




VINTAGE 2016	CLOS L'ÉGLISE POMEROL	CHÂTEAU BARDE-HAUT SAINT-EMILION GRAND CRU CLASSE	POESIA SAINT-EMILION GRAND CRU	CHÂTEAU D'ARCE CASTILLON CÔTES DE BORDEAUX
Neal Martin 	93-95 <p>The 2016 Clos l'Eglise is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, and was the first to be picked by the Garçin-Léveque family (before Barde-Haut, d'Arce and Poesia). It has a high pH of 3.65 and it was matured in 100% new French oak. It has a very intense bouquet with macerated small black cherries, raspberry coulis, oyster shells and crushed violets, well defined and quite penetrating in style. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, layers of black fruit laced with black pepper and a touch of black pepper. There is a little chewiness to the texture towards the harmonious finish, which is one of the most primal that I have encountered in recent years. The barrel maturation will lend a little more sheen to this Pomerol--a long-term prospect that will deserve several years in bottle.</p>	92-94 <p>The 2016 Barde-Haut is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, vinified without SO2, matured around 80% in new 300-liter barrels from three cooperages and the remainder in one-year-old barrels. Hélène Garçin-Léveque told me that they are focusing on the elegance of their Saint Emilion estate and are picking a little earlier and practicing slightly less extraction. It has a really quite gorgeous bouquet with layers of ripe black plum and wild strawberry notes tinged with sloes. This has very fine delineation and focus. The palate is very well balanced with super-fine tannin, very well judged acidity and tension that lasts from start to finish. This is certainly one of the most feminine Barde-Haut wines that I have tasted from barrel, expressing more precision and finesse. It is an excellent follow-up to the 2015 Barde-Haut and may well surpass it in the long-term.</p>	91-93 <p>The 2016 Chateau Poesia has a lower pH and alcohol than the Barde-Haut (also owned by the Garçin-Léveque family). It is a blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Franc and matured in 70-80% new oak. It clearly has a richer and more intense bouquet than the 2016 Barde-Haut at this early juncture, adorned with scents of blackberry, boysenberry, Earl Grey and crushed violets that blossom in the glass, well defined and exuberant. The palate is medium-bodied with dense tannin on the entry. This is a Poesia with weight and girth, the fruit profile darker than the Barde-Haut, more concentrated on the finish, though personally I prefer the tension and detail expressed by its Saint-Emilion sibling. Still, this is a very fine contribution to the vintage, and I suspect that it will gain a little more nerve by the time of bottling.</p>	89-91 <p>The 2016 D'Arce, the Côtes de Castillon from the Garçin-Léveque family, is a blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc fermented in mostly concrete vats and matured in 300-liter new barrels. It has around 13.8% alcohol. It has a well-defined bouquet with a noticeable marine influence that influences the blackberry and briary aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, moderate depth, very elegant with a very precise, quite mineral finish. This is a splendid follow-up to the 2015 D'Arce, a Côtes de Castillon that just says "Enjoy me." And there is nothing wrong with that.</p>
	Antonio Galloni 	92-95 <p>The 2016 Clos L'Eglise is a powerful, dense wine. In 2016 Clos L'Eglise presents a distinctly deep, spiced expression, with tons of clove, cinnamon, leather, cedar and tobacco overtones. Rich, ample and creamy, the 2016 possesses notable depth and richness in all of its dimensions. The wine is powerful, ripe and intense, with just enough freshness to add a measure of balance. To be sure, the style is one built on textural richness and resonance, with ripeness pushed to the edge. The 2016 saw around 3-4 days of cold soak. Among other developments, the estate is experimenting with 300-liter barrels. New oak is around 80%.</p>	92-95 <p>The 2016 Barde-Haut is a racy, voluptuous beauty. Mocha, espresso, plum, black cherry and smoke race across the palate in a dark, sumptuous Saint Émilion loaded with class and personality. This is an especially up-front style. With time in the glass, the wine gains brightness and precision to balance things out. The 2016 is easily one of the best recent versions of Barde-Haut I can remember tasting. Today, it is fabulously beautiful.</p>	90-93 <p>The 2016 Poesia is a rich, deep wine. Stylistically, Poesia is riper and bigger than the wine Hélène Garcin and her husband, Patrice Leveque, make at Barde-Haut. Black cherry, smoke, licorice, plum and sweet French oak infuse a deep, rich Saint Émilion built on lushness and textural breadth. The 2016 tastes like it was picked on the riper side of things, especially within the context of the vintage. There is no shortage of intensity, but I feel this wine could be more finessed. Poesia emerges from a vineyard in Saint Émilion's St. Etienne de Lys district.</p>
The Wine Spectator 	92-95 <p>Fresh, bouncy blueberry and boysenberry fruit is hard to resist, while lively anise and fruitcake notes fill in behind it. Has a gloss of spice-infused toast on the finish, but that should meld with the élevage, as the fruit is copious. J.M.</p>	91-94 <p>Juicy, with good bramble and plum cake accents along the edges of the cherry, blueberry and raspberry preserve flavors. Judicious toast lets the fruit shine through the finish while keeping the energy up. J.M.</p>	90-93 <p>Ebullient blackberry and boysenberry fruit is very vivid and vibrant thanks to racy acidity. High-pitched floral backdrop adds range. Distinctive. J.M.</p>	88-91 <p>Lively, with a spice-infused mix of red and black cherry fruit and a floral twinge on the finish. J.M.</p>
jamesuckling.com	94-95 <p>A linear yet full-bodied young red with berries, firm tannins and lots of flavor and intensity. Fun and dynamic sample. Potentially better than 2015.</p>	93-94 <p>Lots of blueberry and blackberry character here. Medium to full body, firm and silky tannins and a savory finish. Should develop beautifully. Exciting young wine.</p>	91-92 <p>A solid and linear wine with blueberry, blackberry and chalk character. Full to medium body, silky tannins and a citrusy finish. Balance and finesse here.</p>	90-91 <p>A linear and firm young red with chalk, dark-berry and crushed-stone character. Medium to light body, firm tannins and a racy finish.</p>