

CHATEAU
LARCIS DUCASSE
1^{er} Grand Cru Classé
SAINT-EMILION

Millésime 2017 / 2017 Vintage

A very pretty and structured red with blackberries, blueberries and hints of limestone character. Medium to full body, solid tannins and a real freshness underneath. Long and flavorful.

94-95/100

James Suckling, jamesuckling.com

Le pur style Larcis Ducasse, fin, élancé, élégant, équilibré. Nez précis, fruit à point, beaucoup de parfum, la bouche est dense mais les tanins sont soyeux et l'ensemble se déroule avec beaucoup de délicatesse. Jolie vibration et finale fraîche, signée. Très belle persistance sur la salinité.

96/100

Mathieu Doumenge, Terre de Vins

The 2017 Larcis Ducasse is a rich, sensual wine, with softer contours and more plushness than is typically the case, part of which is attributable to the vintage and part of which is the result of gentler winemaking. Dark red cherry and plum fruit is nicely pushed forward in this succulent, racy Saint-Émilion. Mocha, licorice and menthol wrap around the juicy, pliant finish. The 2017 is an especially succulent, racy Larcis. It has been consistently brilliant on the four occasions I have tasted it so far.

92-95/100

Antonio Galloni, Vinous

La robe est sombre avec un très joli nez raffiné. Le vin est dense, serré, tannique, les tannins sont très fins. Le vin possède de l'élégance et de la longueur, de beaux arômes de fruits noirs, jolie finale épicée. Sa lecture n'est pas aussi immédiate que le 2016, mais il possède beaucoup de fond. Le vin a été élaboré avec 92 % merlot vendangé entre le 18 et le 29 septembre et 8 % cabernet-franc vendangé entre le 29 septembre et le 2 octobre. Le rendement est de 34 hl/ha avec 73 % de grand vin. 3-12 ans

96-97/100

Bernard Burtschy

Expression aromatique réservée, toucher fin, poids moyen, corps délié mû par une acidité vive. Plus salin que solaire, avec des tanins de très belle qualité, une race manifeste.

16-16,5/20

Pierre Citerne, La Revue du Vin de France

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Nez de fleurs, d'iris, un peu violette pour un bel éclat aromatique. Juteux suave, un charnu sapide avec une précision de grain magnifique. Quelle finesse ! Long et frais avec une texture crémeuse. Délicatesse à tous les étages. Un vrai coup de coeur. Bravo à Nicolas Thienpont.

96-98/100

Yohan Castaing, Anthocyanes

Une vraie fraîcheur harmonieuse, du fruit et de la profondeur, de la saveur.

17/20

Bettane & Desseauve

One of the most successful wines from Saint Emilion: I love the fresh limestone like aspects plus juicy ripe blackberry and ripe plum. This estate – whose 11 hectares of south facing vines are situated to the west of Château Pavie and to the north of Château Troplong Mondot – exudes depth and precision. Just delicious. I like the juice here on the mid palate. This may be one of the best Larcis Ducasse from barrel that I can recall. Marvelous.

93-95/100

Panos Kakaviatos, wine-chronicles.com

Blueberries, blackberries, violets, licorice and ample crushed rock notes all emerge from this medium-bodied, tight, firm 2017 Larcis Ducasse, which comes from a magical terroir not far from Pavie. It doesn't have the density or depth of the 2015 or 2012, yet has beautiful purity of fruit, ripe tannins, and considerable elegance and purity. I suspect it will put on weight with time in barrel and evolve similarly to the 2008. The 2017 is 92% Merlot and 8% Cabernet Franc harvested from the 18th of September to the 2nd of October. 3,000 cases produced.

92-95/100

Jeb Dunnuck, jebdunnuck.com

Flowers, crushed rocks and ripe, deep red fruits are found in abundance here. With silky textures, sweet maroon berries, earth, licorice and salty tannins, the wine offers concentration of flavor with cut and definition. The mineral character is profound in this vintage, therefore give it at least a decade to develop before popping a cork. The wine was made from blending 92% Merlot with 8% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14% alcohol. The harvest took place September 18 to October 2.

93-95/100

Jeff Leve, The wine cellar insider

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Couleur sombre, intense et belle. Nez moyennement aromatique, au fruité mûr. Moelleux à l'attaque, suave au développement, le vin fond au palais, caressant, velouté, sans angle et avec beaucoup de goût. C'est très bon. Assemblage : 92 % merlot et 8 % de cabernet franc.

17/20, 94/100

Jean-Marc Quarin

The 2017 Larcis-Ducasse was cropped at 34hl/ha from 18 to 29 September for the Merlot and 29 September to 2 October for the Cabernet Franc. It has a very high-toned, iodine-tinged bouquet that just lacks the usual harmony, and certainly the cohesion that I discerned apropos the 2015 and 2016 vintages at this early stage. The palate is underpinned by fine tannin and here demonstrates much more harmony than the aromatics. The black fruit is flecked by black pepper and subtle fennel notes, the tannins are quite fine and the finish is much more linear and stricter than recent vintages. It is a more classically styled Larcis-Ducasse this year but it should age well. I expect it will land towards the upper end of my banded score.

91-93/100

Neal Martin, Vinous

There was a little frost damage here this year, affecting those vines at the very lowest part of the slope. Nevertheless the yield is normal on this vineyard. The blend here is 92% Merlot, picked between September 18th and the 29th, and 8% Cabernet Franc, picked on September 29th and October 2nd. The yield was 34 hl/ha, from 10.41 hectares currently in production, of which 73% was channelled into the grand vin. Tasted after the Nicolas Thienpont wines from the Côtes des Francs and Castillon, this is a huge step up in terms of quality. It has a very pure expression on the nose, with black cherry fruit and a little chalk dust suggestion of purity, together with a little fragrant rose-petal scent. Beautifully textured on the palate, refined and fresh, gently sinewy but not overpowering, elegant and finessed, integrated and complete. The finely apposed layers of black cherry and black plum are carefully wrapped up in a frame of very fine and velvety tannins and acids, the flavour profile nuanced with cocoa bean, black olive and more. Impressive, toasty and with a tannin-laced finish. This has real confidence and very fine potential. An excellent effort in this vintage. Tasted twice.

93-95/100

Chris Kissack, thewinedoctor.com

Lovely blackberry and boysenberry puree flavors glide through, with suave toast, a pretty graphite note and a finely polished feel overall.

92-95/100

James Molesworth, Wine Spectator

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The 2017 Larcis Ducasse is deep garnet-purple colored with a bombastic, gregarious nose of preserved plums, baked blackberries and mocha with hints of sautéed herbs, pencil lead and chargrilled meats plus a waft of yeast extract. The palate is big, rich and full-bodied with a very firm frame of chewy tannins and lashings of oak joining with opulent fruit, finishing long.

92-94/100

Lisa Perroti-Brown, Wine Advocate

Barrel Sample. This wine is fruity, soft and rounded. With attractive acidity and some firm tannins in the background, it has enough structure to allow it to age. The core of the wine is dry with a ripe surround. Drink from 2023.

92-94/100

Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast

92% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc. 73% in the grand vin. Deep crimson. Lifted and lots of red fruit, relatively light but silky and fresh. Falls away a little on the finish with a slight lack of fruit depth and follow through.

16/20

Julia Harding, Jancis Robinson

L'olfaction est expressive et crémeuse avec des arômes de cerises mûres (pulpe et noyau), de légères épices douces et des notes florales (roses et violettes). La bouche est bien en chair très veloutée à sensuelle, les sensations sont ascendantes, le vin prend de la densité dans un centre très fruité. La finale est longue, très veloutée, dotée de tannins fins très enrobés, fraîche, dynamique, aromatique et persistante.

94-95+/100

Daniel Sériot, Journal d'un passionné de la Rive droite