



CHÂTEAU

*Croix de Labrie*

**SAINT-ÉMILION GRAND CRU**

Press Pack



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## THE GRAND CRU FROM THE GARDEN VINEYARD

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*The tiny plots of **Château Croix de Labrie** total an area of 5,7 hectares (14 acres) in the middle of the Saint-Émilion Grand Cru appellation area. Biological and biodynamic techniques are applied in tending the vines like Burgundy techniques.*

Château Croix de Labrie Saint-Émilion Grand Cru is the jewel of the estate and is made from grapes coming from the Badon plots, alongside Château Pavie and from the top of Saint-Christophe des Bardes, just beside the cellars that date back to 1687. This is a Merlot varietal like the best of the crus classés. Château Croix de Labrie is a Grand Cru and is one of that select family, perhaps the best of the small estates – very exclusive and rare.

Axelle Courdurié is the owner and winegrower, who works the vines from pruning through to harvesting and then from winemaking to ageing. Her husband, Pierre, is a wine globetrotter, who has travelled around the world for fifteen years, promoting the wines of his partners. He supports Axelle with production and likes to say that their estate is managed rather like the small Burgundy estates, where the concept of 'terroir' is everything.

The planting density in the vineyard is 6,500 vines per

hectare. Because harvesting only takes place when the fruit is perfectly ripe, the yield of this garden vineyard does not exceed 3,400 litres per hectare, whereas the maximum yield allowed by the appellation is 5,000 litres. The watch-words here are care, attention and gentleness. Care is provided as the vines develop to strengthen them with no resort to chemicals, by tilling the ground with a horse-drawn cultivator, meticulous pruning following the Poussard method, and manual debudding and sucker removal to control the vines' vigour.

Constant attention too, by thinning leaves to the east of the rows, when the fruit is the size of large peas, green harvesting, and later removing leaves on the west side to improve fruit ripening.

And gentleness comes at every step; harvesting by hand, and using small crates to carry the grapes without damaging them. Our pickers pass down each row several times only picking grapes that are properly ripe.



The grapes are sorted first on a vibrating table, then sorted by hand and deposited without pumps in small tanks with temperature control facilities, always trying to reduce manipulation and avoid pushing the fruit around.

**Vinification** takes place in tanks, whose size fits that of the plots, so we can vinify small quantities of juice and select strictly. The caps are punched down two or three times per day by hand to gently oxygenate the must and release the aromas in all their complexity.

**Pre-fermentation coldsoaks** are performed at around 3°C (37°F) for 4 days, before the temperatures are gradually brought back up again. The malolactic fermentation takes place in **new barrels made from French oak** extra fine grains with gentle and long heating.

*“We want our wines to reflect the terroirs that produced them. We also want them to be familiar.”*

Ageing takes at least 18 months for Château Croix de Labrie and Chapelle de Labrie, and about 14 months for Les Hauts de Croix de Labrie. When it is time to **blend the wines**, Axelle and Pierre Courdurié work in collaboration with Michel Rolland’s and Hubert de Bouard’s team. This is precious help, but the pair of winegrowers insist on keeping the final decision for themselves: “We want our wines to reflect the terroirs that produced them. We also want them to be familiar.”





## WHEN A COUPLE OF WINE LOVERS COME ACROSS A TERROIR

*“It was a tiny estate with very distinct terroir identities; that’s why we fell in love with Croix de Labrie!”*

As soon as they had taken over the estate in 2012, Axelle and Pierre Courdurié were immediately convinced of the potential of this mosaic of plots in the middle of the Saint-Émilion Grand Cru appellation area. This is where they could finally fulfil their passion for wine. And change their lives.

When they met in 1994 in Washington state, Axelle was winemaker at the Columbia Winery, while Pierre was working in wine distribution. When she returned to Bordeaux, Axelle thought that her great experience plus fluent English would be more than enough to pursue her career. Unlucky! Bordeaux in the 90’s did not welcome women into wine, whatever their field of expertise.

She changed her plans and developed her career in a major French group specialising in building materials. It was hectic, but flavourless, so she quit, when the desire to roll up her sleeves and get to work on a project closer to her aspirations became an absolute necessity.





*“We knew the wine world well, so we looked for an estate with human dimensions, wanting to make it our family adventure. We were also looking for attractive terroirs; that’s what interested us the most.”* remembers Pierre.

Château Croix de Labrie was superior to the rest, no doubt because it was one of the estates that originated the “garage wine” movement. The term was a joke, but also an accurate description of those very great Saint-Émilion wines produced in small quantities literally in a garage instead of a winery, which leave a lot of freedom for the potential of terroirs to be expressed.



## METICULOUS PRECISION ALL ALONG THE YEAR

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“This potential encouraged us to go even further by paying even more meticulous attention to the expression of each of our terroirs,” adds Axelle. “If you taste a Château Croix de Labrie and a Chapelle de Labrie in the same vintage, they really represent two very different aromatic expressions. This is nothing to do with first and second wines.”

This precision, or even sophistication, results from Axelle’s painstaking work 365 days a year, from the close observation of every vine during pruning to the detailed attention paid to the lunar calendar during winemaking, not forgetting the delicate punching of the caps by hand. All these steps are carried out meticulously without rushing the fruit. She works calmly and peacefully on all tasks from beginning to end, because she admits, she finds it hard to delegate. “We’re on a small estate, We are a small family estate that I want to include in a real transmission for our daughter Camille for me it’s like delegating the education of my daughter to someone else. This obsession is the other side to my passion. It’s visceral for me”



## “EXCELLENCE IS DESIRING PERFECTION, EVEN IF YOU CANNOT GET IT”

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*Axelle Courdurié lives her whole year in step with her vines and her wine. She has a deep love of nature, respects its bounty and is extremely demanding of herself. Questions for an enthusiastic, yet stubborn wine grower.*

### **Running an estate with biological and biodynamic techniques covers what at Croix de Labrie?**

It was a real personal choice, which came naturally due to a multiple sclerosis that I had for several years. For a while, we have used sustainable winegrowing methods on our domain, this becoming organic was an evidence and a successful outcome. I am very sensitive to

any form of neurodegenerative product and I refuse that anyone is affected by a substance that affects the nervous system. Such a practice, devoid of any chemical products, is the result of both a desire and a long-term work on our lands. For sure it is out of respect for the consumer, but also for the neighborhood's health and mine as I spend all my time in the vines. The only chemical treatment we allow ourselves is to fight mildew. It's a last-ditch action to save the harvest. With less than six hectares (14 acres) of vines it's an economic necessity for us. By working the soil properly and caring regularly and meticulously for our vines, we can do without chemicals.

### **How do you till the soil?**

We claw, we plow, we unpick, we plant plant cover in the inter-row (radish, field beans, oats, barley, peas ...) which avoids using herbicides. As well as protecting nature more, I believe you can taste it in the wine; in fact, I'm certain of it. The wines are more precise, tauter and we highlight the fruit more. We use a horse to plough as much as we can. It gives ideal structure to the soil all year, and it's a lovely time socially speaking, because people on the road stop to watch and the old people come and talk.





**You take special care with your pruning.**

**Can you explain this step?**

Pruning is fundamentally important; I couldn't possibly delegate it. I need a month and a half for the whole estate, and I prefer to do it myself to be sure it's been done properly. If I make a mistake, I can only blame myself. Pruning has an enormous impact. You need to understand that pruning is working out what you want to do with the fruit of the coming year, but it's also anticipating the harvest of the following year. And each vine is unique. Even if it was planted in the same plot in the same year as another, they live a different life. Good wine starts with pruning and observation.

**What is your technique?**

I prune using the Poussard method. So that the vines are not weakened and continue to produce nice fruit, I shorten the canes, reduce the height of the vine stock and cut off diseased wood. It's not only for quality, to get properly shaped vines that will produce high quality grapes, it's also to fight disease.

I don't remove buds when pruning, only when third leaves emerge. That way, if there are any buds that don't open, you can still select four per fruiting branch. I do that in May, by hand of course, at the same time as we desucker the tops of the vines.

**And removing suckers also helps with grape quality...**

Yes, the same thing as removing lateral shoots around bunches. It's all part of the same principle, which is to reduce anything that can weaken the vine and lessen grape quality through poorer sugar and anthocyanin content. I just break off all the small buds with my finger that will only produce leaf and not fruit.

Later, when the bunches have formed and the size of the grapes has reached that of large peas, we remove leaves on the eastern side of the row, so the grapes acclimatise to the sun and their skins tan and thicken, so that the fruit is properly prepared when the summer heat arrives.

The last steps are at the beginning of August, when we harvest some of the green fruit to enable the remaining grapes to ripen better and avoid disease, and finally at the end of August, we remove leaves to the west of the rows. All these steps before the harvest and winemaking are essential if we are to leave nothing to chance. I'm aiming at excellence for our wines, and I force myself to be very thorough. It's exhausting, but it's really exciting.

# AUDACITY AT THE SERVICE OF QUALITY

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## GENODIC

*“If music affects the mood of humans and animals, then why not on the vines?”*

This question, Joel Sternheimer physicist and musician, studied it in the 1960s. His work, since patented, highlighted the positive influence of music on the health and growth of plants. Aware of the potential of this method and the benefits that this could bring to the vine.

Château Croix de Labrie decided to try the genodics experience. Last February, a loudspeaker, covering 1.5 ha or 30% of the vineyard, was installed to broadcast 2 times a day at 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. music waves for 15 minutes.

The goal: to reduce wood diseases such as ESCA and eutypiosis and find a natural solution for mildew.

Genodics or the art of caring for the vine with music. A choice that fits into the logic that drives the owners Axelle and Pierre Courdurié, in organic farming for several years.

Genodics contributes to this desire to work the vine and its terroir in a natural way that respects its environment. The different levels of organization of matter (inert or living) are connected by «scale waves» which ensure consistency.

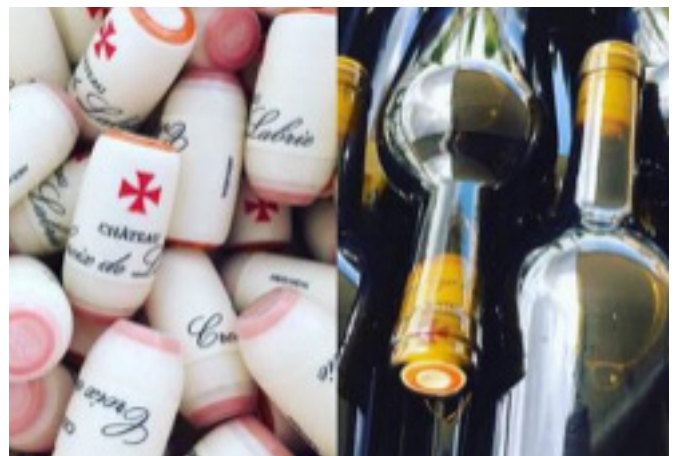
During the protein synthesis process, the amino acids emit sequences of quantum signals which constitute a specific melody of each protein. The audible transpositions of these melodies can influence in real time, via a form of resonance between successive frequencies, the rate of protein synthesis.

## TECHNICAL CAPS

*“From the 2015 vintage, we decided to cap Chateau Croix de Labrie wines with technical corks, guaranteeing the aging potential over time and without the risk of corky taste.”*

This technology developed by ArdeaSeal also makes it impossible to falsify our wines. So we can 100% guarantee that our wines will never have a “bad taste” and will be able to age over time without any defect. The ArdeaSeal stopper was born to resolve the main causes that can compromise the quality of a bottle of wine with a natural cork. with a cork stopper, derived from cork or other:

- Chemical contamination (TCA)
- Organoleptic deviations



This new technology, integrated within the property, is produced in full respect of the wine tradition; already adopted by very beautiful areas: Ponsot in Burgundy, Domaine Comte de Senard, Domaine François Carillon, Château d'Arche, Domaine Comber in Crozes Hermitage and other areas in Italy.



# CHÂTEAU CROIX DE LABRIE AOC SAINT-ÉMILION GRAND CRU

97% MERLOT • 3% CABERNET-SAUVIGNON



**Château Croix de Labrie vines grow on some of the finest Saint-Émilion terroirs with plots located at Badon, below the Pavie hillside and on the heights of Saint-Christophe des Bardes.**

At Badon the soils are made up of sand and clay with traces of iron oxide and a clayey limestone subsoil. These soils drain well, which produces elegance in the wine. The terroir in Saint Christophe-des-Bardes consists of asteriated clayey limestone, which contributes complexity and density to the wines.

The distinctive, unique wines of Château Croix de Labrie are rich, dense and very fruity, being made from perfectly ripe grapes. They have deep, elegant, very subtle robes and when young, they are fresh, big and well-balanced. They have the potential to be laid down for more than 15 years.

✦ **PLANTING DENSITY:** 6,500 vines per hectare.

✦ **YIELD:** 3,400 litres per hectare.

✦ **AVERAGE AGE OF THE VINEYARD:** 50 years.

✦ **HARVEST:** The fruit is picked by hand and carried in wooden crates. Pickers go down each row several times. The fruit is manipulated using gravity only and is vinified in small tanks. Temperatures are fully controlled.

✦ **SCREENING:** After de-stemming, the fruit is screened on a vibrating sorting table, densimetric sorting, then sorted manually.

✦ **SOAK BEFORE FERMENTATION:**

At about 3° C (37.4° F) for 4 days.

✦ **VINIFICATION:** The fruit is vinified plot by plot. Different temperature levels are adhered to, but never higher than 26° C (79° F). The cap is punched down manually.

✦ **MALOLACTIC:** In new barrels made from French oak that have undergone medium to long toasting.

✦ **AGEING:** Ageing on the lees during 6 months and in new barrels for at least 18 months.

✦ **ANNUAL PRODUCTION:** Between 8,000 and 10,000 bottles.

*“Château Croix de Labrie tastes fantastically good and still has a future filled of flavoursome promise.”*

# LA PRESSE

## 2019

### ● XL VINS ON THE 2019: « TOP 15 DES MEILLEURS 2019 »

**98+points.** « Nez très expressif, très profond, sur des notes de fruits noirs ayant une parfaite maturité. Très jolie dimension florale à l'aération, quelle profondeur ! De belles notes de cassis, de mûres, de cerises noires, de myrtilles, et de magnifiques violettes bien fraîches viennent élever le vin. Très belle texture, d'une belle souplesse, très travaillée, qui donne de la fraîcheur à l'ensemble. Les tannins sont fins et s'expriment dans une finale très bien construite, longue, et cohérente. A noter un léger côté croquant qui vient rajouter du peps dans une finale très vive, avec une pointe saline. Très «dark» (pour le côté fruits noirs), très frais, très long: c'est très réussi ! »

### ● JAMES SUCKLING ON THE 2019: "FULL BODY AND INCREDIBLE LENGTH"

**97-98 points.** "This is really special and intense, showing incredible energy and brightness with perfumes that just jump out. Full body and incredible length. Changes all the time. So complex. Notes of iron, too. Love this. 97% Merlot with Cabernet Sauvignon."

### ● JEAN-MARC QUARIN ON THE 2019: "IT'S DELICIOUS"

**96 points.** « Depuis le superbe 2013, Axelle et Pierre Courdurié ne cessent de me surprendre ! Ils proposent un vin au profil gustatif très différent dans le paysage de Saint-Émilion. Couleur sombre, intense, aux reflets noirs. Nez très aromatique, fin, fruité et truffé. Moelleux à l'attaque et plus encore gras dès le milieu, avec beaucoup de goût, le vin fond au palais, riche, généreux, tout en s'étirant sur un corps droit. Très longue finale sèveuse sur un des grains de tannins les plus fins jamais vus ici. C'est délicieux et particulièrement sapide dès maintenant. Assemblage: 97% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon. Rendement: 30 hl/ha. 2028-2060. »

### ● VERT DE VIN ON THE 2019

**96-97 points.** "The nose is fruity, gourmand, racy, fleshy and offers a beautiful definition, complexity, élégant as well as finesse. It reveals notes of wild blackberry, very ripe blueberry, small notes of wild raspberry associated with small touches of liquorice, small blue fruits, strawberry, pepper as well as very fine hints of tobacco, nutmeg and cornflower. The palate is fruity, wellbalanced, racy, elegant and offers a beautiful pulpy / juicy fruit, deepness, generosity, a beautiful grain, a fine acidulous frame, tension as well as freshness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy/juicy blackberry, strawberry and small notes of small blue fruits associated with touches of small blue fruits, raspberry, cornflowers/lilac as well as a subtle hint of liquorice/liquorice stick and toasted hazelnut. Tannins are elegant, fine, racy and structuring. A small salinity on the finish with very fine hints of toasted/grilled."

### ● BERNARD BURTSCHY ON THE 2019

**96-97 points.** « Cela fait plusieurs années que Croix de Labrie produit des vins superbes, remarquables en primeurs et qui le confirment ensuite en bouteille. Le 2019 se présente avec une robe très dense, opaque avec des reflets violets. Les arômes sont intenses et d'une grande pureté avec de la myrtille, des notes fumées et d'élevage de grande classe. Le vin est dense, incroyablement concentré tout en présentant une texture soyeuse sans lourdeur, avec un élevage de haute volée. Il est encore plus harmonieux que le remarquable 2018 avec des tannins plus harmonieux. Il est au niveau d'un premier cru classé. Il a été élaboré avec 97% Merlot et 3% Cabernet-Sauvignon, ce qui est à quelques centièmes près, le pourcentage des années précédentes. »

### ● THOMAS BOXBERGER (WEINWISSE) - ON THE 2019

**95-97 points.** "Der Croix de Labrie kommt von 4,2 Hektar in verschiedenen Lagen bei St.-Christophe des Bardes und unterhalb der Côte Pavie bei Pavie. Er besteht aus 97% Merlot, der am 20. September geerntet und 3% Cabernet Sauvignon, der am 2. Oktober gelesen wurde. Das Durchschnittsalter liegt bei 50 Jahren, einige Cabernets sind 100 Jahre alt. Die biodynamische Weinbergsarbeit folgt einem burgundischen Ansatz ebenso die Vinifikation und Ausbau mit 5 Tagen Kaltmazeration bei 6° C, Untertauchen des Tresterhutes per Hand und wenig Bewegung beim Ausbau in 100% neuen Barriques von 5 verschiedenen Tonnellerien. Superdichte, hochviskose Farbe, massiv, ganz dunkel, fast schwarz. Hochkonzentriert, dunkelbeerig, mit feinem, leicht edizinalen Holzton im Geruch. Graphit, Teer und schwarze Schokolade schwingen in der likörigen Kopfnote mit, sehr tief und geschliffen, Blaubeerenkonzentrat, fleischige, kirschtige Fülle, mit feinstem, holzigem Schmelz. Unglaublich feingledrig, engmaschig, dicht, konzentriert und voluminös, ist der Croix de Labrie zu einem großen Ganzen zusammengefügt. Perfekt balanciert, sehr vielschichtig, extrem weit gefasst und ausgewogen. Mit etwas konfiert Orangenschale am Zungenrand und seiner sehr geschliffenen Struktur wirkt er ein wenig untypisch für einen St.-Émilion. Vielmehr wirkt er wie ein Wein aus einer anderen Welt, mit grandioser, feinkörniger Gerbstoffstruktur und traumhafter Balance. So erinnert er ein wenig an Dominus, der auch nicht typisch kalifornisch, sondern eher europäisch erscheint. 2019 ist ein sehr guter Croix de Labrie, der mit großer Feinkörnigkeit und ausgezeichneter Länge einen großen Rahmen bedient. 14,5% Alkohol. 14.000 Flaschen."

### ● JEB DUNNUCK ON THE 2019

**95-97 points.** "This rising superstar estate in Saint-Émilion has produced another brilliant wine in 2019. Based largely on Merlot brought up in new French oak, it reveals a dense purple hue as well as a powerful bouquet of black raspberry and cassis interwoven with plenty of graphite, candied violets, cedary spice, and chocolatey oak. This powerful, full-bodied Saint-Émilion stays beautifully balanced and has building tannins, a vibrant spine of acidity, and classic minerality on the finish. It's already hard to resist given the purity of fruit and silky tannins, but it's going to benefit from 4-6 years of bottle age and keep for 20 years or more."



● **JEFF LEVE ON THE 2019:**

**"THIS COULD BE THE BEST WINE YET FROM CROIX DE LABRIE"**

**95-97 points.** "Inky dark purple in color, you know this is intense from the moment the wine hits your glass. Chocolate, vanilla, blackberry, blueberry, smoke, flowers, licorice, and raspberry notes take no effort to find. There is good lift, loads of crushed rocks, opulent, velvety textures, and layer after layer of chocolate-covered black cherries. This could be the best wine yet from Croix de Labrie!"

● **IZAK LITWAR ON THE 2019**

**96+ points.** "Croix de Labrie - 97% Merlot + 3% Cabernet Sauvignon. This wine or should I call it baby wine started a bit mute but after 15 minutes in a carafe, it turned afterburners on! Deep and intense nose of black fruit (blueberries/blackberries with great flair, concentrated and seamless on the palate. Voluminous with great complexity and long fruity finish. Seamless so you can't feel the tannin. Alcohol? Where is it? Completely «eaten» or packed in or integrated/masked by fruit. This is very, very impressive effort indeed!"

● **FALSTAFFON THE 2019**

**96 points.** "Tiefdunkles Rubingranat, opaker Kern, violette Reflexe, zarte Randaufhellung. Mit einem Hauch von kandierten Veilchen floral unterlegte dunkle Waldbeerfrucht, zart rauchige Edelholzwürze, attraktives Bukett. Saftig, elegant, reif Kirschen, feiner Nougat, gut integrierte Tannine, mineralisch und frisch, extraktsüß und lange anhaftend im Abgang, zarter Schokotouch im Nachhall, sicheres Entwicklungspotenzial, schöner Vieilles Vignes-Charakter."

● **TOM MULLEN ON THE 2019: "A RIVER OF SPLENDOR HERE"**

Virtual En Primeurs And Wine Tastings Have Taken Off. «This 90/10 blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc from winemakers Axelle and Pierre Courdurié is produced organically. A lively garden of energetic aromas and juicy fruits-including boysenberries, blueberries, cocoa powder, eucalyptus and nettle. In the mouth, this is a barking farmyard of flavors-think gooseberries, mint, eucalyptus, licorice, chocolate and cream all embedded in a fiery, joyful matrix. A river of splendor here.»

● **YVES BECK ON THE 2019:**

**« UNE SYMBIOSE ENTRE ÉLÉGANCE, PUISSANCE ET TEMPÉRAMENT »**

**94-95 points.** « Pourpre violacé. Que d'intensité et de pluralité dans ce bouquet ! Il révèle bien son élevage mais ce dernier cède rapidement la place à des notes de baies noires et d'épices, suivie d'une typique touche crayeuse. C'est en bouche que Croix-de-Labrie se révèle le mieux. Il a de la race, du tempérament et est doté de tannins fins qui gagnent en dimension et en intensité le long du palais. La structure confère de la tension et soutient l'expression aromatique jusqu'en fin de bouche. Finale fruitée et persistante. Un vin qui parvient à créer la symbiose entre élégance, puissance et tempérament. 2024-2039. »

● **TERRE DE VINS ON THE 2019**

**94-95 points.** «Ce vin se distingue dans le panel car il est construit sur le fil de l'acidité. Robe écarlate, fins arômes de fleurs rouges et de goudron, attaque suave et grenue, annonçant un équilibre très haut, entre zan et anis. Beaucoup d'efforts sur cette propriété qui est au bord de la grande marche. »

● **WINE ADVOCATE ON THE 2019**

**93-95+ points.** "Composed of 97% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon with a potential of 14.5% alcohol and aging in 100% new French oak barrels, the 2019 Croix de Labrie has a very deep purpleblack color. The nose opens with some very classy cedary notes, giving way to a profound core of baked plums, blackberry preserves and blueberry pie with touches of licorice, chargrilled meats, mocha and eucalyptus with a waft of red roses. Full-bodied, rich and concentrated, the palate has wonderful vibrancy for its weight, with a solid backbone of plush, ripe tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and fragrant. This chateau has been on a roll recently—I am more and more impressed every year."

● **NEAL MARTIN (VINOUS) ON THE 2019**

**92-94 points.** "The 2019 Croix de Labrie offers upfront black cherries, blackcurrant and cedar aromas on the nose, quite intense but well defined. The oak here is neatly assimilated. The palate is vibrant on the entry with layers of creamy black and blue fruit, silky smooth in texture with a modicum of restraint on the finish. It's one of the best wines that I have tasted from this Saint-Émilion Grand Cru in recent years."

● **DECANTER ON THE 2019**

**93 points.** "Croix de Labrie always delivers a wine that is bursting with fruit and certainly you have polish and glamour here, with things are smartly reined in on the finish. Excellent quality, gourmet and velvety but not overdoing anything with tons of plump damson and black cherry. A yield of 25hl/ha (after selection, it was 30hl/ha at harvest), 100% new oak. Harvest September 20 to October 2, vinified in stainless steel vats and 500l oak barrels."

**• BETTANE & DESSEAUVÉ ON THE 2019**

**92-93 points.**

**• MARKUS DEL MONEGO ON THE 2019**

**92 points.** «A rich yet elegant wine with dark purple colour, violet hue and black core. Excellent nose with multilayered aroma reminiscent of ripe dark berries, elegant toasting, balmy character with hints of tobacco leaf, vanilla and gingerbread spices in the background. On the palate well-structured with concentrated character, distinct freshness, ripe yet firm tannins, juicy fruit and convincing length.»

**• ROD SMITH ON THE 2019**

**91-92 points.** "Very intense deep purple colour. Deep packed spices and sweet coffee oak scents. Sweet juicy black fruit aromas underneath. Flavour packed with ripe tannins, concentrated black berries and spiced fruits. Cocoa dust and coffee bean oak. Enough balancing acidity, very long warm finish. Very good."

**• ANTONIO GALLONI (VINOUS) ON THE 2019**

**90-92 points.** "The 2019 Croix de Labrie is rich, creamy and expansive on the palate. Raspberry jam, mocha, spice, licorice and pomegranate build effortlessly. A hint of reduction lingers, but hopefully élevage will take care of that."

**• SCHWEIZERISCHE WEINZEITUNG ON THE 2019**

**19/20.** "Intensives Bouquet, Kaffee, Kräuter, schwarze Brombeeren, reife Kirschen, Bitterschokolade. Dicht, saftig, viel feines süßes Tannin, gute Struktur, feine Säure, konzentrierte dunkelbeerige Frucht, Brombeeren, Himbeeren, Alpenkräuter im Finish, lang".

**• MARIE ROGINSKA (VINVINOWINE) ON THE 2019**

**18/20.** « Axelle et Pierre Courdurié travaillent leur petit joyau de 5,7 ha de vignes sur un magnifique terroir très complexe d'argiles riches en oxyde de fer, argilo-sableux et plateau calcaire, les parcelles à côté de Château Pavie et sur le plateau de Saint-Christophe des Bardes. Axelle travaille à la vigne et au chai en bio et biodynamie. C'est un travail de haute couture qui est fait manuellement de la taille à la mise en bouteille en passant par la vendange, la vinification et le vieillissement. Chaque geste compte, tout est précis à la perfection. Chaque parcelle, chaque terroir sont travaillés individuellement. Ici on a adopté un concept bourguignon pour mettre en avant le terroir avec tous ses atouts. Le 2019 est assemblé avec 97% de Merlot et 3% de Cabernet Sauvignon. Les merlots sont juteux, mûrs et frais, cette touche de cabernets ajout une note poivrée et mentholée. Le vin est dense avec une grande générosité, note fruitée et florale très élégante, tout est précis avec une certaine sophistication, il est racé et persistant, taillé pour l'avenir. »

**• LE FIGARO VIN ON THE 2019**

**17,5/20.** « Charpenté, structuré, le vin onctueux, vif et frais manifeste sa puissance en finale, juteuse, grâce à des tanins denses. Fruit éclatant, finale longue, salivante. »



2018

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### • VERT DE VIN ON THE 2018

**98-99 points.** «Le nez est aromatique et offre une jolie finesse du grain, de la fraîcheur, de la puissance, une belle profondeur, de la complexité, de l'élégance ainsi de l'intensité. Nous vous recommandons de le mettre en carafe. On y retrouve des notes de cassis sauvage, de violette et de mûre sauvage fraîche associées à de fines touches de myrtille écrasée ainsi qu'à des pointes de graphite, de noisette toastée, à de discrètes pointes de cardamome verte, de thé, de lys, à une imperceptible pointe d'oranger et de poivre de sichuan. La bouche est fruitée, élégance, équilibrée, fine, ciselée et offre une jolie texture/une matière délicate, de la subtilité, une jolie délicatesse, une trame juteuse/finement acidulée, un joli côté mélodieux ainsi qu'une sensation d'étirement. En bouche ce vin exprime des notes de mûre de boysen écrasée, de prune pulpeuse/éclatante et plus légèrement de cassis écrasé associées à des touches de framboise sauvage, de petites baies rouges écrasées, à des pointes de myrtille juteuse/fraîche ainsi qu'à des pointes de bleuet, de lilas, à de fines pointes de fève de tonka, de muscade, à de très fines pointes d'amande toasté, à une imperceptible pointe de lavande, de noisette écrasée et de graphite. Une imperceptible pointe de tabac et de chocolat sur la persistance. Une très belle persistance (+19 caudalies !). De la sapidité, de la fraîcheur qui apportent de l'appétence et de la gourmandise en fin de bouche. Une très belle réussite avec une superbe jutosité, un bel éclat du fruit.»

### • JEAN-MARC QUARIN ON THE 2018

**97 points.** «Couleur rouge sombre de bonne intensité, belle et pourpre. Nez fruité mûr avec une touche de truffe, crémeux et un brin boisé. Délicat à l'attaque, fondant au développement, aromatique et subtilement gras, le vin évolue puissant sur un corps plein et droit, juteux et noble vers une grande longueur au goût de framboise. C'est superbe avec une expression unique à Saint-Émilion où le velouté s'allie à une énergie joyeuse et très sapide. Pourrait voir sa note monter en fin d'élevage. Très recommandé. Assemblage: 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet franc – Degré d'alcool: 14°5 – pH: 3,46 – Production: 9 000 bouteilles. 2026 – 2045.»

### • THOMAS BOXBERGER-VON SCHAABNER ON THE 2018

**95-97 points.** "The Croix de Labrie is one of the emerging wines in Saint-Émilion. Axelle Courdurié and her husband Pierre put all the energy and passion to continuously improve their wine. Since the year 2018, Croix de Labrie has been certified organic, the loss due to mildew was a whopping 40%, the yield was 25 hl per hectare. The vines are on average 50 years old, harvested on 28 September. Part of the plantations are below Pavie, part of Saint-Laurent-des-Combes and the rest of the estate near Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes. The 2018er Croix de Labrie consists of 96% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Cabernet Sauvignon (Prowein 90M, 7CS, 3CF), which is matured in 100% new Barrels and Tonneaux. Black, purple color. Dark berry, very fresh and deep in the scent. Grandiose depth in the mouth, with the striking freshness of the limestone plateau, intense and liqueur, dark berry and fresh, without overripe or clumsy sweetness. Deep and multi-faceted, enormously concentrated, long and racy, with fine Cabernet reflections in the rear and a grandiose pull on the palate. If you do not already know Croix de Labrie, you should try it soon!"

### • JAMES SUCKLING ON THE 2018

**97 points.** "A rich, powerful red with so much fruit and intensity. It's full-bodied with masses of fruit with vanilla and coffee character and a long, warm finish. Layered and intense. Really needs time in the bottle to come together. Better after 2025."

### • YVES BECK ON THE 2018

**95-96 points.** «Pourpre violacé. Bouquet élégant, complexe et fin marqué par des notes crayeuses. La fraîcheur et le fruit se révèlent également et je ressens des notes de menthe, de mûres et de réglisse. Touche épicée. Mise en bouche crémeuse et friande. Le vin a de la densité, de la race et un très bel équilibre. Les tannins sont denses et présentent un grain fin en fin de bouche, là où ils atteignent leur niveau maximal d'intensité. Ils ont suffisamment de matière pour être de pair avec la tension calcaire. La finale est fruitée, racée et juteuse. Je pense que l'élevage a encore un ou deux éléments à régler quant à l'élégance de la fin de bouche mais globalement, Croix de Labrie 2018 est une très grande réussite. 2024-2038»

### • JANCIS ROBINSON (JULIA HARDING) ON THE 2018

**17/20.** "Black core with purple rim. Intense aroma of sweet black fruit, more plum and damson than cassis. Rich and powerful on the palate but the firm, compact tannins and oak are fully balanced by the ripe generous fruit. Massive density but remarkably fresh on the palate, especially with this much new oak. Chewy and moreish with a long dry finish. Needs a lot of time even though the tannins are so smooth. 14%. Drink 2024-2032."

### • JEFF LEVE (THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER) ON THE 2018

**94-96 points.** "Black plum liqueur, clay, smoke, licorice and spice are all over the place. Concentrated and quite sexy, the wine is polished, sensuous velvety and stony. The fruit on the palate runs the gamut from black to blue to red. The wine shows more minerality and tension due to the inclusion of fruit from recently new vineyards on top of the plateau with asteries limestones. Made from 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon, it reached 14.2% alcohol. This is the second vintage for Hubert de Bouard as the consultant for Croix de Labrie."

### • PAOLO BASSO ON THE 2018

**95 points.** «Joli nez expressif où le fruité de baies des bois mûres se mêlent aux arômes d'épices douces, de cacao et de thé au jasmin. Riche et puissant, il affiche une entrée en bouche assez flatteuse et séduisante par sa belle sucrosité. Le milieu de bouche est très fin et élégant avec un style tout en dentelle, les tanins sont fermes et la finale de belle persistance (avec une pointe de sécheresse apportée par la jeunesse et la phase d'élevage). Vin qui exprime de l'élégance et de la classe tout en ayant une structure solide. 2025-2040.»

#### ● JEB DUNNUCK ON THE 2018

**93-95 points.** "I loved the 2018 Château Croix de Labrie, another terrific wine from winemaker Axelle Courdurié. Based on 90% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, brought up in new oak, its deep purple color is followed by ripe, powerful notes of cassis, spice box, toasty oak, and earth. It has a great mid-palate, ripe, polished tannins, and a great finish, all making for a brilliant looking Saint-Émilion."

#### ● BERNARD BURTSCHY ON THE 2018

**93-94 points.** «La robe est grenat sombre avec un joli nez de fruits rouges. Le vin est élégant avec de jolies notes de fruits rouges qui se retrouvent aussi en bouche, le vin possède de la densité, il est relativement tannique, un peu vanillé. Il est élaboré avec 96% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc et 1% Cabernet Sauvignon et vendangé le 28 septembre avec un rendement de 20 hl/ha.»

#### ● ANNE SERRES (TERRE DE VINS) ON THE 2018

**94 points.** «Un très beau vin, très gourmand à cœur dans son fruit noir et bleu de myrtille, à la fois juteux et croquant, aux accents épicés de poivre et de genièvre. La trame tannique encadre fermement ce cœur généreux et le promet à un développement en profondeur.»

#### ● LISA PEROTTI-BROWN (WINE ADVOCATE) ON THE 2018

**92-94 points.** "Axelle and Pierre Courdurié's 50-year-old, 3.79-hectare vineyard consists of a mix of clay and limestone soils, a portion of which are in Saint-Christophe-des-Bardès and another portion of which are located at the foot of the Pavie slope in Saint-Émilion. 2018 yields were just 24 hectoliters per hectare after selection. Aging is to occur in 100% new oak barrels for an anticipated 18 months. The blend is 90% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Cabernet Franc and the wine has 14% alcohol. Deep purple-black colored, the 2018 Croix de Labrie gives up expressive baked black cherries, warm mulberries and plum preserves with kirsch and raspberry tart sparks plus hints of smoked meats, tar and dried herbs. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has lovely freshness and a chewy texture with bags of bright red and black fruit, finishing with an herbal lift."

#### ● ANDRE KUNZ (BORDEAUX TOTAL RENÉ GABRIEL) ON THE 2018

**17/20.** "2018 Croix de Labrie: (90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Cabernet Franc) Breites, marmeladiges, süßes Bouquet, Brombeerkonfitüre, Kirschenkompott, Caramel, Moccacreme, Pfeffer. Üppiger, kräftiger Gaumen mit süßer Frucht, sandigem Tannin, kerniger, breiter Struktur, süßer Aromatik, guter Frucht, trocknender Abgang. 2024 - 2036."

#### ● BETTANE & DESSEAUE ON THE 2018

**93 points.** « Ce cru expressif, au tannin enveloppant, produit aujourd'hui l'un des meilleurs vins du secteur. Grande réussite pour ce cru à l'attaque ample et à la profondeur épicée, doté d'une jutosité de fruit qui irrigue parfaitement une finale montante bien construite. »

#### ● JANE ANSON (DECANTER) ON THE 2018

**93 points.** "This is a vibrant damson colour, exhibiting extremely polished, dense fruit flavours. The oak is apparent, walking a halfway house between old and new styles of St-Emilion. It's full of crushed brambly fruits, chocolate and liquorice, with bulky tannins that don't try to hide their intent. And yet if you sit with this for a while, the quality comes through in its floral notes and a really pretty, striking upward lift through the finish. An ambitious and impressive wine from Axelle and Pierre Courdurié. It is undergoing organic conversion, and in 2018 they tested playing music to the vines during the growing season. Hubert de Bouard consults as of 2018. Drinking Window 2024 - 2038."

#### ● JACQUES DUPONT (LE POINT) ON THE 2018

**15/20.** « Fruits rouges, gelée de framboise, frais, vif, tendu, gourmand, chaleureux mais équilibré. »

#### ● WEINWISSENER ON THE 2018

**17/20.** "Kompottartiges Bouquet mit reifen Pflaumen und Heidelbeeren, dahinter Cassislikör und Veilchen. Am festen Gaumen mit sehr engmaschigem Körper und mürbem Extrakt. Im gebündelten Finale kommt die Frische dem Wein zugute und verleiht ihm eine schöne Länge, ist mit der Extraktion ans Maximum gegangen, Potenzialwertung."

#### ● CHRISTER BYKLUM ON THE 2018

**88-90 points.** "Ruby. Anise, liquorice, blueberries, some spices nose. Rich. Freshish acidity, ripe tannins, ripe, rich, fruit driven, some spices, dark berries, good length."

#### ● ANTONIO GALLONI (VINOUS) ON THE 2018

**90-92 points.** "The 2018 Croix de Labrie is super-ripe, dense and concentrated. Inky, jammy red fruit, mocha and sweet spice develop in the glass. Unctuous and richly textured to the core, Croix de Labrie shows the riper side of the vintage off to great effect. This is an especially sumptuous, overt style, and yet all the elements are in the right place. Croix de Labrie is 90% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Cabernet Franc. Consulting winemakers Hubert de Bouard and Jean-Philippe Fort are a formidable duo here. Tasted two times."

#### ● ROD SMITH ON THE 2018

**89 points.** "Deep rich sweet fruit and some dry spices. Black cherry and damson aromas. Juicy black fruits. Some plum and cherry. Ripe tannins and fresh acidity. Good length."



# 2017

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## ● JAMES SUCKLING ON THE 2017

**96 points.** "Blackberries, crushed stones and violets on the nose. Complex and exotic. Full body. Velvety and lightly chewy texture. Deep, dark fruit and a flavorful and intense finish. Great result for a hand-crafted wine. Wow. This is better than the 2016. From biodynamically grown grapes. Better in 2021."

## ● JEAN-MARC QUARIN ON THE 2017:

### « DANS LE TOP 20 DES MEILLEURS VINS ROUGE DU MILLÉSIME 2017 »

**95 points.** « Couleur sombre, intense et jeune. Nez très aromatique, au fruité mûr et légèrement truffé. Minutieux à l'attaque, suave au développement, gras et complexe entre le milieu et la finale, le vin s'achève noble, profond, avec un goût de fruits rouges et de fruits blancs. C'est superbe. 2024 - 2050. »

## ● VERT DE VIN ON THE 2017

**95 points.** "The nose is fruity, elegant, gourmand and offers a freshness, richness, a grain, power as well as elegance. It reveals notes of ripe cassis, black-berry and small notes of black cherry associated with ne touches of wild ripe raspberry, ne hints of graphite, violet as well as a discreet hint of cor-nower, Cuben pepper, cardamom and liquorice. The palate is fruity, juicy, mineral, elegant and offers a beautiful de nition as well as a mineral/ nely acidulous frame. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/ acidulous cassis, juicy/ripe raspberry and small notes of juicy/acidulous blackberry associated with ne hints of violet, liquorice as well as very discreet hints of spices and roasted (in the background/ persistence). A very discreet hint of bitterness of the cocoa on the nish. Good length."

## ● JEB DUNNUCK ON THE 2017

**94 points.** "This estate continues to fire on all cylinders, and their 2017 Chateau Croix De Labrie is stunning stuff. Loaded with notions of creme de cassis, graphite, crushed violets, chocolate, and a kiss of classic Saint-Émilion minerality, it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, polished tannins, a stacked mid-palate, and a great finish. It's another killer wine from this tiny, family-run estate that readers should snatch up. I suspect it will be even better with 2-4 years of bottle age and cruise for two decades."

## ● JANCIS ROBINSON ON THE 2017

**17/20.** "Inky crimson. Darkest of fruit and lightly charred. Already well in harmony with juicy freshness and red as well as black fruit. Supple, fragrant and charming. Long, too."

## ● YVES BECK ON THE 2017

**93 points.** « Bouquet complexe, de bonne intensité, alliant des notes fruitées (cassis, myrtilles) et épicées. Je remarque également une touche de fèves de cacao et de bois de réglisse. En bouche le vin est friand et crémeux en attaque. Les tannins sont élégants, bien intégrés, tandis que la structure est vive et assure une tension rafraîchissante. Finale fruitée et persistante. Une belle réussite. 2022-2032. »

## ● ANTONIO GALLONI (VINOUS) ON THE 2017

**93 points.** "The 2017 Croix de Labrie has turned out beautifully. Rich and ample on the palate, the 2017 possesses notable depth and textural resonance from start to finish. Red cherry, raspberry jam, pomegranate, dried herbs, tobacco, incense and blood orange all meld together in a rich, creamy Saint-Émilion loaded with personality. This is such a gorgeous wine. Tasted two times."

## ● CHRISTER BYKLUM ON THE 2017

**92 points.** "Ruby. Blueberries and anise, some spices, liquorice, vanilla, rich, coffee notes nose. Fresh acidity, ripe tannins, anise, dark fruity, vanilla, spices, needs time to swallow the wood, long."

## ● LISA PERROTTI-BROWN (WINE ADVOCATE) ON THE 2017

**90-92 points.** "Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Croix de Labrie is scented of baked blackberries, black cherry compote and warm plums with an earthy undercurrent and a waft of Indian spices. Medium to full-bodied, it has a firm frame of grainy tannins and a refreshing line supporting the earthy layers, finishing on a black truffle note."

## ● JANE ANSON ON THE 2017

**88 points.** "Axelle and Pierre Courdurié have been the owners here for the past three years, with Hubert de Boüard as consultant. It's definitely an interesting estate to watch, down in the Vignonet sector of St-Emilion. It's rich in character, with some clear oak finessing and a twist of caramel. A touch of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend this year gives finesse alongside plump black fruits, but yet again the vintage is evident - it just doesn't have the ripeness to carry the fruit through the oak without things closing in. The acidity is a little spiky on the finish. 100% new oak. Drinking Window 2022-2032."

## ● GUIDE HACHETTE 2021 ON THE 2017: « VIN REMARQUABLE »

**2 étoiles.** « Un vin à la robe profonde et brillante, au nez concentré et complexe. Se succèdent harmonieusement des arômes de fruits noirs bien mûrs portés par des notes d'élevage raffinées, aux accents cacaotés et torréfiés. La bouche n'est pas en reste: dense et charnue, elle déploie sa structure imposante sans aucune lourdeur. Bien au contraire, la puissance est contenue dans une matière pure et fruitée qui persiste longuement sur des arômes de myrtille et de mûre sauvage. 2025-2030. »

# 2016

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## • JAMES SUCKLING ON THE 2016: "ON THE TOP OF BORDEAUX 2016 VINTAGE"

**96 points.** "This shows so much violet and dark-berry character on the nose. So enticing. Full-bodied with chewy and polished tannins, blackberries and eucalyptus and a light, menthol note to finish. A rich yet touching wine. Try after 2023."

## • JEAN-MARC QUARIN ON THE 2016: "THE BEST EVER"

**97 points.** "The most velvety vintage in Saint-Émilion. How not to think of Le Pin in Pomerol?"

## • NEAL MARTIN (VINOUS) ON THE 2016: "PURE & GENEROUS"

**92 points.** "The 2016 Croix de Labrie has a lovely, pure, generous bouquet of black cherries, cassis and light violet aromas that maintain admirable control and focus. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannin, good structure and a superb line of acidity. This is one of the best wines I have tasted from Croix de Labrie. Excellent."

## • JEB DUNNUCK ON THE 2016: "THE TOP WINE OF 2016"

**93 points +.** "The top wine is the 2016 Château Croix de Labrie, a blend of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon that was raised all in new barrels. It offers additional richness and depth, with awesome notes of crème de cassis, spicy oak, licorice, and some chocolate all emerging from the glass. Medium to full-bodied and nicely textured, with ripe tannins, it's going to benefit from short-term cellaring and see its 20th birthday in fine form."

## • PAOLO BASSO ON THE 2016: "VERY DISTINGUISHED"

**98 points.** "Beautiful, very refined nose with scents of cocoa, spices, vanilla, black cherries and licorice. Very distinguished. Mouth of an exceptional breed with an attack at once imposing and refined, dense and compact with a lot of depth and flavors that bring style to the palate. The tannins are rich and very refined, of a perfect maturity. Endless finale that reveals flavors, intensity and power. Exceptional wine. 2022-2040."

## • VERT DE VIN ON THE 2016: "POWER & FINESSE"

**95 points.** "The nose is elegant and offers power, finesse, subtly and a small frank/ straight. It reveals notes of cassis, blackberry and small notes of crushed red berries associated with discreet hints of spices, cardamom, a very discreet hint of blueberry as well as very discreet hints of tonka bean and an imperceptible hint of Sichuan pepper. The palate is silky, well-balanced, very discretely tight, precise, elegant, chiseled, and offers a beautiful finesse delicacy subtly, a beautiful finesse."

## • THOMAS BOXBERGER ON THE 2016: "AMONG THE BEST IN SAINT-ÉMILION!"

**95-97 points.** "Axelle and Pierre Courdurié continue their progress at the small estate Croix de Labrie. This year, it is one of the 13 best wines from Saint Emilion ! The Croix de Labrie was harvested from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October and consists of 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% were fermented in new 500 liters tonneaux, the rest in tank a maximum of 26°C, ageing takes place in 100% new barrels. Solid black color. Wide, deep bouquet with enormous fullness, ripened fruit aromas, big sweetness with liqueuric head note in the nose and a fresh, crunchy red berry component, fine scents of wood in it, very intense smell. Widely spread on the palate, with a very natural mouth-feeling and full body, it bursts a deep chocolate-cherry structure, with fine acidity and good tension, as well as polished, long tannins. Long, sweet back aroma with power and meaty richness, very spicy and potent. Despite its large volume and viscous texture, it is light-footed and elegant at the same time. An impressive, deep Croix de Labrie with feminine delicacy and gripping intense fruit driven flavours."

## • THE WINE PATRIOT ON THE 2016: "+ 3 CASES OF 6 OF THE BEST SUCCESS"

**96 + points.** "Violet, black cherry, redcurrant, spices, fresh attack, balanced mouth, creamy and silky, elegant and long final with a blueberry, violet and liquorice retro-olfaction."

## • RENÉ GABRIEL ON THE 2016: "CREAMY STRUCTURE"

**96 points - 18/20 .** "Chubby, wide, sweet bouquet, blackberries, black cherries, caramel cream, chocolate, mocha. Concentrated, powerful palate with sweet, lush fruit, bullish, creamy structure, very much tannin, lush, sweet aromatics, broad finish."

## • YVES BECK ON THE 2016: "FINESSE"

**95-96 points.** "Deep purple. A complex bouquet with notes of cherries, blueberry, liquorice and smoked bacon. After airing, the wine presents peppery notes with a beautiful mineral touch of limestone. Elegant, fruity and fresh in the mouth. A compact body but still creamy and balanced. Tannins appear slowly, there are thin and in symbiosis with the structure. The fruit is present within the delicate and persistent final."

● **ALEXANDRE MA ON THE 2016: "BEAUTIFUL"**

**95-96 points.** "Beautiful purple appearance, nose is rich, complex but surprisedly fresh and elegant, which shows dark fruits, black chocolate and red flowers like violet. Palate is delicious and gourmet with highly concentrated tannins having excellent creamy texture. Finish is extremely long with freshness, high quality tannins and perfect concentration."

● **JANCIS ROBINSON ON THE 2016: "VERY SUCCESSFUL"**

**95 points - 17,5/20.** "Deep, dark crimson. Colour right out to the rim. Intense but lively nose. Very ripe and luscious but with energy. Great stuff! Really very accomplished. Obviously very carefully made - essence of the appellation with dried but not drying fruit character and lots of luscious plummy. Masses of tannin almost completely hidden by the dramatic but precise fruit. Very successful. Drink 2025 - 2042. Among the Top 5 in Saint - Emilion on 122 wines tasted."

● **JEFF LEVE ON THE 2016: "FLORAL AND POLISHED"**

**94-96 points.** "Quite floral, with truffle, licorice, cocoa, black cherry, smoke and plum notes. The plush, polished, supple textured wine blends freshness with juicy, ripe, soft fruits. The wine is made from a blend of 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, reaching 14,5% alcohol with pH of 3,49."

● **BETTANE & DESSEAUE ON THE 2016: "FRESHNESS"**

**92 points.** "Juicy and rolling tannins. We like the fleshy in the mouth and the spicy depth. A crooner style with a perfect freshness during the final."

● **WINE ADVOCATE ON THE 2016: "BLACK FRUITS, TOUCHES OF PRESSED FLOWERS"**

**92 points.** "The 2016 Croix de Labrie comes from vines down the slope from Pavie on clay and chalk soils, plus a vein of shale. It is a blend of 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon that is 100 years old, from 2,5 hectares in total. One-fifth of the crop is fermented in 500-liter barrels. It is 14.39% alcohol and with an IPT of 71. It is matured in 100% new oak (500-Liter barrels). It has a simple bouquet with pretty black fruit, touches of pressed flowers, just a hint of vanilla. The palate is medium-bodied with a light grip on the entry, tobacco-tinged black fruit. There is a good level of acidity here, quite structured but with a slightly abrupt finish. It should flesh out a little during its barrel maturation and it actually improved when I returned to the glass after 40 minutes."

● **ANTONIO GALLONI ON THE 2016: "LUSCIOUS, INTENSE"**

**91 points.** "The 2016 Croix de Labrie is a luscious, intense wine. Dark red cherry, chocolate, espresso and spice all flesh out in a deep, resonant Saint-Émilion endowed with notable personality. This is very nicely done. Croix de Labrie emerges from a 3.58 hectare parcel in Saint-Émilion's Saint Christophe des Bardes district."

● **COUPE DES CRUS DE SAINT-ÉMILION:  
"HEART STROKE 2018 AFTER THE BLIND TASTING OF THE 2013-2014 AND 2015 VINTAGE"**



● **JAMES SUCKLING ON THE 2015: "THIS IS FABULOUS"**

> **Château Croix de Labrie: 96 points.**

"This is fabulous with incredible depth and power. Full and very velvety textured. Great ripe tannins. Very polished and textured. Sexy. Made from only one hectare. Pure Merlot."

> **Croix de Labrie White: 93 points.**

"Plenty of sliced apple and lemon rind character. Medium to full body, sliced pineapple and bright. Honey undertone. Only three barrels. 60% Semillon and the rest Sauvignon Blanc. Cool wine. Organically grown grapes."

● **YVES BECK ON THE 2015: "AMONG THE TOP 100 BEST BORDEAUX 2015"**

**95 points.** "95% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Purple with garnet reflections. Juvenile bouquet revealing notes of cocoa beans, liquorice, black fruits such as blueberries and prunes. At aeration the nose gains in character and precision. I note notes of chalk and mint. At the palate, the body has size and race. This Croix de Labrie is endowed with a lively tension which gives it crunchiness and which supports well the fruit at the end of mouth. The tannins are perfectly coated and reveal themselves slowly. Mineral notes at the end of the mouth, persistent finish. A very nice success with excellent potential of care. 2022-2040."



● **THOMAS BOXBERGER-VON SCHAABNER ON THE 2015**

**96-94 points.**

● **JAMES SUCKLING ON THE 2015**

**96 points.** "The brightness and richness of this is enchanting with dark berries, chocolate and dried flowers. Full body and medium tannins that are silky and gorgeous. Better in 2023."

● **JEAN-MARC QUARIN ON THE 2015: "MY BEST SCORE FOR THIS WINE EN PRIMEUR"**

**17,5/20 - 95 points.** "My best score for this wine en primeur. Since 2013, this wine has displayed one of the loveliest mouthfeels in Saint-Émilion. I've tasted it four times with blends varying between 90 and 100% Merlot and it has maintained the same score. Outstanding dark colour and a pure nose of ripe fruit. But the real difference is on the palate, where it combines a smooth taste with a big build, classy texture, gusto and fine tannins. The whole is elegantly creamy and delicately fragrant with no sharpness. Its long and attractive. Especially intense enjoyment factor."

● **JEB DUNNUCK ON THE 2015: "IT'S A BEAUTY"**

**94 points.** "A standout Saint-Émilion in my tastings was the 2015 Croix de Labrie from proprietors Axelle and Pierre Courdurié and it's a wine savvy readers should snatch up. Made from 100% Merlot it boasts an awesome nose of crème de cassis and black raspberry fruit intermixed with hints of toasty oak and espresso. With medium to full-bodied depth and richness on the palate, ripe tannin, and a great mid-palate, it needs 3-4 years of bottle age to integrate its oak and gain complexity, and will keep for upwards of two decades. It's a beauty!"

● **YVES BECK ON THE 2015: "THIS, MY FRIENDS, IS ALL GOOD!"**

**94 points.** "Purplish crimson. Intense and multi-layered bouquet, evoking spicy and fruity notes. Pepper, grenadine, blackcurrant, blueberry and pleasant aroma. Touch of graphite. Smooth, refreshing attack with nice density. Creamy, fruity body with slightly grainy tannins that combines perfectly with the structure to produce a succulent, classy impression. This is a balanced, elegant wine with a fruity, persistent finish. I think it can be enjoyed when young, but its keeping potential should not be under-estimated. You just need to get enough bottles! Congratulations on this fine accomplishment."

● **ANDREAS LARSSON ON THE 2015**

**94 points.** "Château Croix de Labrie is really pure hedonistic and superb estate made by a true woman winemaker Axelle Courdurié."



● **ROBERT PARKER: "VOLUPTUOUS"**

**96 points.** "Always one of the sexiest wines from Bordeaux, and probably best drunk in its first decade of life, this hedonistic fruit-bomb offers up oodles of jammy black cherry and black currant fruit interwoven with some floral notes, subtle oak, lead pencil shavings and a bit of toast. Voluptuous, full-bodied and silky smooth, with no aggressiveness, the tannins seem to melt on the palate, while the finish is long, supple and extravagant. Drink it over the next decade."

"Always one of Bordeaux's most endearing and charming wines, Croix de Labrie's wines generally offer an unctuous texture as well as enormous quantities of fruit. Made from 100% Merlot, the 2009 (about 300 cases produced) exhibits smoky black currant and raspberry liqueur notes intermixed with notions of licorice, graphite and wood smoke. Intense and unctuously textured with low acidity as well as sweet tannin, it is a hedonistic Saint-Émilion fruit bomb to enjoy in its first 12-15 years of life. Sadly, it is virtually impossible to find this head-turning claret."

"It's too bad there are only 300 or so cases of this wine, made from 100% Merlot. I just had a bottle of the 2000, which was an off-the-chart, awesome wine with sumptuous texture."

"A terrific garage operation that has been producing outstanding wines over recent vintages, this dense purple-colored 2003 is tighter-knit than usual, but reveals tremendously pure, rich, crème de cassis-like aromas and flavors along with hints of melted licorice, chocolate, and espresso. Opulent and voluptuous, with great purity, low acidity, and heady alcohol, this is a seductive claret to drink over the next 10-12 years."

"Even more impressive from bottle than barrel, the 2000 Croix de Labrie is sumptuous. A sensational effort, there are only 9,000 bottles of the big, blockbuster 2000. It boasts superb purity along with the essence of cassis and black cherry liqueur-like fruit intermixed with graphite, chocolate, espresso, and new oak notes. Sweet, layered, and luxuriously rich, with a wealth of fruit and glycerine, this stunningly full-bodied Saint-Émilion should be drinkable young, yet age nicely for 15+ years. Great stuff! Anticipated maturity: 2006-2020."

#### • JEFF LEVE ON THE 2015

**92-93 points.** "Deep in color with chocolate mint, licorice, spicy black cherries and a hint of truffle on the nose, this wine tastes like a blend of black cherry liqueur and dark chocolate. Silky in nature with the structure to evolve, this is a very nice vintage for Croix de Labrie. The wine is made from 100% Merlot and reached 14% alcohol."

#### • NEAL MARTIN (WINE ADVOCATE) ON THE 2015

**93 points.** "The 2015 Croix de Labrie has a very precise bouquet, pure black cherry and cassis fruit with well-integrated new oak that lifts beautifully from the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with fine, supple tannin, quite modern in style but with a very attractive silky texture, and retaining sufficient freshness and brightness on the seductive black cherry and kirsch finish. Give it 4-5 years in bottle, if you can resist."

#### • THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER ON THE 2015

**93 points.** "Deep in color with chocolate mint, licorice, spicy black cherries and a hint of truffle on the nose, this wine tastes like a blend of black cherry liqueur and dark chocolate. Silky in nature with the structure to evolve, this is a very nice vintage for Croix de Labrie. The wine is made from 100% Merlot and reached 14% alcohol."

#### • LISA PERROTTI-BROWN (WINE ADVOCATE) ON THE 2015: TOP 100 "VOLUPTUOUS"

**92 points.** "Composed of 95% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon and aged in 100% new oak barrels for 18 months, the 2015 Croix de Labrie is medium to deep garnet in color with aromas of earth, cedar and yeast extract over a core of red and black cherries, wild blueberries and lavender. The mouth is big, rich and voluptuous with some chew to the tannins and plenty of freshness to lift the weighty finish."

#### • WINE SPECTATOR ON THE 2015

**92 points.** "This shows the ripeness of the vintage, with dark plum, fig and boysenberry fruit carried by hefty but polished tannins. There's ample toast, but the fruit can handle it."

#### • ANTONIO GALLONI (VINOUS) ON THE 2015

"The 2015 Croix de Labrie is bold and intense, but also a bit rough around the edges, especially in its tannins. There is good depth to the plummy red fruit flavors but the alcohol is slightly out of balance and the contours need more polish. Still, there appears to be good underlying potential."

#### • JAMES SUCKLING ON THE 2014: "FRESH AND REFINED"

"A fresh and refined red with blueberry, mineral and floral character."

#### • JEFF LEVE ON THE 2014

**93 points.**

#### • THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER ON THE 2014

**93-91 points.** "Chocolate, licorice and truffle accents with a soft, fresh, polished, black cherry personality and plush, supple textures that are available from the get-go."

#### • JEAN-MARC QUARIN ON THE 2014

15/20

#### • GUIDE HACHETTE DES VINS 2018 ON THE 2014

**1 star.** "A good classic created from the unique, colourful and expressive Merlot (raspberry, red currant, spice, tobacco), round and fleshy in the mouth, hold by promising tannins."



### • WINE ADVOCATE - NEAL MARTIN ON THE 2014

**91 points.** "The Château Croix de Labrie 2014 is more tightly wound on the nose with blueberry jam and fresh prune coming through with aeration. The palate is sweet and rounded on the entry with thickly-layered ripe black and red fruit offset with a pleasant salinity on the finish. It will need more bottle age and perhaps a little more persistence, but one can already appreciate the focus here. Sure, it's an opulent, extravagant Saint-Émilion wine from Axelle Courdurié, but one of the better of its type".

### • ALAIN LEBEL - FIDELLES DE BACCHUS - CANADA ON THE 2013

**Château Croix de Labrie 2013 : 93 points.**

"It has been a long time since a wine has touched me as much as this. 2013 in the beginning was certainly not the greatest of vintages, but today Château Croix de Labrie tastes admirable and still has a future full of flavoursome promise. Made by Axelle and Pierre Courdurié, this wine is evolving brilliantly and is amongst the front-runners of the best Bordeaux wines of this vintage. It is very refined, superbly complex and incredibly deep with impressive elegance and purity. Very intense on the nose with aromas reminiscent of raspberry, blackcurrant, black cherry and coffee, enhanced by perfectly blended-in woody notes and a hint of graphite. On the palate, it has an appealing velvety texture and is lovely and big. Magnificent finish that lingers for ever."

### • WINE ADVOCATE - NEAL MARTIN ON THE 2013

**91-89 points.** "The Croix de Labrie 2013 has a fragrant bouquet with succulent ripe red berry fruit laced with cassis and vanilla. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly «stringy» tannins, but the acidity is well judged and the new oak deftly integrated towards the pointed finish. Tasted April 2014."

### • JAMES SUCKLING ON THE 2013: « PURE MERLOT »

**92 points.** "A wine with a surprising center palate for the vintage. It's pure Merlot. Tiny production: only 6.5 hectoliters per hectare. Spice, black-olive and berry character. Medium to full body. Long finish."

### • JEAN-MARC QUARIN ON THE 2013

**16/20 - 90 points.** "This is Axelle and Pierre Courdurié's first full vintage. This wine has developed so very well since the primeurs and has even become a major success of this vintage. Don't be afraid to decant it. The nose is intense and fruity with a hint of honey and raspberry. It has a refined mouthfeel, but is not at all lacking in structure or body. It has a lovely flavoursome finish with no sharpness. Lots of enjoyment and above all a renewal."

**Potential score: 15 | Enjoyment score: 15** "It has been a long time since I have tasted this wine to be so good! The estate has just been taken over by Axelle Coudurié in September 2013. The purity of the fruit and the refined mouthfeel are promising. Needs following up."

### • RENÉ GABRIEL ON THE 2013 "BUY IT!"

**17/20.** "A small and tiny harvest. Only 6.5 hl/ha have been harvested to make 4 barrels, new French oak, and to Dark garnet, thicker in the middle and ruby red edge. The nose is elegant and finely spiced, perennial cassis, a touch of blueberry, more delicate and less concentrated than before under the former owner. On the palate, juicy, elegant, long finish with good tannins. For once there is no need for years to please, you can start in the next three years to drink to enjoy it. Mathematical side, there will be many more readers than gourmands who will be able to enjoy it. Buy it! 17/20 2016-2028."

### • DECANter ON THE 2013: "ATTRACTIVE FRUIT"

**16/20.** "New ownership. Attractive fruit. Fleshy but fresh. Delicate but ripe tannins."

### • THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER ON THE 2013

**90-88 points.**

### • THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER ON THE 2012

**93 points.** "This medium bodied wine is forward, round, soft and sweet."

### • JEAN-MARC QUARIN ON THE 2012

**15.5/20**

### • JAMES SUCKLING- MILLÉSIME 2012

**92 points.** «Soft and sexy with lovely chocolate, berries and hints of hazelnut in the nose and palate. Medium body and round, delicious tannins. Drink now.»







## CHÂTEAU CROIX DE LABRIE

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