

Château Larcis Ducasse (St Emilion) 2018: This comes from the limestone *côtes* just along the road from the vineyards of Pavie, and with Nicolas Thienpont and David Suire running the show (largely the latter as I understand it) there is always the potential for something special here. Merlot dominates the blend, at 89% of the total, so it is no surprise that the fruit profile on the nose is brooding with dark berry and currant character, with a firmly savoury side to it, all dried fruits, olives and saline notes which seem true to this south-facing slope of limestone. The palate follows on in the same inky dark style, with savoury black fruits, set within a juicy and succulent substance, the fruit complemented by flavours of salted dark chocolate, olives and graphite. Underneath there sits a frame of ripe and velvet-lined tannins, bold but tightly knit together, with the fresh acid lift from the calcareous soils of this vineyard. A great result for this estate, a wine made with serious intent. Well done. 96/100 🔍