



# CHÂTEAU BALESTARD LA TONNELLE

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ  
2016

**REVUE DU VIN DE FRANCE** 16/20 VERY NICE TANNIC SHAPE, THE FLESH SEEMS TO BE SCULPTED IN THE CHALK, THE FRUIT IS CAREFULLY PRESERVED. LIKE ITS NEIGHBORS ON THE LIMESTONE PLATEAU, THIS HISTORIC GROWTH WILL EMERGE WITH TIME.

**TASTING BOOK** DARK PURPLE RED WITH VIOLET HUE AND ALMOST BLACK CORE. EXPRESSIVE NOSE, MULBERRIES AND ELDERBERRIES, FRESHLY GRATED DARK CHOCOLATE, VANILLA, CARDAMOM AND GINGERBREAD. ON THE PALATE SWEET FRUITS, FIRM BUT MATURE TANNINS, GINGERBREAD FLAVOUR AND VERY GOOD LENGTH.

**MARKUS DEL MONEGO** 92/100

**WINE SPECTATOR** ENTICING, WITH LOTS OF RED LICORICE AND WARM FRUITCAKE NOTES OUT FRONT, BACKED BY A GOOD CORE OF PLUM AND RASPBERRY PRESERVE FLAVORS, THIS HAS A FLESHY FEEL, GOOD INTEGRATION AND A RELATIVELY MODEST DOSE OF TOAST THROUGH THE FINISH

**JAMES MOLESWORTH** 89-92/100

**WINE SPECTATOR** A HIGH-PITCHED STYLE, WITH LOTS OF FLORAL LIFT TO THE MIX OF DAMSON PLUM, CHERRY AND BLACKBERRY FRUIT, WHILE LIGHT SANDALWOOD, TEA AND BERGAMOT NOTES ADD DETAIL ON THE FINISH. A BIT ATYPICAL, AND LOVELY.

**JAMES MOLESWORTH** 92/100

**WINE DOCTOR** IN THIS VINTAGE WE HAVE WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE TRADITIONAL BALESTARD NOSE OF SMENT. CHERRIES AND CHOCOLATE CAKE, RICH AND EXPRESSIVE, BUT NOT EXACTLY SUGGESTING FRESHNESS AND LIFT. THE PALATE HAS THE SAME RICH, SMUDGED-FRUIT CHARACTER, WITH SUBSTANTIAL EXTRACTED TANNIC BACKBONE, SITTING AROUND AND DOMINATING A CORE OF PLUSH DARK CHERRY FRUITS, DAMSON, BLACKCURRANT AND BLACK PEPPER. DESPITE THE SWEET AROMATICS OF THE NOSE THE PALATE HAS THE LIVELY ACID PROFILE OF THE VINTAGE, BUT IT CAN'T COUNTER THE SUR-MATURE STYLE AND HUGE TANNIC WEIGHT. RIPE, A LITTLE BLACKCURRANT. MODERATELY DENSE STRUCTURE, SLIGHTLY ROUGH TANNINS THE ONE THING IT DOES HAVE IN ITS FAVOUR IS A FAIRLY SEAMLESS AND GLOSSY TEXTURE, AND THERE IS SOME SENSE OF ACID BALANCE.

**CRIS KISSACK** 91-93/100

**VINOUS MAGAZINE** ATTRACTIVE, MID-WEIGHT SAINT-ÉMILION THAT WILL DRINK WELL WITH MINIMAL CELLARING RIPE RED FRUIT, TOBACCO, SMOKE, INCENSE, RED CHERRY JAM AND ROSE PETAL ALL BUILD IN THE GLAS, WITH EXPRESSIVE SAVORY AND FLORAL TOUCHES, THAT ADD NUANCE AND LIFT. TODAY, THE 2016 IS QUITE PRETTY.

**ANTONIO GALLONI** 92/100





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**THE WINE CELLARD INSIDER** MEDIUM-BODIED AND SOFTLY-TEXTURED, THIS WINE DISPLAYS A WEALTH OF RIPE, DARK, RED FRUITS, PLUM AND THYME WITH JUICY BLACK CHERRIES IN THE FINISH.  
90/100

**THE WINE CELLARD INSIDER** FRESH HERBS, THYME, LICORICE AND RED PLUMS WORK TOGETHER IN THIS MEDIUM-BODIED EASY TO LIKE WINE. SOFT, FRESH AND JUICY, THIS IS QUITE ALREADY CHARMING.  
**JEFF LEVE**  
90/100

**WINE ENTHUSIAST** THIS IS A BEAUTIFULLY RIPE, FRUITY WINE WITH JUICY ACIDITY AND SOFT TANNINS. IT IS FULL OF BLACK CURRANT FRUITS JUST LIGHTLY SUPPORTED BY THE GENTLE TANNINS  
**ROGER VOSS**  
90-92/100

**BORDEAUX TOTAL** OPULENT, SWEET, FAT, FRUITY BOUQUET, BLACKBERRY JAM, MOCHA CREAM, DARK CARAMEL, VANILLA. PITHY, TART, BROAD PALATE WITH DENSE, SWEET FRUIT, SANDY TANNIN, ANGULAR STRUCTURE, SWEET AROMATICS, BROAD, DRY FINISH.  
**RENÉ GABRIEL**  
17/20

**PAOLO BARACCHINO** DEEP RUBY RED HUE WITH PURPLE NUANCES. A NOSE DOMINATED BY AROMAS OF MY FULLY RIPE CHERRY, INTENSE CYPRESS, VEGETABLE SKIN (THAT WHICH EVOKES THE SOFTNESS OF LEATHER), VIOLET, MINT, EUCALYPTUS, BLACK PEPPER, NUTMEG, RUBBER AND EPISPERM (THE THIN SKIN OF BOILED CHESTNUT). IN THE MOUTH IT OFFERS FLAVORS OF CHOCOLATE AND CHERRY. MEDIUM BODY, WELL BALANCED. THE TANNINS ARE ROUND, INTENSE, VELVETY AT THE ATTACK AND THEN GIVE A SUBTLE SENSATION OF DRYNESS AND BURNING ON THE UPPER GUMS. WINE THAT HAS LENGTH. THE 2015 TASTED LIKE MON CHÉRI, THE GRAPES WERE MORE RIPE. THE 2016 IS, IN OPINION, SUPERIOR TO THE 2015.  
90-92/100

**MATTHEW JUKES** MINTY AND SPICY ON THE NOSE WITH HUGE OAK, TOO, THIS IS A DIFFICULT WINE TO LIKE AROMATICALLY, BUT THERE IS A LOT OF FRUIT ON THE PALATE AND IT IS ROBUST AND INTENSE. THIS SHOULD WORK WELL GIVEN A DECADE.  
17.5/20

**JEANNIE CHO LEE** A LIVELY, INTENSE ST EMILION RED WITH DARK PLUMS, COCOA BEANS AND BLACKBERRIES ON THE PALATE. THE TANNINS ARE FIRM, RIPE AND VELVETY - PERFECT FOR LONG TERM AGING. THIS IS A VERY SUCCESSFUL BALESTARD LA TONNELLE THAT IS PERFECT FOR LONG TERM AGING - FEW DECADES EASILY.  
93/100

**B MY BORDEAUX** RUBY. BLACKBERRIES, SPICES, RASPBERRIES, ELEGANT, NUANCED NOSE. FRESH ACIDITY, RIPE TANNINS, FRUITY, DARKER BERRIES, SPICES, DETAILED, LONG.  
92-94/100





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- JANCIS ROBINSON** 16+/20 A HINT OF VERY SWEET, ALMOST VANILLA OAK ON THE NOSE. THEN SAVOURY AND SOME DEFINITE OAK INFLUENCE ON THE PALATE. THE TANNINS ARE A BIT CHUNKY. DOESN'T QUITE HANG TOGETHER AT THE MOMENT THOUGH IT MAY DO EVENTUALLY.
- JAMES SUCKLING** 93/100 ATTRACTIVE COAL SMOKE AND TARRY NUANCES WITH A DENSE ARRAY OF DARK-PLUM AND BERRY AROMAS AND FLAVORS. THE PALATE HAS A RICH, PLUSH AND JUICY ARRAY OF DARK PLUMS. QUITE TANGY, VIBRANT AND POWERFUL FRUIT HERE.
- IZAK LITWAR** 90/100 AROMATIC, A BIT OF REDUCTION, ON THE VERGE OF OVERRIPENESS, GOOD BALANCE.
- GUIDE HACHETTE** THE NOSE, OPEN AND SEDUCTIVE, IS VERY TYPICAL OF MERLOT (70% OF THE BLEND). WITH ITS NOTES OF BLACKCURRANT AND RASPBERRY; AROMAS THAT ARE FOUND IN THE MOUTH. SUPPLE IN THE ATTACK, TASTY AND STRUCTURED IN ITS DEVELOPMENT, THIS WINE BENEFITS FROM FINE AND TIGHT TANNINS. A HARMONIOUS WHOLE WHICH WILL AGE WELL.
- GILBERT ET GAILLARD** 92/100 DEEP-HUED WITH GARNET HIGHLIGHTS. ELEGANT TOASTED VANILLA ON THE NOSE WITH BEAUTIFUL JAMMY FRUIT PRESENCE. VELVETY, MOUTH-FILLING PALATE OFFERING UP DELICIOUS MELLOW FRUIT ASSISTED BY DELICATE OAK INFLUENCE. GOOD FRESHNESS, BALANCE AND SILKINESS.
- GAULT ET MILLAU** 17-18/20 LIVELY FLORAL NOSE, BEAUTIFUL WOOD, VELVETY IN THE MOUTH WHILE KEEPING FRESHNESS, DENSITY AND TANNINS. A SUCCESS.
- B MY BORDEAUX** 92-94/100 RUBY. BLACKBERRIES, SPICES, RASPBERRIES, ELEGANT, NUANCED NOSE. FRESH ACIDITY, RIPE TANNINS, FRUITY, DARKER BERRIES, SPICES, DETAILED, LONG.
- FALSTAFF** DEEP DARK RUBY GARNET, FIRM CORE, VIOLET REFLECTIONS, DELICATE RIM BRIGHTENING,  
**PETER MOSER** 93/100 DELICATE FLORAL UNDERLAY OF RIPE BLACKBERRY FRUIT, SUBTLE HINTS OF LICORICE, FRESH ORANGE ZEST. JUICY, CHOCOLATY TEXTURE, RIPE TANNINS, SPICY FINISH RIPE CHERRIES IN THE AFTERTASTE.
- LE FIGARO** DEEP-HUED WITH GARNET HIGHLIGHTS. ELEGANT TOASTED VANILLA ON THE NOSE WITH  
**BERNARD BURTSCHY** 16.5/20 SUPPLE, CHARMING WITH TANNINS THAT ARE CERTAINLY PRESENT, BUT THE WHOLE IS SILKY AND ACCESSIBLE. TASTING THIS WINE, ONE UNDERSTANDS BETTER THE LAMENT OF FRANÇOIS VILLON WHICH APPEARS ON THE LABEL.





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**DECANTER** THIS IS AN ESTATE THAT HAS GONE LONG ON EXTRACTION IN RECENT YEARS AND  
**JANE ANSON** JUST ABOUT STOPS SHORT IN 2016. THIS IS STILL A CONTEMPORARY, BIG INTERPRETATION  
**91/100** OF ST-ÉMILION THAT PERFORMS SOME CLEVER SLEIGHT OF HAND TO STOP BEFORE THE WALL.  
DRAMATIC AND ENJOYABLE, WITH NOTES OF LIQUORICE AND BLACK OLIVE PASTE.

**BETTANE ET DESSAUVE** A WINE WITH A STRONG CHARACTER, WITH A VELVETY TEXTURE THAT IS BEGINNING TO  
**16,5/20** TAKE SHAPE, WITH AN INTENSITY THAT IS TYPICAL OF THE VINTAGE. IT IS ABSOLUTELY  
NECESSARY TO WAIT FOR IT.

