

Carruades de Lafite 2015

CSPC# 890674

750mlx6

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pauillac

Website

<http://www.lafite.com/en/chateau-lafite-rothschild/the-wines/carruades-de-lafite/>

Sustainability

The château uses exactly the same traditional techniques, based on strict control of yields, manual harvests, and numerous tasks that are carried out by hand all through the year. Little or no chemical fertilizers are used, and careful use of organic fertilizers allow the vines to reach an advanced age, they are generally pulled out (with a heavy heart) when they reach 80 years old

General Info

Given the refined selection of fine wines after two decades, the Carruades feature characteristics similar to those of the fine wine, but with their own personality linked to a higher percentage of Merlot in its composition, and plots of land that are clearly identified as producing Carruades. The origin of the name comes from the Carruades plateau, the name of a group of plots adjacent to the chateau's best vineyards, purchased in 1845 by Château Lafite. In the 20th century, the Carruades were marketed separately from Château Lafite before being integrated. The name Carruades, adopted as the name of Château Lafite Rothschild's second wine, was initially called "Moulin des Carruades" before the 1980's.

Carruades is actually one of the older second wines in Bordeaux, as it was first produced in the mid-1850s. About 100 years later during the mid-1960s, the estate reintroduced its second wine naming it Moulin de Carruades. The name was changed again in the 1980s to Carruades de Lafite.

Carruades de Lafite has similar characteristics to the grand vin of Château Lafite Rothschild. Its name derives from the Carruades plateau, a group of plots that were acquired in 1845 near the vines on the Château hilltop. The wine has a softer feel, largely due to the higher percentages of Merlot. Yet make no mistake, Carruades de Lafite is a formidable Second Wine with plenty of ageing power.

Winemaker

Christophe Congé

Vintage

A recurring phenomenon in recent years, the beginning of the winter was mild and dry, and it was only at the end of January that beneficial colder temperatures arrived, accompanied by rain. Bud break began in early April as usual, and the vines then grew quickly, as they had ample reserves of water, and the weather was mild. In June, flowering was early and uniform, which is always a promising sign.

The influence of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gironde estuary helped to reduce the effect of a somewhat hot summer with high temperatures. Water stress was high, but rain in August brought the freshness required for the grapes to change colour and then to ripen perfectly. Conditions were ideal during the harvests, enabling us to obtain optimal ripeness for each plot.

Vineyards

Chateau Carruades de Lafite, second wine of Lafite Rothschild, is located in Pauillac. Plantings on the vineyard adjacent the chateau's best plots consist of 50 to 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 to 50% Merlot and between 0 and 5% Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot.

Maturation

Ageing for 16 to 20 months, 80% in oak barrels (10% new).

Tasting Notes

Beautiful deep colour that sparkles in the glass. The nose is of course still very young, with primary notes of early ageing. Superb notes of spices and fresh raspberries. On the palate, the attack is supple and rounded. The wine then presents young, lively tannins, whose excellent quality will be revealed with time. The finish is complex and harmonious with beautiful burnt notes. This Carruades needs five to seven years to open up and has all the characteristics of a wine that will continue to improve for many more.

Serve with

Best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Lafite Rothschild is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta.

Production

20,000 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2022-2030



Scores/Awards **91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2018
91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - February 2018
89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - April 2016
91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018
91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - November 2022
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2016
94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2018
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2016
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - October 2018
89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
89-93 points - Derek Smedley MW - April 2016
91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020
92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017
17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes - April 2016
90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2016
93-95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2016
94 points - Vert de Vin - February 2018
15 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2019
14 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2020
16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2016
1 star - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2018

Reviews *“Warm plum, fig and black tea notes mix here, with a charcoal frame and a smoldering tobacco accent running through the finish. The velvety and slightly rugged textures are intertwined, showing a nice tug of earth at the end. Best from 2022 through 2030.”*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

“A blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc and aged for 18 months in barrels, 10% new, the 2015 Carruades de Lafite is medium to deep garnet-purple colored and just a little closed at this youthful stage, revealing delicate notes of red and black plums, black cherries, and dried herbs plus touches of pencil lead, cedar chest and beef drippings. Medium-bodied, refreshing and with a well-played chewy texture, although just a baby in terms of evolution, it has an accessible structure, finishing long and savory.”
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 Carruades de Lafite is a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc. This has a satisfying purity on the nose: blackberry and briary, a distant, cold slate-like note just underneath, with the new oak (close to 20%) neatly subsumed. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin. There is moderate depth to this slightly foursquare and conservative Carruades, but there is also plenty of freshness and it has an appealing, unassuming finish that is both harmonious and precise. Probably one of the most approachable deuxième vins, afford this 2-3 years in bottle before broaching.”
 - NM, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 Carruades de Lafite has developed a little more energy since I tasted it in bottle, with blackberry, bilberry fruit and that slate-like note tucked in just underneath. It feels quite unchanged since I encountered it from barrel. The palate is well balanced and actually shows more energy and tension than the 2015 Duhart at the moment. Crisp tannin, quite edgy and certainly with a healthy dash of white pepper, it opens up nicely toward the finish, with commendable precision and length. It is one of the best Carruades that I have encountered in recent vintages.”
 - NM, Wine Journal

“Lead-pencil aromas with currants and plums, too. Full body, silky tannins, and a focused and very refined finish. It's the tannins that drive things. An excellent second wine of Lafite. Needs two or three years to soften. Start drinking in 2021.”
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *"A silky and fine second wine of Lafite with blueberry, blackberry and flower aromas and flavors. Cedar and nuts too."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "This second wine of Lafite comes from young vines and wines selected during the blending. The result is a wine with the structure and nobility of the Lafite character but one that will age more quickly. It has great layers of black-currant fruits and acidity, with firm tannins as a background and rich potential. Drink from 2025."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Relatively light crimson. Light, rather timid nose. Drying tannins on the end. Very pretty and polite but not at all dramatic! Drink 2023-2031."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "A discreet nose of real finesse with the Lafite violets prettily present. While it seems on the light side now, time in barrel will add structure."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Medium-bodied, forward, fresh, elegant, and refined, you can always find secondary development with its tobacco, herb and herbal nuances. The fruits show sweet ripe, red berries with good purity, you can always enjoy this soft, elegant Pauillac."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The aroma of licorice, cassis and a sweet, smoky zest is the overture to this medium-bodied, enchantingly fresh, energetic wine. The tannins are soft, closing with a note of pure cherries and cassis. This wine was made from a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Making up 35% of the total production at Lafite in 2015 (25% was declassified), this is a beautifully restrained second wine that was picked comparatively early to retain acidity. The freshness of this wine was a relief after tasting some of the vintage's more extracted wines. Drink: 2020-28."*
- TA, timatkin.com
- "Light bright the nose is fresh the start of the palate has a fragrant mix of fresh fruits bramble backed by bilberry. There is mid concentration fleshy richness the fruit supported by fine tannins and although sweet and ripe at the back the finish is lighter with a mix of fresh fruits."*
- Derek Smedley MW
- "The 2015 Carruades de Lafite is terrific. Pliant, supple and inviting, the 2015 offers notable radiance and suppleness, with pretty Cabernet Sauvignon aromatics to play off the racy fruit. Red plum, licorice and dried flowers lead into an effortless, pliant finish that adds to the wine's considerable appeal."*
- AG, Vinous
- "The second wine of Lafite Rothschild is the 2015 Carruades De Lafite and is a beautiful wine in its own right. Based on 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc brought up mostly in used barrels, it has classy notes of cassis and lead pencil shavings as well as a medium to full-bodied, elegant, beautifully balanced style on the palate. It's not a massive wine by any stretch, yet it exudes class and elegance, and is already a joy to drink."*
- Jeb Dunnuck
- "All the Lafite wines are under 13% alcohol and this restraint is sensational. While some parcels on more clay-rich soils came under pressure from the late showers and gave rise to a few issues, the majority of free-draining plots on this incredible estate made the cut. Further selection has resulted in beautiful wines. A wine full of finesse and poise, Carruades is excellently balanced between Cabernet and Merlot and this harmony of red and black fruit has resulted in a precocious and sexy wine with immense appeal and élan."*
- Matthew Jukes

Reviews *“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate lightening of the edges, ripe cherry fruit underlaid with a delicate hint of tobacco and herbs, somewhat restrained, candied orange zest. Firm, close-knit texture, firm tannins, structure rich in finesse, black berry fruit on the finish, sticks well, mineral finish.”*
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fine, elegant, racy and offers tension. It reveals notes of ripe cassis and boysenberry combined with slight touches of wild strawberry, fresh red berries, blueberry / blue fruits, graphite, caramelized oak, minerality as well as discreet hints of violet, Cuban pepper, and cardamom. The palate is mineral, fruity, well-balanced, slightly tight / fleshy and offers a nice grain, a beautiful balance, a slight concentration, a beautiful fineness, purity, a slight acid frame, a slight tension as well as a good definition and a good structure. On the palate this wine expresses notes of blackberry, cassis and slight touches of cherry associated with slight touches of graphite, toasted oak, sweet spices as well as discreet hints of blond tobacco, chocolate, caramelization, and liquorice. Good length and beautiful persistence.”
- Vert de Vin
