cabernet respectively. Matured in 60% new oak, it has a more compelling and intense bouquet than the 2015 Langoa Barton at this early stage, whereas in other years I have found the siblings closer together. It delivers some lovely blackberry, sage and cigar box scents. The palate is very refined with edgy tannin, beautifully balanced with seamlessly integrated oak. It is the classic Léoville-Barton style, full of energy and showing more breeding than the Langoa on the finish. This is just an outstanding, classic, drop-dead gorgeous Léoville Barton that is destined to give immense pleasure over the coming years. Bravo Anthony, Lilian et al."

- NM, Wine Advocate

Reviews

"The 2015 Leoville Barton is less expressive than the Langoa Barton at the moment, although there is more complexity locked up here. Black fruit, briary, crushed stone and a touch of violet all vie for attention. The palate is fresh and vibrant, nicely structured albeit without the depth and volume that I think the 2016 will bring. I would prefer a touch more persistence but otherwise this is a finely made, stylish Leoville Barton (as usual)."
- NM, Wine Journal

"This is a very focused Barton with ultra-fine tannins that are so polished and chalky. It drives through the center palate with currant and berry character. Full-bodied, polished and straightforward with driving tannin. Love the texture. Class. Yes. Drink in 2021."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A very savory and fruity red with red currant and plum aromas and flavors. Full body, firm backbone of tannins and a fresh finish. A generous and fruity young red. Fruity forward in a reserved way."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Rich, generous and elegant, this is a very dense wine but with great black fruits to balance this structure. The elements are already coming together to create another great wine from this property. Drink from 2026."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"94–96. Barrel Sample. While the spicy wood is prominent at this stage, the wine also has weight. As the black currant fruits come through slowly, the wine shows a rich potential. The texture is dense and firm."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Deep crimson. Fresh and zesty. Much more lifted than its Langoa stablemate. Really rather glorious actually. Very fresh but with slaty undertow. Now this is a 'mineral' wine!
Drink 2028-2045"*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Glowing purplish crimson. Very obviously 'sweeter' and chunkier than the Langoa Barton just tasted. But not too much. Full of appeal. And there are masses of tannin here! Lots going on here."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Fine concentration of fruit and lovely fragrance; quite discreet for this château. The controlled vigour of better vintages has been replaced by classic ripeness, integrated tannins and fine balance."

- Decanter.com

"One of the deepest, richest and darkest of the St-Julien in 2015, showing a lick of tar and a crack of cassis. Confident and settling in for the long haul, a salty minerality kicks in on the finish to give a mouthwatering quality. 60% new oak barrels. Eric Boissenot consults. (JA)"

- JA, Decanter.com

"Another 2015 wine that took a giant leap from its showing in élevage. This is a beauty. Layers of ripe, dark, red fruits, tobacco leaf, spice box and cassis notes. Full bodied, concentrated, elegant and powerful, with a serious depth of flavor, this is one of the great vintages for Leoville Barton. This is going to age quite well."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"A really good vintage here, the wine has a smoky, spiced cassis and tobacco charm and it's not even out of the box, or the bottle yet. Concentrated and long, this will age rather well."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep garnet in color, the first thing you notice about this wine is fresh, dark, red berries, espresso and cherries. The tannins feel creamy and the wine is balanced, finishing with juicy, peppery, fresh, ripe fruits. The fruits linger nicely in the finish. Blending 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot, this wine reached 13% alcohol and is aging in 60% new, French oak barrels."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“Deep and opaque at centre; pure blackcurrant aromatics; attractive; composed; refined palate; fresh and nicely done; layers to the fruit; minerality; tannins ripe but need age to soften. Classical Leoville-Barton in that respect. Nice length. [86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 13% alc, 60% new oak]. Drink 2022-2035. 93-95+”*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“Grippy and quite backward - as it often tends to be at this early stage - but this has plenty of fruit power and concentration in reserve, with fine tannins and stylish oak integration. One for the cellar. Drink: 2025-35”
- TA, timatkin.com

“Anthony Barton's second growth is always a top-quality Bordeaux of classic proportions. Structured, Cabernet Sauvignon based wines that are serious, controlled and pure. The 50-hectare vineyard is planted 74% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. However, in 2015 the final blend is 86% Cabernet Sauvignon. There is a modest 13% alcohol. Proper old school claret. Deep purple colour. Focused cassis and a little tar on the nose with some fresh mint. The palate is firm but ripe, with exotic spices paired with ripe cassis fruit and a little graphite. This is precise and poised with firm tannic structure giving an upstanding mouthfeel with great refinement. Elegant and long on the finish, this is one for lovers of classic St Julien.”
- Farr Vintners

“The nose is concentrated with depth richness black fruits and the start of the palate has brooding power. The fruit on the mid palate is ripe with black cherry and cassis backed by dark chocolate. A hint of cedar wood at the back adds to the complexity with coffee beans and cassis on the finish.”
- Derek Smedley MW

“As usual for Leoville Barton, the wine is subtle and layered with wonderful restraint. In this vintage, there is power and intensity to suggest this wine will only get better with age. Delicate layers of tobacco, cedar and cassis with a fairly long length.”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“A dense, powerful wine, the 2015 Léoville-Barton is going to need quite a bit of time to come together, as it is massively tannic and structured at this stage. (AG)”
- AG, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

“The 2015 Léoville-Barton is superb. Vivid and wonderfully nuanced in the glass, the 2015 offers exceptional purity in its aromas and flavors. As always, the house style favors finesse over pure power, but in 2015 there is a good bit of both. Graphite, pencil shavings and crème de cassis, herbs and mocha meld into a rich, textured, beautifully persistent finish. The tannins are there, but they are nearly buried. Léoville-Barton is not the most powerful or showy Saint-Julien in 2015, but it is class personified. Don't miss it. Tasted two times.”
- AG, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

“I absolutely loved the 2015 Léoville-Barton, and this has everything you could want from a Left Bank Bordeaux. Cassis, smoked earth, graphite, tobacco leaf, and thrilling amounts of minerality all emerge from this inky colored, full-bodied, power-packed, brut of a Saint-Julien that holds everything together and stays pure, balanced and elegant on the palate. It has a lot of tannins, yet more than enough fruit. The 2015 is a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon and 14% Merlot, brought up in 60% new French oak, and it needs 7-8 years of bottle age and will shine for 2-3 decades. Bravo!”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“This is a firmly structured Léoville Barton with feisty tannins and cerebral acidity, making you consider this wine's trajectory in order to guess at when it will approach its purple period. I venture that we are a decade away because the epic Cabernet here is cool, introverted and contemplative and this means that it is more backward and less initially flattering than many other wines. I expect tasters will underestimate this wine and its potential but is it the very essence of the estate and it reflects the huge potential of the vintage, too.”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
