

Carruades de Lafite 2021

CSPC# 102688

750mlx6

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	2 nd wine of Ch Lafite Rothschild
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. The winery is in their 1 st year of organic conversion.
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	It was hard to cheat in 2021 and that suited us very well as it allowed us to reveal the true face of Carruades. The blending rules we set ourselves have been refined from year to year, and this vintage required historically precise selection. Furthermore, Carruades benefitted from the Merlots from our great terroirs on the south-eastern plateau that failed to make the mark for the first wine. The backbone of the Carruades style this year, the « complants », new plantings* from our finest plots also stood out, revealing that, even when still young, vines planted on great terroir learn quickly (we even briefly considered blending them in the first wine!). "But it's the talent for concealing that ardent youth entirely lacks; hate, love, joy, sorrow – every feeling, it blabs, and spills them in its tracks," writes Alexander Pushkin in Eugene Onegin, an accurate portrait of our young vines, whose voice came out loud and clear this year with the return of a milder vintage. Here's hoping that the aging trials we have been carrying out on Carruades for a few years will allow us to go even further in designing this very graceful style, which definitely has nothing to hide. <i>*young ringed vines within each plot which are picked separately</i>
Harvest	22 September to 8 October
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	This comes from younger vines (generally under 10 years old) from all vineyard plots of the estate, benefiting from the same fantastic, gravelly terroir as the grand vin. It is a true second wine. Concentrated black and sweet berry fruit dominates the nose, which is lifted by a hint of sweet spice from the 40% new oak, and a burst of menthol freshness. The palate is ripe and dense, with blackberries, damsons, and black cherries, and plenty of smooth, velvety tannins to finish.
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	Approx. 20,000 cases made annually
Cellaring	Drink 2027-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>90-92 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>88-90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>16.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p>92 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>91 points - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - May 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>88-90 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p>89-91 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>91-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>89-91 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>92 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>94-95 points - Vert de Vin - April 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"The 2021 Carruades de Lafite is mostly composed of the younger replacement vines dotted throughout Lafite's vineyards on the plateau, which are harvested separately. Offering up aromas of red berries, cassis, cedar box and orange rind, it's medium to full-bodied, lively, and layered, with good concentration and a long, penetrating finish. It's a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 5% Cabernet Franc, part of which was matured in wooden vats rather than barriques."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A strong effort that demonstrates how much progress this bottling has made over the last 10 to 15 years, the 2021 Carruades de Lafite exhibits aromas of sweet berries, pencil shavings, warm spices, and nicely integrated oak. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and impressively intense, it's seamless and refined, delivering plenty of Lafite character."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Carruades de Lafite is composed of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 4% Petit Verdot. Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, it gives up notes of red and black cherries, cassis, and underbrush with hints of bay leaves and lilacs. Light bodied, the palate has loads of mineral and herbal sparks accenting the red and black fruit layers with plenty of tension and soft tannins, finishing with a skip in its step."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Independent</p> <p><i>"Soft and attractive character to this wine, showing a polished-tannin frame and a juicy center-palate. Medium body with medium, velvety tannins. Juicy. 55% cabernet sauvignon, 36% merlot, 5% cabernet franc and 4% petit verdot."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Perfumed and floral with greater density than the Duhart just tasted. Broad on attack then firms up on the finish. Fine tannins and freshness but more of a medium-term wine. Drink 2027 – 2038."</i></p> <p>- JL, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"Sweet black cherries and plums on the nose with blackcurrant leaf touches. Excellent intensity and vibrancy here, you really feel the energy - acidity is good but you get the rush of fruits and the persistence that says; 'I've got so much life in me and I want to show it off' - this is ready and raring to go! It's well worked with fine tannins</i></p>

Reviews *and a long finish. The power and structure is there - it's just super explosive at this point. You almost want to enjoy this now, or certainly soon, but it'll go the distance too. Punchy with a joyous spirit! 4% Petit Verdot completes the blend."*
- GH, Decanter.com

"A ton of concentration and hidden power, this is a Carruades that is very Lafite in style, subtle with pencil lead, slate, Pauillac signature, intense but with clear austerity, touches of fennel, rosebud, and dried leaf. Mouthwatering, with plenty to get hold of. Has the focus and tunnel vision of Lafite and needs time in the bottle, should be at its peak within 10 to 15 years. 1st year organic conversion. 40% of overall production, 34hl/h yields."
- JA, janeanson.com

"Tobacco leaf, wet forest floor, leafy herbs, cedar, and red currants create the perfume. On the palate, the wine exudes freshness, elegance, crisp, bright, sweet, energetic fruits, and a finish with a touch of spice in the zesty endnote. This wine was made from a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot. Drink from 2025-2042."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2021 is very red fruited, full of strawberries, red plums, and hints of baking spice. This is a linear and charming wine, with sweet spices to plump up cool red fruits at the core. The tannins are soft and approachable, gently extracted to make an approachable wine for earlier consumption. Clean, fine red fruit lingers on the finish."
- TP, Farr Vintners

"The 2021 Carruades de Lafite is a classic blend built around 55% Cabernet Sauvignon. Eric Kohler commended the quality of the Cabernet Franc this year, which after being considered for the Grand Vin, in the end found itself being blended into the Deuxième Vin. This year it represents 40% of the total volume. It has a fragrant bouquet with blackberry, briar, pencil shavings and a touch of black olive. Fine delineation. The palate is medium-bodied with slightly grainy tannins. Quite an insistent grip here with plenty of sapidity towards the finish. A bit of chewiness on the close, but overall, a very decent Carruades."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2021 Carruades de Lafite is gorgeous. Supple, dynamic, and lively, the 2021 pulses with energy. It's a wine of vibrancy. Dark cherry fruit, plum, grilled herbs and graphite all build effortlessly in the glass. There's a bit of graininess in the tannin, yet all the elements are impeccably balanced. There's a ton to like, that's for sure."
- AG, Vinous

"The 2021 Carruades de Lafite is a dark, brooding wine. Dense and plush, with quite a bit of tannin presence, Carruades is quite distinctive in 2021. Blue/purplish fruit and floral notes show tremendous primary intensity. Bright acids on the finish add an attractive sense of freshness that is quite appealing. The 2021 is a serious Carruades."
- AG, Vinous

"Lafite's second wine, the 2021 Carruades De Lafite should be solid, offering lots of pure cassis and graphite aromatics as well as medium-bodied richness on the palate. Based on 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, it shines for its elegant, seamless profile and it has a little of that Lafite power-without-weight style. "
- Jeb Dunnuck

Reviews *“Vivid dark ruby, purple overtones on the narrow rim. Ripe dark cherries, a touch of blackberries, floral, candied orange zest, with a touch of fig in the background. Juicy, elegant, fresh, well structured, fine tannins and bright acidity; a harmonious, lively food companion with a salty red berry finish. Has a lovely future and ageing potential.”*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fruity, elegant and reveals a nice purity of fruit, a fine crystalline side. Juicy/fresh bigarreau cherry, blackcurrant and slightly violet notes are combined with hints of crushed strawberry and fine hints of liquorice, nutmeg, a subtle hint of lilac and racy minerality. The palate is fruity and shows a nice minerality, freshness, good definition, complexity, juiciness, precision, a certain contained brilliance, elegance and a fine straightness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/fresh blackcurrant, blackberry and more lightly violet combined with hints of crisp/fresh cherry, red berries, fresh lilac, a discreet hint of cardamom, light tobacco, a subtle hint of toast and chocolate (in the background).”

- Vert de Vin
