

Château Latour 2015

CSPC# 742356

750mlx6

13.04% alc./vol.

CSPC# 881224

750mlx3

13.04% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

97.1% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2.6% Merlot, 0.3% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Pauillac

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classe

Website

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

Sustainability

Château Latour has often stood at the forefront of vineyard management with cutting-edge practices. In 1965, they were one of the first châteaux to introduce stainless steel vats to the fermentation process. In 2008, they reassessed their vineyard management processes and decided to implement horses to plough the soil. Château Latour is one of the leading châteaux in terms of organic winemaking and obtained their organic certification from Ecocert in 2015. For some of the choicest parcels, the château uses Biodynamic philosophies and curates each vintage based on the weather conditions and lunar calendar. There is no end to the amount of energy, resources, and time the winemaking team at Château Latour will put into ensuring the best harvest is brought to bottle.

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.

Winemaker

Hélène Génin

Vintage

In terms of the weather, although 2015 was slightly warmer than average, it was above all very dry (706 mm of rain, compared with an annual average of 862 mm), especially between February and July, from budbreak to veraison. As a result, the berries remained small, which explains why the yield was rather low even though we had hopes of a normal crop after flowering.

Rainfall in August and September was higher than average, which helped to prevent the ripening process from coming to a halt in a vineyard already stressed by the lack of water. As a result, the grapes matured at rather different rates from one plot to another, according to the variety, the age of the vines and the terroir.

In order to ensure that each grape variety and each plot was picked at optimum maturity, the harvest period was the longest in living memory.

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. The heart of the Enclos is the only terroir that, every year, can produce the depth, elegance, and concentration that we expect of the Grand Vin. It is here that the Cabernet Sauvignon (accounting for more than 90% of the blend) can achieve optimal expression in terms of colour, richness and freshness. These wines need time - often a decade- before they begin to be ready for drinking.

Vineyards

Harvest took place from 15 September to 10 October.

Harvest

Château Latour's Grand Vin is made exclusively from "vieilles vignes", an average of 60 years-old, in the Enclos. Gravettes, Sarmentier, Pièce de Château... these are the names of some of the finest plots that express the character of the terroir and forge the wine's identity every year.

Vinification/ Maturation

Chateau Latour is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Latour is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift.

Serve with

Drink 2025-2050

Cellaring

Drink 2025-2050



Scores/Awards

- 97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2018
- 96 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023
- 98 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - February 2018
- 95-97 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
- 99 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - November 2022
- 97 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2016
- 98 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
- 96-97 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2016
- 97-99 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2016
- 18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2019
- 18+ points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
- 98 points** - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023
- 98 points** - Jane Anson, JaneAnson.com - February 2023
- 99 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018
- 96-98 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
- 97 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
- 96+ points** - Farr Vintner - March 2016
- 95-98 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
- 96 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2023
- 97 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2018
- 98+ points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
- 19.5+ points** - Matthew Jukes - April 2016
- 97 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2017
- 98 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - May 2016
- 95 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - March 2019
- 96-97 points** - Vert de Vin - September 2022
- 15.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021
- 18.5 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - January 2018
- 19 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - January 2017

Reviews

“This packs some serious warm dark currant, fig, and blackberry compote flavors together at the core, with charcoal, singed bay leaf, tobacco and roasted alder notes forming the foundation. Grippy for sure, but there's already alluring perfume and violet elements weaving around here. This has put on some serious weight and dark fruit since the barrel tasting, but remains all tensile strength. It will be fun to watch this age. Best from 2025 through 2045.”

- JM, Wine Spectator

“A rich and demonstrative vintage for this estate, the 2015 Latour unfurls in the glass with aromas of dark berries, cassis, loamy soil, espresso roast, pencil shavings and a subtle hint of potpourri. Medium to full-bodied, supple, and elegant, with a velvety attack that segues into a sweet, layered mid-palate, it's enveloping and complete, concluding with a sapid finish. The tauter, more classical 2014 is likely to prove longer lived, whereas the giving 2015 is a Latour that it wouldn't be a crime to drink young. Under CEO Frédéric Engerer and technical director H  l  ne G  nin, unremitting perfectionism and attention to detail are the order of the day at Ch  teau Latour, so it's no surprise that this great estate has delivered some of the finest wines of the vintage in Bordeaux. Certified organic since 2018, most of Latour's historic "Enclos" is being farmed biodynamically these days, and its entirety is now cultivated by horse to minimize soil compaction and preserve intact as many old vines as possible. But the objective, above all, rather than subscribing to any particular theoretical approach, is to treat the vineyard holistically, as a system, within and with nature rather than against it. Winemaking is precise but traditional, with macerations in stainless steel followed by maturation in barrel with rackings every three months and one fining with egg whites. Great attention is paid to the choice of barrels: each lot is tasted, and its style defined, before it's barreled down in cooperage adapted to that style. But if these methods realize the potential of this great site, what makes Latour's site so great? After all, this isn't the only vineyard to occupy the quaternary gravel terrace that makes its appearance along the banks of the Gironde. When I posed this question, H  l  ne G  nin's response was to point to Latour's lenses of blue clay interfingered with and underlying those gravels. It's these pockets of clay in just the right places, G  nin contends, that contain the secret to the wine's elegantly muscular power and immense longevity.”

- WK, Wine Advocate

Reviews *“Blended of 97.1% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2.6% Merlot and 0.3% Petit Verdot, the deep garnet-purple colored 2015 Latour is exquisitely perfumed, displaying fragrant notes of crushed black cherries, raspberry preserves, cassis and black plums with nuances of roses, dark chocolate, garrigue, menthol and a waft of sandalwood. The medium-bodied palate beautifully struts its taut, toned, muscular fruit with a frame of very firm, smooth, rounded tannins and compelling freshness, finishing with alluring earth and mineral layers. At once intellectual and sexy, this truly evocative vintage brings to mind the Melanie Griffith line from “Working Girl,” possessing a sultry “head for business and a bod for sin.” 2024 – 2050.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 Latour is a blend of 97.1% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2.6% Merlot (just one historical vat courtesy of old vines interpolated with the Cabernet) and 0.3% Petit Verdot. It represents 30% of the production and is matured in 100% new oak as usual. It has a very complex, nuanced bouquet that needs 10-15 minutes to open. It blossoms with blackberry, briary, hoisin and slate notes, but it remains very focused and linear. The palate is extremely well balanced with fine grain tannin. For certain, this is an intense Latour with a strong and tangible undertow of mineralité. This is classic Latour: aristocratic, aloof at first, perhaps enigmatic compared to other vintages. I wonder if this has something hiding up its sleeve for after bottling?”
- NM, Wine Advocate

“Deep garnet in color, it needs a little swirling to uncover the latent scents of black and red currant preserves, followed by notes of juicy blackberries, baked plums, and incense, plus touches of graphite and violets. The medium-bodied palate is completely filled with energetic black fruit and exotic spice layers, framed by super-ripe, firm, grainy tannins and bold freshness, finishing with a muscular burst of pure black fruit and lingering mineral sparks.”
- LPB, Wine Independent

“The 2015 Latour, which was bottled in July 2017, has an immediately impactful bouquet with intense black fruit laced with subtle notes of seaweed and sea spray, as if a little of the Gironde estuary imparts its character into the aromatics. It is extremely well defined and very focused, that slate-like note replaced by a subtle mintiness. The palate is silky smooth on the entry that almost betrays the depth and volume of this Latour. This is a voluminous, multifaceted Latour rather than a powerful one, layers of black fruit infused with graphite and cedar that leads to a very long finish. It will require a decade in bottle before it enters its drinking plateau although there is a sense of approachability that I suspect will deceive some into broaching this too early.”
- NM, Wine Journal

“This is extremely compressed and elegant with fantastic finesse and structure. Full body, tight and racy. Lots of black currants and black berries. The quality of tannins is like tight, yet velvety tannins. Very minerally.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Aromas of iron, oyster shell, rust and stones with blueberries and blackberries. Full-bodied, yet ever so polished and refined. It rolls off the palate with fruit and salty flavors. Tight, focused and always refined. Pretty length. 97% cabernet sauvignon gives this brightness. Drink in 2022.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“97–99. Barrel Sample. Seriously structured and yet also so smooth, this wine has great concentration and powerful tannins. There is wonderful juiciness here as well as dense, dusty tannins that are never hard, always velvet. It is going to be a great wine when it is released in maybe 10 years' time. The wine comes only from vineyards that are biodynamic.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Very dark crimson. Scented and quite heady. Lively and muscular. Racy and really pacy. Not a charmer though. Very introvert. Bone-dry finish. A bit more tingle and life than in earlier vintages, though 2014 was probably the turning-point vintage for Latour. Hélène says the wine is more closed today than usual. Drink 2028-2050.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews *“Tasted blind. Blueish crimson with a pale rim. Very sweet with strong tea-leaf aromas and a little chewiness on the end. Not too forced. Very rich and hedonistic. Long and luscious. Drink 2024-2042.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Really gorgeous aromatics, so perfumed, acutely aromatic, pristine, clear and precise with tobacco, cocoa, ash and liquorice. Round, heady, a sexy wine, with a lot to say, generous and open, smooth and layered - this deepens straight away vertically. I love the juiciness, there’s clarity to the raspberry, blueberry and blackcurrant fruit, sleek and joyful but the texture is there with a wet stone and liquorice to the tannins that gives such grip and edge of power. Still youthful and quite serious but there’s something so appealing about it with a sexy character and complexity. Bright and sharp but also with sweetness from the ripe vintage and savoury notes of truffle, cocoa, dark chocolate giving contrast. Such enjoyable floral violet scents too that follow the wine from start to finish. Excellently controlled and delivered with supreme appeal. One you want to sit with and take your time over, and then gulp down! 69 IPT, 30% of production. Harvest 15 September to 10 October. Technical director H el ene Genin.”
- GH, Decanter.com

“Aromatically this floats out of the glass, intense and concentrated but full of light and life. Waves of flavour come at you, from crushed raspberries, pomegranate and blackcurrant to fresher redcurrant and lemongrass set against richer truffles, crayon and smoked earth. Mouthwatering, this really is a vintage where you can see the impact of the biodynamic vineyard work, with a greater sense of sculpting and violet florality than you would have found in this Pauillac powerhouse a decade earlier, without sacrificing structure and depth. As it opens, the sweetness of a ripe vintage comes through in edges of smoked caramel. A beautiful wine, thoroughly enjoyable, extremely well-handled and set to power through the decades. Harvest September 15 to October 10, 30% of production in the main wine. H el ene Genin technical director.”
- JA, JaneAnson.com

“Still holding on to its depth of color. The wine already shows some development with its truffle, oyster shell, cassis, Asian spice, dark red fruits and cherry tones. This is a Latour of elegance, purity of fruit and silky texture over power that is coupled with layers of concentrated fruits, and the structure to age for generations.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The signature of this vintage of Latour is elegance. With a dark, ruby hue, you find minerality with oyster shell, cassis, floral and dark cherry tones. The cashmere tannins, balance, and purity of fruit fashion a texture that caresses your palate. Using 97.1% Cabernet Sauvignon, the highest amount in the history of the estate, coupled with 2.6% Merlot and .03% Petit Verdot, this wine reached 13.04% alcohol. The Grand Vin was produced from only 30% of the harvest.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Many have called this the best vineyard in the world and the dynamic Director of Chateau Latour, Fr ed eric Engerer, is determined to make the greatest wine possible. He has the confidence of owner, Fran ois 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. The brave policy here is to no longer sell the wines en primeur but to wait until they are mature before they are released. Only 30% of total production is the grand vin this year which means less than 10,000 cases. It is a whopping 97% Cabernet Sauvignon with only a splash of Merlot from the oldest vines in the Enclos. This is the first 100% bio-dynamic vintage at Latour. A refreshingly modest 13.1 degrees alcohol. Deep purple colour. Dense black fruits with a little tar and wood smoke on the nose. The palate is muscular, ripe, and multi-layered. Intense, dense blackcurrant fruit fleshes out to reveal nutmeg, clove, and star anise, all wrapped in lots of firm, chewy tannins. This is a blockbuster but has a lifted, almost floral finish to bring a smoothness to the finish that is complex and subtle tone to all that power.”
- Farr Vintners

“Breadth on the nose the palate has depth of fruit a mix of black cherry and black plum concentration and richness. The tannins are firm but ripe the back palate has a brooding power yet there is freshness on the finish lighter with hints of cedar wood and exotic spice.”
- Derek Smedley MW

Reviews *“Containing one of the largest ever percentages of Cabernet Sauvignon, partly because the Merlot wasn’t up to snuff, this is a very pure, focused wine of considerable power and intensity. Pauillac at its very best, with stylish tannins and the concentration to age for two decades or more. Drink: 2028-40.”*
- Tim Atkin, MW

“The 2015 Latour was bottled in July 2017 and contains 13.04% alcohol. It is blessed with a refined and focused bouquet: perfumed blackberry and raspberry scents, iodine, pine and light pencil shaving aromas. It has dispensed with the subtle fig-like/exotic notes noticeable three years ago, arguably a little more conservative today. The palate is medium-bodied, with fine-grain tannins; harmonious and poised, clean and precise, understated with an irresistible silky texture.”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2015 Latour, which was bottled in July 2017, has an immediately impactful bouquet with intense black fruit laced with subtle notes of seaweed and sea spray, as if a little of the Gironde estuary imparts its character into the aromatics. It is extremely well defined and very focused, that slate-like note replaced by a subtle mintiness. The palate is silky smooth on the entry that almost betrays the depth and volume of this Latour. This is a voluminous, multifaceted Latour rather than a powerful one, layers of black fruit infused with graphite and cedar that leads to a very long finish. It will require a decade in bottle before it enters its drinking plateau although there is a sense of approachability that I suspect will deceive some into broaching this too early. Anticipated maturity: 2025 - 2065.”
- NM, Vinous

“A seamless, totally captivating wine, the 2015 Latour has no beginning and no end, it simply exists in its own little world of pure and total harmony. Nothing is out of place. Instead, the 2015 captivates both the intellectual and hedonistic senses with its remarkable aromatic depth and textural brilliance. Exotic in its ripeness, with tremendous persistence and dazzling balances, the 2015 really does have it all. The 2015 is 97.1% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2.6% Merlot and 0.3% Petit Verdot. Don't miss it. (AG) 98+”
- AG, Vinous

“This is without doubt one of the wines of the vintage for very unusual reasons and it is possibly going to be remembered as one of the wines of the decade, if you consider it is a rare, virtual mono-varietal. The attack and tension here is utterly stunning in the sense that it literally stuns the palate. The fruit is so concentrated and yet so ethereal it is extraordinary. I have never seen ‘pure’ (97%) Cabernet looks so forthright, magnificent, nor more Zen-like and slender. The finish is immense and the line between the entry and the exit is laser driven, except that there is no end to the finish. It simply doesn’t have one...it is still going if not on my palate in my brain. Hélène Genin, technical director at Latour, confirmed that it was made from record levels of Cabernet, and this was because the Grand Vin plot is all biodynamically farmed and that this fruit lagged behind the rest, and this resulted in the later picked fruit all making the Grand Vin with very little Merlot in the mix. This is a wine which is, frustratingly, not going to be released for many years under the new regime at Latour (the 2000 is actually released this year) and so you will have to wait a while to see what all of the fuss is about.”
- Matthew Jukes

“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate rim lightening. Fresh heart cherry fruit, delicately reminiscent of orange zest and some nougat, subtle floral aspects, some liquorice, underlaid with pleasant precious wood spice. Juicy, delicate red berry nuances, well-integrated tannins, lively structure, already well developed, salty notes on the finish, delicate nougat, good length. A finesse-rich, accessible food accompaniment that tends to be drinkable earlier.”
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

Reviews

“The nose is elegant, mineral and offers delicacy, purity, depth, grain, and a fine airiness in the approach. There are notes of wild blackcurrant, star anise and, more slightly, ripe black berry fruit, combined with hints of pulpy cherry, graphite, racy minerality and discreet, almost toasted almond notes. The palate is nicely fruity, racy and offers a very nice minerality, purity, acidity, energy, tension, a very nice delicacy, and a nice mineral/crystalline side. An enveloping and delicate side. On the palate this wine expresses juicy/fresh blackcurrant, juicy/fresh boysenberry and more slightly wild berry notes combined with hints of blond tobacco/cigar, theirs as well as fine almost tonka bean/chocolate, a subtle saline character, a discrete liquorice notes and an imperceptible hint of vanilla bean. The tannins are sapid, supple, elegant and offer a subtle powdery quality. Nice work on the positive bitterness (which gives the wine depth and length). A discreet almost tightness on the finish.”

- Vert de Vin
