

Château Latour 2011

CSPC# 756554

750mlx3

13.1% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

84.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 0.5% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Pauillac

Website

http://www.chateau-latour.com/index_en.php#/home

General Info

If Lafite is renowned for elegance, Latour is prized for power. Vines were first planted on the site in the fourteenth century, but Latour's reputation stems from the late part of the seventeenth century, when the estate was inherited by Alexandre de Ségur. In recent years, no finer wine has been made in Bordeaux, for Latour displays an uncanny combination of deep color; Cabernet-dominated flavors of dark berries, licorice and minerals; the finest oak that money can buy; and great length on the aftertaste.

Vintage

After a dry, cool winter, and a spring with very little rain and mild temperatures, bud-break was early. The dry weather continued until the end of May. In contrast to the spring, the summer was quite cool with average rainfall in July and slightly higher than average in August. June brought fairly frequent but light rain; the amount of sunshine and temperatures were normal. However, there were a few very hot days at the end of June, with temperatures exceeding 40°C, resulting in some sun-scalding on the most exposed grapes. September was relatively dry, and temperatures were generally average.

Vineyards

Many have called this the best vineyard in the world and the dynamic Director of Chateau Latour, Frédéric Engerer, is determined to make the greatest wine possible. He has the confidence of owner, François Pinault, to do all that it takes to achieve this aim. Production levels have been slashed in recent vintages with only the best parcels of vines now producing grapes for the Grand Vin. Latour has always had a fantastic terroir and now has a wine-making team working with state-of-the-art modern equipment under inspired leadership.

Harvest

September 12 and finishing on September 26. Particular attention was paid to sorting in the vineyard, to remove any grapes affected by botrytis or that were still green.

Tasting Notes

Beautiful bright, deep colour. Fine, fruity, floral bouquet with lots of freshness and impressive concentration. In the mouth, the wine is very refined, rich tight and smooth. The finish is deep and powerful, with complex aromas. A clean, direct wine, fairly long on the palate, which retains its freshness throughout tasting. This is a year that belongs in the family of classic vintages.

Cellaring

Drink 2020 onwards

Scores/Awards

96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014
93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012
93-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012
94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012
95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2014
95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012
97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2014
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012
92-94 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012
18 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012
18.5 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012
95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012 (score only)
96 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012
95 points - Jean Marc Quarin - April 2012 (score only)
95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 10, 2012
93-97 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012
18+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2012
95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012



Scores/Awards **96 points** - Gilbert & Gaillard - May 10, 2012
95 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)
18 points - Gault & Millau - April 2012 (score only)
18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2012 (score only)
95-96+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012

Scores/Awards *"This has a gorgeous core of steeped plum, boysenberry and black currant coulis flavors, backed by a prominent graphite note that drives through the lengthy finish, where extra hints of anise and sweet tobacco flutter in the background. Regal. Best from 2018 through 2035. 5,835 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This is all silk and velvet, with gorgeous mouthfeel as the wine sails along, with cassis, cherry eau de vie and freshly sliced plum flavors, with a deeply ingrained iron note that adds considerable length on the finish. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 93-96"
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"A blend of 84.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 0.5% Petit Verdot, the 2011 Latour represents only 34% of the crop. It hit 13.1% natural alcohol. One of the vintage's most compelling wines, it possesses a dense ruby/purple color as well as a sweet, open-knit personality with ripe tannin, superb intensity, good purity and harmony, a medium to full-bodied mouthfeel, and lots of crushed rock, floral and black as well as blue fruit notes in addition to hints of ink and forest floor. This beautifully rich, savory Latour will be surprisingly drinkable in 4-5 years, and should age easily for two decades or more.
By the way, Latour harvested relatively late for the Medoc, beginning the harvest on September 12 and finishing on September 26."*
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The Grand Vin is a blend of 84.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and 0.5% Petit Verdot, representing 34% of the crop. The nose demands coaxing from the glass with introspective dark berry fruit, mineral, graphite and just a hint of cedar. The palate is classic Latour with tensile tannins in the driving seat and the fruit residing in the passenger. It has finely tuned acidity that lends it freshness and tension. There is superb minerality towards the finish, but it retains that strictness and focus without blinking. If you love Latour, you will love the 2011. Tasted April 2012."
- NM, Wine Journal

"The nose is complex, featuring smoke, meat and hints of wood, with currants, olives and berries underneath. Full body with super-velvety tannins. The strong acidity gives the wine an edginess. Love the spicy, subtly fruity finish. Steely. Try in 2020."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A Latour with a steely backbone and a savory character. Blueberries and currants with hints of violets. Full body, with a long and racy finish. The texture is very tight and racy. Classy for the vintage."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Big tannins and impressive fruits are the hallmarks of this impressive wine. It is also subtle, not showing all its flavors at once, hiding beneath tannins and structure. For this fruity vintage, it shows a strong sense of direct, solid structure, only allowing the strong black plum and berry flavors to come through slowly. It is for the long haul, so don't drink before 2022, even better later."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"95-97. Barrel sample. This wine has a juicy character and firm tannins. Its fruit is packed around the dense core, showing weight and intensity."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews

"(84.5% cabernet sauvignon, 15% merlot and 0.5% petit verdot; IPT 87; a 34% selection; 13.1% alcohol): Deep ruby. Pure, refined aromas of red fruits, dark plum, cedar and delicate spices. Enters the mouth dense, suave and juicy, offering blackcurrant, mineral and graphite flavors enlivened by strong but harmonious acidity. Very graceful on the long finish, showing extremely fine tannins. A comparatively light style of Latour but looks to be another very successful wine from an estate that has been on a roll of late. I think it will pick up more flesh and fill out nicely with bottle aging."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"84.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 0.5% Petit Verdot. Elderberry juice in colour. Black core. Reticent cassis perfume, not very forthcoming. Intense, deep, dry and long. Very refined and it feels as if it is all texture at the moment, no spare flesh but it's more a question of no fat not leanness. It opens up to very pure cassis fruit but remains restrained. A slight dustiness increases the freshness. Dry purity and refinement. It's not even reined in, the constraint is built in. 'Super-bon elegant', opines Frédéric Engerer in an isolated burst of enthusiasm, the tannins remind him of those in 2000. Classical lines. Absolutely no generosity but Engerer reckons it will take on flesh. Very very long."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Incredible power right from the first attack, the tannins whoosh, something that I haven't found so much in the other wines this year. PH 3.7, IPT 87, 84.5% cabernet sauvignon, 15% merlot, 0.5% petit verdot, and the first wine made up 34% of overall production. Rich, dark black fruits that tug you through the tunnel of acidity. It's hard to taste a vintage of this wine where the word precision doesn't make an appearance in the tasting notes. 13.1%ABV."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Concentrated Cabernet nose lifted by floral wild violets, the classic restrained firmness of Latour with intellectual more than sensual complexity to come. Drink 2018-2040"

- SS, Decanter.com

"The percentage of Cabernet was reduced from a high of 90% in 2010, but this is still a sturdy, concentrated wine for the long(ish) haul, even in a vintage like 2011. Aromatic and firm, with flavours of graphite, cassis and black plums, it's a very good rather than a great Latour, with tannins that need a polish. Sadly, we won't be tasting Latour from barrel next year, as the château will not sell its wine en primeur from now on. 12+ years"

- TA, timatkin.com

"Crafted from an assemblage of 84.5 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot and .5% Petit Verdot, this vintage represents just 34% of the production. 3% press wine was added to the blend, which is half of what's normally included in the assemblage. The estate continues its march towards biodynamic farming. At this point, 62 acres are farmed using biodynamic techniques. The eventual goal of Chateau Latour is to become completely biodynamic within a few years. - Dark ruby in color with purple accents at the rim, the perfume offers wet forest floor aromas, cassis, cedar wood, spice, earth and blackberry. Subtle, refined and elegant, this finesse style of Latour is long, clean and pure. Lacking the concentration of 2010 or 2009, this stylish Latour is long and filled with pure, spicy cassis in the fresh finish."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and dense; very polished and pure seam of blackcurrant cassis; freshness; minerality too; real core to this and precise and very deep; cassis again on the palate along with concentration; quite mid-weight but with great tension; tannin not at all chewy; nice balance; tannin really nicely done. Nice purity and a long finish. Excellent wine and in the vintage context. Just a third of the entire harvest here. 84.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 0.5% Petit Verdot 13.1% alc. Tasted at Latour 6/4/12. 95-96+"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

Reviews

“Many have called this the best vineyard in the world and the dynamic Director of Chateau Latour, Frédéric Engerer, is determined to make the greatest wine possible. He has the confidence of owner, François Pinault, to do all that it takes to achieve this aim. Production levels have been slashed in recent vintages with only the best parcels of vines now producing grapes for the Grand Vin. Latour has always had a fantastic terroir and now has a wine-making team working with state-of-the-art modern equipment under inspired leadership. In the last 10 years Latour has made the wine of the vintage more times than any other Chateau. The grand vin is typically made from only a third of the estate's total production and is a strong expression of Cabernet Sauvignon. The 2011 is made from 34% of the estate's total production. 84.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, no Cabernet Franc and a pinch of Petit Verdot. A black colour and a dark and brooding nose. Very concentrated for a 2011 with layer upon layer of cassis fruit complimented by spicy notes and ultra fine tannins. Frédéric Engerer sees the elegance of the 2000 vintage here with the weight of 2004. This wine has a concentration that is completely atypical of the vintage and it's certainly the one to beat in the Medoc.”

- Farr Vintners

“The nose is rich deep brooding packed with a mix of black fruits. The start of the palate is quite fresh but behind the freshness there is power richness with the layers of fruit giving complexity and the richness of the fruit filling out the back palate.”

- Derek Smedley MW

“This is classic Latour expressing the seriousness and weight of this majestic wine. With 85% Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend, the flavours lean toward blackberries, dried Chinese red dates and cedar; there is a hint of aged pu'er tea in the finish. With 20 hectares of vineyards now being farmed in the 'bio' method since 2010, Frederic Engerer attributes these subtle nuances and minerality in the wine to new farming methods. Full-bodied and generous, this is a wonderful Latour with plush, velvety tannins and a very long finish. Latour 2011 is powerful yet subtle and refined while still being concentrated. One of my top red wines of this vintage exhibiting great focus and terroir expression. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young.”

- JCL, asianpalate.com

“EN PRIMEUR - Deeply-coloured. Nose of fresh ripe red fruit (raspberry), floral tones (violet) and subtle oak. Fleshy, fresh and fruit-driven entry. A crunchy style wine with refined tannins and good length infused with suppleness. Lingering spicy finish. Still needs to reveal itself.”

- en.gilbertgaillard.com
