



# CHÂTEAU BALESTARD LA TONNELLE

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ  
2017

**TASTING BOOK** ROUGE POURPRE FONCÉ AVEC UNE TEINTE VIOLETTE ET UN NOYAU NOIR. ARÔMES DISTINCTS  
**MARKUS DEL MONEGO** DE TORRÉFACTION, CHOCOLAT NOIR, GRAINS DE CAFÉ FRAÎCHEMENT MOULUS, ASSEZ  
93/100 COMPLEXES, FRUITS SUCRÉS, PRUNES ET CERISES NOIRES EN ARRIÈRE-PLAN. EN BOUCHE,  
BIEN ÉQUILIBRÉ AVEC DES TANNINS SERRÉS, DES FRUITS SUCRÉS ET UNE LONGUEUR  
CONVAINCANTE.

**GILBERT ET GAILLARD** BELLE ROBE SOMBRE AUX REFLETS ROUGE VIF. NEZ PLEIN DE FRUITS ROUGES MÛRS,  
93/100 GOURMAND ET ENGAGEANT. EN BOUCHE UNE TRÈS BELLE TEXTURE, DES TANINS POLIS, DE  
L'AMPLEUR ET DES PARFUMS FRUITÉS ET BOISÉS TRÈS HARMONIEUX. UN 2017 À L'AUBE DE  
SA CARRIÈRE.

**VINOUS MAGAZINE** AUDACIEUX, JUTEUX ET EXPLOSIF. LA CONFITURE DE FRAMBOISES, LES ÉPICES DOUCES, LE  
**NEIL MARTIN** CHOCOLAT BLANC ET LES NOTES FLORALES, AINSI QUE LA PERSONNALITÉ NATURELLEMENT  
91-93/100 VOLUPTUEUSE DE CE VIN, EN FONT UN VIN TRÈS ATTRAYANT. LE 2017 EST TRÈS BIEN FAIT DANS  
CE STYLE ET PLAIRA SURTOUT À CEUX QUI APPRÉCIENT LE CÔTÉ FLAMBOYANT DU  
SAINT-ÉMILION.

**VERT DE VIN** LE NEZ EST AROMATIQUE, GOURMAND, RACÉ, PRÉCIS ET OFFRE DE LA DENSITÉ, DE LA  
**CHOUKROUN C. JONATHAN** RICHESSE AINSI QU'UNE JOLIE FINESSE DU GRAIN. ON Y RETROUVE DES NOTES DE CASSIS,  
93-94/100 DE MÛRE DE BOYSEN ET DE FLEURS/VIOLETTE ASSOCIÉES À DE PETITES NOTES DE FRAMBOISE  
MÛRE, À DE SUBTILES TOUCHES DE PETITS FRUITS ROUGES ÉCRASÉS, DE RÉGLISSE, DE VANILLE  
AINSI QU'À DE DISCRÈTES POINTES D'ÉPICES ET À UNE TRÈS DISCRÈTE POINTE DE POIVRE DE  
CUBEN. LA BOUCHE EST FRUITÉE, MINÉRALE, ÉQUILIBRÉE ET OFFRE UNE BONNE DÉFINITION,  
DE LA JUTOSITÉ, UNE FINE TRAME MINÉRALE, UNE FINE ACIDITÉ, DU GRAS, DE LA TENSION, DE  
LA PRÉCISION AINSI QU'UNE BELLE ÉLÉGANCE. EN BOUCHE CE VIN EXPRIME DES NOTES DE  
MÛRE CHARNUE, DE CASSIS CHARNU ET PLUS LÉGÈREMENT DE FRAMBOISE CHARNUE  
ASSOCIÉES À DE FINES TOUCHES DE BAIES ROUGES CHARNUES, À DE PETITES NOTES DE  
MINÉRALITÉ SALINE, À DE SUBTILES TOUCHES DE RÉGLISSE, DE TOASTÉ, DE VANILLE AINSI  
QU'À UNE TRÈS DISCRÈTE POINTE DE FLEURS ET À UNE TRÈS DISCRÈTE POINTE DE CACAO.  
LES TANNINS SONT FINS ET UN PEU FERMES.

**BORDEAUX TOTAL** BOUQUET CONCENTRÉ, CRÉMEUX, OPULENT, CONFITURE DE MÛRES, CERISES NOIRES,  
**RENÉ GABRIEL** GRAPHITE, CHOCOLAT. BOUCHE DENSE, OPULENTE, FORTEMENT EXTRAITE, TANINS SABLEUX,  
17/20 ARÔMES PUISSANTS ET DOUX, STRUCTURE MUSCLÉE, FINALE LONGUE ET SÈCHE.

**MATTHEW DUKES** TRÈS ÉPICÉ, ASSEZ DENSE ET DUR, C'EST UN VIN EXTRAIT, MAIS IL N'EST NI TROP BRUT NI TROP  
17.5/20 ASTRINGENT ET JE ME SENS À L'AISE QUANT À SON AVENIR. LE FRUIT ROUGE EST  
CERTAINEMENT ASSEZ PUISSANT POUR RESTER DOMINANT DANS CE VIN.

**LE FIGARO** VIN FRUITÉ, JUTEUX, FRINGANT, ÉPICÉ, ÉLÉGANTE, TANNINS SOUPLES  
16.5/20





# CHÂTEAU BALESTARD LA TONNELLE

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ  
2017

**VERT DE VIN** THE NOSE IS AROMATIC, GREEDY, RACY, PRECISE AND OFFERS DENSITY, RICHNESS AS WELL AS BALANCED AND OFFERS GOOD DEFINITION, JUICINESS, FINE MINERALITY, FINE ACIDITY, FATNESS, TENSION, PRECISION AND ELEGANCE. ON THE PALATE, THIS WINE EXPRESSES NOTES OF FLESHY BLACKBERRY, FLESHY BLACKCURRANT AND MORE SLIGHTLY FLESHY RASPBERRY ASSOCIATED WITH FINE TOUCHES OF FLESHY RED BERRIES, SMALL HINTS OF SALINE MINERALITY (IN THE BACKGROUND), SUBTLE TOUCHES OF LICORICE, TOAST, VANILLA AS WELL AS A VERY DISCREET HINT OF FLOWERS (IN THE BACKGROUND) AND A VERY DISCREET HINT OF COCOA (IN THE BACKGROUND). THE TANNINS ARE FINE AND A BIT FIRM.

**CHOUKROUN C. JONATHAN**  
93-94/100

**VERT DE VIN** THE NOSE IS ELEGANT, NICELY RACY AND OFFERS POWER AS WELL AS A LITTLE CONCENTRATION. THIS WINE NEEDS TO BE DECANTED. THERE ARE NOTES OF BLACKBERRY, CASSIS AND MORE LIGHTLY COFFEE COMBINED WITH SMALL TOUCHES OF SMALL BLACK BERRY/BLUEBERRY, VIOLET SICHUAN PEPPER AND BLOND TOBACCO/CARDAMOM. THE PALATE IS FRUITY, JUICY AND OFFERS TENSION, A NICE ACIDIC FRAME, A FINE STRAIGHTNESS, PRECISION AS WELL AS FATNESS. ON THE PALATE THIS WINE EXPRESSES FLESHY/JUICY BLACKCURRANT, FLESHY/JUICY BLACKBERRY AND MORE LIGHTLY BERRY NOTES COMBINED WITH HINTS OF WILD STRAWBERRY, VIOLET, LICORICE STICK AS WELL AS VERY FINE TOUCHES OF VANILLA BEAN AND SPICE. THE TANNINS ARE ELEGANT AND VERY FINELY FIRM. GOOD LENGTH.

**CHOUKROUN C. JONATHAN**  
93-94/100

**THE WINE ADVOCATE** MEDIUM TO DEEP GARNET-PURPLE COLORED, ITGIVES UP SCENTS OF WARM BLACKBERRIES, STEWED PLUMS AND FRUITCAKE WITH HINTS OF CEDAR CHEST, PENCIL LEAD AND BLACK TRUFFLES. MEDIUM-BODIED, THE PALATE IS WELL-PLAYED WITH A SOFT TEXTURE AND A GOOD CONCENTRATION OF BRIGHT, JUICY FRUIT, FINISHING SAVORY.

**LISA PERROTTI BROWN**  
92/100

**SCHWEIZERTSCHE WEINZEITUNG** FRUITY BOUQUET, CHERRY LIQUOR, BLUEBERRIES, TOAST. GOD DENSITY, JUICY, YOUTHFUL TANNINS, GOOD ACIDITY, RIPE BLACKBERRIES, GOD LENGHT. MEDIUM-BODIED WITH SUPPLE TANNIN, A FINE BEAD OF ACIDITY, NICELY INTEGRATED OAK WITH A SVELTE FINISH. THIS IS THE BEST BALESTARD LA TONNELLE THAT I HAVE TASTED IN RECENT YEARS. EXCELLENT.

16/20

**JANE ANSON** GOOD, RICH AROMATICS ARE EVIDENT ON THE NOSE, SHOWING NOTES OF GRILLED OAK AND CLOVES WITH DAMSON UNDERNEATH. THEY HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB HERE, PRODUCING A BROAD-SHOULDERED WINE. IT'S A LITTLE OAK-LED, BUT HAS PERSONALITY AND WELL-PLACED FRUITS, AND THEY HAVE DELIVERED A WINE WITH THEIR OWN SIGNATURE IN A VINTAGE WHERE THAT WAS NOT THE EASIEST OF THINGS TO DO.

90/100





# CHÂTEAU BALESTARD LA TONNELLE

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ  
2017

**JAMES SUCKLING**  
91-92/100

SOME FRESH-EARTH AND MEATY NOTES HERE, AS WELL AS DRIED ROSE AND OAK SPICE. THE PALATE HAS A SMOOTH, PLUSH AND CENTRALLY FLESHY FEEL WITH A SUCCULENT, BLUE-FRUIT FINISH. DRINK OR HOLD. WITH A SVELTE FINISH. THIS IS THE BEST BALESTARD LA TONNELLE THAT I HAVE TASTED IN RECENT YEARS. EXCELLENT.

**GUIDE GAULT ET MILLAU**  
15-16/20

RIPE, A LITTLE BLACKCURRANT. MODERATELY DENSE STRUCTURE, SLIGHTLY ROUGH TANNINS AND A WHOLE WHOSE AROMATICS ARE NOT VERY EXPRESSIVE. STILL CLOSED.

**BORDEAUX TOTAL**  
**RENÉ GABRIEL**  
17/20

CONCENTRATED, CREAMY, OPULENT BOUQUET, BLACKBERRY JAM, BLACK CHERRIES, GRAPHITE, CHOCOLATE. DENSE, LUSH, HIGHLY EXTRACTED PALATE WITH SANDY TANNINS POWERFUL, SWEET AROMATICS, MUSCULAR STRUCTURE, LONG, DRY FINISH.

**MATTHEW DUKES**  
17.5/20

VERY SPICY, QUITE DENSE AND HARD, THIS IS AN EXTRACTED WINE, BUT IT IS NOT TOO RAW OR TOO ASTRINGENT AND I FEEL COMFORTABLE ABOUT ITS FUTURE. THE RED FRUIT IS CERTAINLY POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN DOMINANCE IN THIS WINE.

**LE FIGARO**  
16.5/20

TASTING OF THE FIGARO VIN EDITORIAL STAFF : FRUITY, JUICY, FRISKY, SPICY, ELEGANT, SOFT TANNINS.

**JANE ANSON**  
90/100

GOOD, RICH AROMATICS ARE EVIDENT ON THE NOSE, SHOWING NOTES OF GRILLED OAK AND CLOVES WITH DAMSON UNDERNEATH. THEY HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB HERE, PRODUCING A BROAD-SHOULDERED WINE. IT'S A LITTLE OAK-LED, BUT HAS PERSONALITY AND WELL-PLACED FRUITS, AND THEY HAVE DELIVERED A WINE WITH THEIR OWN SIGNATURE IN A VINTAGE WHERE THAT WAS NOT THE EASIEST OF THINGS TO DO.

**JANCIS ROBINSON**  
16/20

DEEP CHERRY RED. SWEETLY FRUITED AND SWEETLY OAKY ON THE NOSE. A CONTRAST AFTER THE 2017 PESSACS. BUT THE RIPENESS IS JUST RIGHT. THE TEXTURE IS CHOCOLATE-LIKE BUT THE PALATE IS LESS LIVELY THAN THE NOSE. FRESH AND FIRM. A BIT DOUR ON THE FINISH.

**JAMES SUCKLING**  
91-92/100

SOME FRESH-EARTH AND MEATY NOTES HERE, AS WELL AS DRIED ROSE AND OAK SPICE. THE PALATE HAS A SMOOTH, PLUSH AND CENTRALLY FLESHY FEEL WITH A SUCCULENT, BLUE-FRUIT FINISH. DRINK OR HOLD. WITH A SVELTE FINISH. THIS IS THE BEST BALESTARD LA TONNELLE THAT I HAVE TASTED IN RECENT YEARS. EXCELLENT.

