

CHATEAU LARCIS DUCASSE 2006

SAINT EMILION GRAND CRU CLASSE

L'exposition plein sud est merveilleuse et le terroir en terrasse digne d'un premier grand cru.

Classement des Meilleurs Vins de France 2006, La Revue du Vin de France

Grande réussite : (...) on est ici largement au niveau d'un premier cru classé, comme le terroir le permet.

Michel Bettane et Thierry Desseauve, Tast (6 Mai 05)

Under the leadership of the extraordinarily talented team of Nicolas Thienpont and Stephane Derenoncourt, this 25-acre estate on the Cote Pavie (one of St.-Emilion's finest terroirs) has soared in quality. The monumental 2005 Larcis Ducasse has been followed by another brilliant effort in 2006. Unfortunately, production is less than 3,000 cases. The final blend of 89% Merlot and 11% Cabernet Franc (from yields of 27-34 hectoliters per hectare) has resulted in a soft, opulent wine revealing notes of cedar, roasted herbs, smoke, black cherry liqueur, plums, and cassis. This savory, fleshy, attractive St.-Emilion possesses good power and depth, but no hardness. It should drink beautifully for 15 or more years.

Robert Parker, Wine Advocate (170-May 07)

91-94/100

Grande réussite. On perçoit la maturité du fruit et un grand équilibre dans ce cru classé à la structure ferme, mais raffinée. Très belle finale précise et soyeuse.

La Revue du Vin de France (Juin 07)

17-18/20

Encore une très belle réussite pour cette propriété. La robe est dense. Le nez s'avance sur un cortège d'épices douces, de violette et de fruits noirs très mûrs. La bouche est subtile, racée, élancée dans sa forme. Tannins d'orfèvre, mûrs et juteux, et finale évasée, longue. Un vin de grande classe.

Jacques Perrin, Vinifera (n°35/36 – Juin 07)

92-94/100

★★★★

Robe profonde, reflets violets. Nez très racé, des notes de chocolat, de cassis, de cerise. Attaque souple, joli milieu de bouche, dense et assez ferme. Superbe finale racée, un très beau fruit et un superbe rebondissement.

Bernard Burtschy, Journal du Dimanche (n°3153 – Juin 07)

92-93/100

Although many have praised this wine in recent vintages, I have not found this wine endearing, but that changes with the excellent 2006. A much more elegant nose with ripe cranberry and cherry-infused fruit with a touch of sous bois and dark chocolate. Very good definition. The palate is medium-bodied, very elegant and sappy with ripe cherry and wild strawberry. Quite floral on the finish, good length. Impressive. Tasted April 2007.

Neal Martin, eRobertParker.com (April 07)

90-92/100

Would have been difficult to better the 2005 but this is still a superb wine. Generous fruit, precision of flavour, firm, ripe, minerally tannins and lovely freshness and length. 2014-25.

James Lawther, Decanter (April 07)

★★★★★

Ruby-red. Aromas of kirsch, blackberry, violet and minerals. Suave on entry, then vibrant and firm in the middle, with perfumed flavors of blackberry, flowers and minerals. An elegantly styled wine whose 20% cabernet franc component contributes strong minerality and site character. Finishes with fine tannins and very good aromatic persistence. An excellent performance for the vintage.

Stephen Tanzer, www.wineaccess.com (May 07)

89-92/100

Silky, with very fine tannins and a medium-to-long finish. Medium body. Caressing. Balanced and pretty. Lots of floral and berry character.

James Suckling, Wine Spectator (April 07)

89-91/100

Racy, sinewy, silky. Quite light but very well-oiled - like a racehorse. Pretty impressive. Appetising but relatively slim. Not especially long but it somehow tastes organic - wild and unpredictable. Very dry sandy tannins on the finish. One sample seemed a little too skinny.

Jancis Robinson MW, www.JancisRobinson.com (April 07)

17/20

Beau rouge sombre, bonne intensité vive. Nez très fruité, frais, mûr, fin, aromatique. Il fait penser à la douceur exotique que je retrouve dans La Serre. Vin très construit en bouche. L'attaque est bien marquée. Le vin se développe fruité, aromatique, juteux, frais, sur une bonne corpulence et une tannicité d'une grande douceur. Notes racées. Beaucoup de goût. Une belle réussite.

Jean Marc Quarin (Avril 07)

15,75-16/20

Le nez est d'une grande pureté, d'abord floral (violette) auquel s'associent des parfums de fruits variés: cerises et mûres, la bouche est élégante tendre et compacte à la fois moelleuse dans le toucher tannique et très savoureuse, le vin s'allonge dès le milieu dans une finale minérale, fraîche, aérienne et pleine de goût et minérale.

Daniel Sériot, rivedroite.canalblog.com (3 Avril 07)

92-94/100

Le nez est subtil, d'abord floral (plus pivoine que violette), accompagné de mûres écrasés et de notes de cannelle, la bouche est racée, avec des tannins ciselés d'une grande douceur, entrée de bouche, le milieu est bien structuré, un peu plus compact que Fourtet, la finale est nette pleine de fruits, des tannins sont un peu plus fermes (mais sans aucune rigidité), avec des notes calcaires, et beaucoup de goût.

Daniel Sériot, rivedroite.canalblog.com (15 Avril 07)

92-94/100

Le vin a une très jolie couleur avec une matière épaisse dans le verre. Le nez est très parfumé avec des notes de petits fruits noirs et de framboise. Une trame florale et fruitée se dégage également avec l'aération. En bouche, même impression de rondeur, de fruité et de finesse qu'au nez. Les tanins sont mûrs et très fondus. Un vin de plaisir dès aujourd'hui, ce qui est quelque part antinomique pour un vin primeur. Nous avons aimé néanmoins. A boire avant 2022/25.

Jean-Michel Deluc, Gault Millau (n°25 - Juin/Juillet 07)

18/20

Très beau nez de Merlot, qui précède une attaque suave, gourmande, libérant un fruit de noble expression. Les tannins sont très habilement intégrés, la chair est fine. Vraiment un très beau vin qui confirme le coup d'éclat exceptionnel du 2005. La résurrection est confirmée !

Didier Romieux, www.vinissime.com (Avril 07)

91-94/100

Très joli nez floral et fruité. Entrée en bouche fine, goûteuse. Belle matière, il y a du vin dans cet échantillon. Très belle longueur.

Vincent Ravenne, www.lapassionduvin.com (Avril 07)

92-94/100

Nez pur et dense, bouche au jus magnifique, très dense aussi et sapide, suave avec une belle tension en finale. C'est extrait comme le demandait le millésime, sans excès. Soyeux et délicieux, très beau vin.

Philippe Barret, www.lapassionduvin.com (Mai 07)

Le 2006 est le plus beau Saint-Emilion que j'ai pu boire de l'Ecurie Derenoncourt. Finesse, élégance, profondeur.. Grand!

Eric Bernardin, www.lapassionduvin.com (Avril 07)

There has been a stunning transformation here in the last few years. This fabulously situated 10 hectare vineyard (next door to Pavie on the best slope in Saint Emilion) has always had potential but has never produced great wine. In 2002, Nicolas Thienpont and Stéphane Derenoncourt of neighbouring Pavie Macquin, took control of both the vineyard and the winemaking and it is now making beautiful creamy, silky, wine that (2005 excepted) is usually sold at a relatively modest price. 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Now one of the top wines of Saint Emilion. The 2006 is ripe, rich and modern with good extraction of sexy black fruit and a sheen of warm oak. On the palate it is sweet, decadent and opulent but doesn't go too far down the blockbuster road.

Farr Vintners (April 07)

16+/20

Despite one of the best terroirs in Saint Emilion, this Chateau was under-performing until 2002. The Gratiot family brought in Nicolas Thienpont and Stéphane Derenoncourt to unlock the potential here and Larcis Ducasse is now known for producing rich and opulent wines. 89% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, with 10% less wine than in 2005. A rich and heady nose is followed by warm and succulent black fruits in the mouth. Medium-bodied, very silky and rich with lots of vigour. Slightly drying tannins and a fresh finish.

Albany vintners (April 07)

91-94/100

Larcis continues its renaissance under the new team. The colour is deep purple, the nose is creamy and flamboyant, concentrated and slightly smoky, the palate is pure fruit combined with a big structure. This is concentrated wine. This property is really making big strides.

Drink 2014-2025

Avery's of Bristol (April 07)

Since Nicolas Thienpont and Stéphane Derencourt took over this family-owned estate in 2002 quality has soared, culminating in their excellent 2005 which received an astonishing 95-98 points from Robert Parker. Located on the famous Côte Pavie, the 2006 adds further proof that they are finally fulfilling the potential of this great terroir. The wine has enticing sweet black cherry fruit on the nose with white pepper spice and a touch of tobacco. On the palate the wine starts slowly but then bursts into life with deep, broody plum and blackberry fruit cloaking the firm tannins and refreshing acidity that carry the wine through to a well-constructed finish. This has the complexity, fruit concentration and elegance that mark out the best wines in 2006. Drink: 2012-2020

Berry Bros & Rudd (April 07)

16.5/20

A tiny production here of 3,000 cases. Quite an elegant St Emilion, with good texture and sweet fruit, but slightly lacking on the mid-palate – perhaps one to watch? The length and concentration are good though.

Bordeaux index (April 07)

90-91/100

A perfectly located 10 hectare estate on the best slope in St Emilion, right next to Pavie. New life here since 2002 when the brilliant winemaking duo Stéphane Derenoncourt and Nicolas Theinpont took over the vineyard and winemaking. Each vintage since has resulted in ever more exciting wine, with the recent vintages from here ranked amongst the best values of St Emilion. Made from 89% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, the production was a third lower than in 2005.

Bill Blatch (June 07)

4/5

Juteux et frais, sur des tannins savoureux, croquants – exactement comme il faut, de facture parfaite. 2012 à 2018.

Rolf Bichsel, Vinum (n°111 – Juin 07)

16/20

Since 2002, delicious wines that are way more expensive now after the 2005. Like Bellevue, the fortunes here have been transformed by Stephane Derencourt and Nicolas Thienpont. The chateau was well-placed before as the limestone slopes are right next to Pavie, it's just that now they are realising the potential. The '06 is well made with good extraction and fine balance. 78% M 20% CF 2% CS. Drink 2012 - 2025.

Gavin Quinney, www.bordeauxreport.com (May 07)

90-92/100

Fruit and structure. Sweet and lovely and a bit of tannin at back. Delicious. Solid wine. Restrained and long.

Wow, is this place on a roll. High-toned ripe fruit, very dark and balanced. Good overall harmony from the big wine. Like it!

www.klwines.com (April 07)

Excellent wine

Dark forest fruit characters are prominent on an open and somewhat heady nose. The palate is more reserved, with firm but ripe tannins providing a robust structural backdrop to the pure plum and cherry fruit core. This is a modern style of st-emilion, well knit and well balanced, with an attractive damson finish. Drink 2012 to 2018.

Lay & Wheeler (April 07)

Serious, straight, harmonious, mineral lift, excellent purity of fruit expression and good spice and interest too. Good success.

Lea and Sandeman Co. (April 07)

90/100

Nicolas Thienpont seems to have hit upon a magic formula in recent years with his wines being amongst the most critically acclaimed and as a result sought after. The magic is definitely still going strong in 2006. 89% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, it seems to be well worth chasing a case with its restrained redcurrant nose and very attractive palate with ripe, fleshy fruit. This is very stylish and attractive and makes a very good impression with us.

DF: 2013

H&H Bancroft Wines (April 07)

Sophisticated floral perfume. Taught and precise. Pure black cherry fruit and excellent balance. Fine levels of dry extract. Ripe tannins and fresh acidity. Harmonious and intense, with blackcurrant fruit character. Very good.

Simon Quinn, Bordeaux Wine Investments (April 07)