

SARGET DE GRUAUD LAROSE - 2018

Appellation Saint-Julien Contrôlée

~ Background ~

Sarget de Gruaud Larose is the second wine of the prestigious Château Gruaud Larose, classified as a second grand cru in 1855 in St. Julien. This was one of the original wine estate's created in the Médoc in the 18th century, and for 300 years, it has maintained its reputation for producing one of the gems of the Bordeaux wine world. Gruaud Larose has always sought to value the place of man in the conception of its wine. Both in the action and in the link he establishes with his vineyard. The vine or the grape are nothing without man, without the makers of the Crus, from the most modest to the most powerful. Since its creation in 1725, four families have succeeded each other at the head of Gruaud Larose: the Gruaud & Larose families, the Balguerrie and Sarget families, the Cordier family and the Merlaut family. This family attachment is also passed on to the employees who often work at the Château from father to son and mother to daughter. The terroir is exceptional: 82 hectares of continuous red gravel on a crest overlooking the Gironde estuary. This rare microclimate provides perfect, naturally regulated temperature and water control for the vineyards —never too cold, never too wet, the vines dig deep into the earth and produce a voluptuous noble wine.

2018 vintage: The winter was very rainy, with temperatures in February and March below the thirty-year average. The spring was also rainy and the temperatures were average. This wet weather continued until the end of June leading to strong attacks of mildew in the vineyard. Fortunately, a warm and dry weather arrived in July and continued until the harvest which took place in optimal conditions. The abundant water table abundantly provided favored the development of the vineyard allowing perfect conditions throughout the phenological stages. This explains the great richness of the vintage, opulence and richness! A great vintage.



Virginie Sallette,
winemaker



Jean Merlaut, Owner



~ Viticulture ~

These vines will eventually produce the estate's first wine so they receive the same intensive care.

- 82 hectares of vines.
- Average vine age is 46 years.
- Density of 10,000 to 8,500 vines/hectare.
- Quaternary Garonne gravel soil over a clay-limestone subsoil.
- 70% of the vineyard in biodynamic agriculture
- Sustainable agriculture by encouraging beneficiary insects, replacing chemicals with tilling and organic mulching, using organic fertilizer, hedge and sheep grazing.
- Use of weather station to maximize an integrated phytosanitary protection.
- Height of the trelliswork of the vines raised to maximize photosynthesis in order to increase the color and tannins.
- Rigorous pruning. Leaf thinning to maximize exposure to sun. Green harvest to concentrate fruit.
- Harvest dates: from September 20th to October 6th.

~ Winemaking ~

- **Blend: 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 49% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc, and 11% Petit Verdot.**
- Manual harvest & double sorting of the grapes once harvested.
- Both thermo regulated concrete vats and giant wooden vats are used. Selection by plot in vat (grape variety, terroir, age...).
- Fermentation between 24 and 26°C, tasted everyday during the process.
- Maceration lasts 20 to 30 days, with a stage of lees under pomace during post fermentation maceration.
- Malolactic fermentation is made together with the alcoholic fermentation due to co-inoculation.
- 3 vertical presses, putting in barrels at the press, tasting and selection of three press wines from the barrels.
- Aged 14 months at least in 15% of the production in new barrels and 85% in 1-year-old or 2-years-old French oak barrels.



91-92 Points. A juicy and fresh red with dark berries and hints of chocolate. Medium to full body, firm and juicy tannins and a flavorful finish. Delicious already.

AQUITAINE
WINE COMPANY



90 pts
Wine Spectator

90 Points. Juicy and energetic, with cassis and dark plum fruit flavors laced with sweet tobacco and violet notes. Nice applewood note frames the racy finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2028.

