

Les Forts de Latour 2015

CSPC# 854934

750mlx6

14.3% alc./vol.

CSPC# 890677

750mlx6

14.3% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36.5% Merlot, 0.5% Cabernet Franc, 0.9% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Website	http://www.chateau-latour.com/en/a-time-for-sharing/les-forts-de-latour
Sustainability	Organic Farming
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	Frédéric Ardouin
Vintage	With 2015 Pauillac, the wines were shaped by the terroir and the harvest dates each estate chose. The harvest dates were imperative with 2015 Pauillac, due to some of the weather extremes experienced during the growing season. The terroir that worked to produce the best 2015 Pauillac was the deep gravelly soils which helped retain the much-needed moisture during the dry season, (and much of the vintage was dry), especially the warm, sunny, and even hot temperatures coupled with drought conditions that took place between mid-June until late July. To ameliorate that dry period, much of August was very rainy.
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	The 2015 Les Forts de Latour was picked from 15 September to 10 October, commencing with the Merlot and finishing with the Cabernet Sauvignon.
Vinification/ Maturation	There is a second wine, Les Forts de Latour, which comes from the young vines of the Grand Enclos. The vines used to produce Les Forts de Latour are most often at least 12 years of age. Les Forts de Latour is aged in 50% new, French oak barrels.
Tasting Notes	Les Forts de Latour 2015 needs a little air to release a deep and powerful nose of cordial cassis, boysenberries, plum and black. chocolate, with suggestions of Chinese five spices, clove oil, violets, and crushed stones. The palate has absolute flavor, bursting with rich, ripe black fruit and plenty of spicy sparkle, while being framed by beautifully sumptuous tannins, finishing long and mineral. Not at all heavy, on the contrary, Les Forts de Latour 2015 is both expansive and very refreshing. In terms of evolution, it has hardly budged since I last tasted it in 2017. If it drinks very well at the moment, it has easily 20 good years of aging, maybe more. Impressive.
Serve with	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 also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2031
Scores/Awards	91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2018 94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021 94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - February 2018 92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016 95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2021



Scores/Awards **93-94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2016
94-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2016
17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2021
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2019
17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - February 2021
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2016
91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
93 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016
90-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021
94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - July 2019
93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2018
94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021
94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2021
17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016
93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - May 2016
93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2018
93-95 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016
17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2016
17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016

Reviews *“Very pure and focused, with black currant and black cherry fruit flavors showing lovely freshness, while light graphite, singed black tea leaf and violet hints check in through the silky finish. Best from 2019 through 2032”*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

“Composed of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35.6% Merlot, 0.5% Cabernet Franc and 0.9% Petit Verdot, the 2015 Les Forts de Latour needs a fair bit of air to unlock a profound, powerhouse nose of blackcurrant cordial, boysenberries, plum preserves and dark chocolate, with suggestions of Chinese five spice, clove oil, violets and crushed rocks. The palate packs an absolute flavor wallop, bursting with rich, ripe black fruits and loads of spicy sparks, while framed by beautifully plush tannins, finishing long and minerally. Not at all heavy, on the contrary, the Les Forts is both expansive AND tantalizingly refreshing. In terms of evolution, it has barely budged since I last tasted it in 2017. While it's drinking very well right now, it easily has a good 20 years of cellaring ahead, maybe more. Impressive.”
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

“A blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35.6% Merlot, 0.5% Cabernet Franc and 0.9% Petit Verdot, the 2015 Les Forts de Latour features a deep garnet-purple color and quite an earthy nose of black soil and crushed rocks with a core of red and black currants, mulberries and pencil lead plus hints of lavender and cloves. Tightly wound, firm, fine grained and lively in the medium-bodied mouth, it concludes with loads of energy and great poise.”
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 Les Forts de Latour is a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35.6% Merlot, 0.5% Cabernet Franc and 0.9% Petit Verdot, representing 40% of the production. It has a very succinct bouquet, quite understated for Les Forts de Latour with a marine influence filtering through the dark plum and briary fruit. The palate is medium-bodied and beautifully balanced, not huge depth here but harmonious and sensual, fanning out gently with graphite-tinged black fruit that linger long in the mouth. This is a classy Les Forts de Latour that will age gracefully over 20 years or more. Drink 2022-2045.”
 - NM, Wine Advocate

“Aromas of blackcurrants, sweet tobacco, fresh herbs, licorice and cigar box follow through to a full body with tannins that are totally integrated and ultra, ultra-fine, framing the wine and highlighting the subtle, pretty fruit. All about grace and beauty. Keeps getting better.”
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews *“Very fruity and lifted with bright and floral aromas and flavors. Full and velvety. Gorgeous finish. Very pure and focused. Pretty Les Forts.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“There is a velvet touch to this smooth, rounded wine. With some dark tannins as well as blackberry fruits, it is rich with some concentration. At the same time, the acidity shoots through the wine to give a really fruity aftertaste.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Deep polished crimson. High toned and super-classy on the nose. More zip and energy than the Pauillac de Ch Latour 2016. Very mineral and sumptuous. What's not to like? It has such breadth and ripeness that you could certainly drink it tonight. There's an attractive iron-fist-in-a-velvet-glove quality about it. Positively throbs with energy. A little saline quality on the end. Another wine with an admirably persistent finish. All that stony minerality plus a bit more flesh than usual. Great stuff! I don't see any of the green notes I detected at the Southwold tasting two years ago. Though the tannins on the end are still very slightly drying.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Tasted blind. Crimson. Sweet and rather flashy, but the tannins are a bit raw. Dusty and edgy. Green notes. Drink 2025-2040.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“They are picking these grapes earlier nowadays. Dark crimson. Very sumptuous nose. Massive sweetness on the front palate and then Pauillac stoniness. A real charmer. Lots of vigour and punch. Complete and very dry. Needs lots of time. Drink 2025-2040.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“On the nose you get a full array of floral aromatics, and a gorgeous exuberance. The gourmet edge that is never far away from the surface in the 2015 vintage is very much in play, along with touches of truffle, cigar box and an earthy openness even at six years old. A smoked caramel note comes in on the end, as does a hit of mouthwatering salinity. It's not as intense as Forts in vintages like 2010 or 2016 but it has an ease to it that is hugely appealing and can be drunk from now and for at least another 15 years. 0.5% Cabernet Franc completes the blend (the last vintage to contain even a slice of this grape, as it has now been pulled up). 40% of overall production.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Showing much more power and concentration than the 2014 at this stage, Latour's second wine is quite closed at the moment: dense, brooding and compact with excellent underlying fruit and acidity. It just needs time to come together. Drink: 2022-32”

- TA, timatkin.com

“Chocolate coated currants, cigar box, flowers and tobacco leaf come through easily on the nose. On the palate, the wine is medium/full-bodied, concentrated, firm, fresh, juicy and lively, with a creamy textured, sweet, aristocratic, Pauillac, red currant packed finish. This should age and evolve for another 15-20 more years.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Cigar box, lead pencil, and wet forest floor follow the sweet, dark fruits in the perfume. Your palate enjoys sweet, round, polished, red fruits. “The tannins are soft, and so is the texture in the finish.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“With a blast of cassis, flowers, plum and blackberries, this wine has a graceful charisma with plump, sweet fruits that feel soft on the palate.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"First produced in 1966, this is not really a second wine as it is produced from separate parts of the vineyard which contain many old vines, as well as from some vats that are not quite up to the standards of the Grand Vin de Château Latour. Grapes from the vineyard's young vines do not go into Les Forts de Latour but are used for a generic Pauillac third label. Clearly the equivalent of a top classed growth. Under Frédéric Engerer's management, Les Forts de Latour has continued to improve in quality and recent vintages have been at "super-second growth" levels. This wine will not be sold En Primeur but kept at the Chateau until it is mature. In 2015 the Forts represents 40% of Latour's total production with 30% going into the third wine "Pauillac de Latour". The Chateau also produce a fourth wine that is sold without the Latour name on the label. The blend, this year, is 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot. Deep purple colour with a charred nose of roasted meat, blueberry, and blackcurrant. This has a deep and brooding aromatic profile. The palate has a pure Cabernet cassis fruit core with underlays of clove, cinnamon, and sage. The intensity of flavour and power of tannin brings a real concentration and yet refinement, with the firm tannins adding a savoury level of complexity. The mouthcoating texture softens on the finish to reveal yet more black fruit and additional smoky notes from the new oak. The finish is long and powerful, a towering wine that will reward cellaring and justify a late release!"

- Farr Vintners

"Brooding black fruits, the nose has concentrated depth the palate a rich mix of black cherry and cassis. Although the tannins are firm there is mid sweetness suppleness and flesh the richness of the fruit balanced by bramble freshness. Bright and light at the back there is purity of flavour with sweeter rich fruit giving depth and richness on the finish."

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2015 Les Forts de Latour was picked from 15 September to 10 October, commencing with the Merlot and finishing with the Cabernet Sauvignon. This bottle correlates closely to the one that I tasted blind in January 2019. There is a mixture of blackberry, graphite, and cedar on the nose, very well defined and focused. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannins, a mixture of red and black fruit with superb mineralité and lip-smacking salinity. Velvety in texture, this is wonderfully poised with great persistence on the finish. Excellent"

- NM, Vinous

"The 2015 Les Forts de Latour has a little more fruit intensity than its peers, offering blackberry, graphite and cedar – all quintessential Pauillac – though it would benefit from a tad more precision. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grip, beautiful balance and polished blackberry and bilberry fruit toward the finish, where a tang of salinity lends tension. This is an outstanding Les Forts de Latour. Tasted blind at the Southwold 2015 Bordeaux tasting."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2015 Les Forts de Latour has a very sophisticated bouquet with that subtle marine-like influence upon the black fruit, hints of graphite and pencil box, all extremely well defined if much tighter and more backward than I was anticipating. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, denser than the 2014 Les Forts de Latour, yet still quite sensual for a Pauillac with a caressing texture. There is excellent freshness here, partly due to the fact that these days they are picking some parcels a little earlier. As it did in barrel, it fans out wonderfully toward the finish, but what I really like here is the unusually long aftertaste, residues of graphite and black fruit lingering for 45+ seconds after the wine has departed. Superb. Anticipated maturity: 2022 – 2045"

- NM, Vinous

"The 2015 Les Forts de Latour is silky, perfumed and wonderfully nuanced from the very first taste. Crushed red berry, cedar, tobacco, mint, and blood orange lend striking aromatic nuance. Ample and resonant in feel, yet with mid-weight structure, the 2015 is a total pleasure to taste today. All of the natural radiance of the warm year comes through in the wine's generous, inviting personality."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Les Forts de Latour is a dark, authoritative wine. Graphite, smoke, gravel, menthol, violet and creme de cassis build as this powerful, virile wine shows off its brooding, virile personality. The 2015 finishes with a burst of explosive energy that only adds to its considerable allure. Readers will have to be patient, as the 2015 is likely to require a number of years in bottle to be approachable. Even at this early stage, the 2015

Reviews *Forts de Latour is simply gorgeous. The 2015 is 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35.6% Merlot, 0.5% Cabernet Franc and 0.9% Petit Verdot. 2023 – 2035”*

- AG, Vinous

“The 2015 Les Forts de Latour is both super-expressive and quite representative of the house style. A host of graphite, licorice, menthol, and herb notes flesh out in an effortless, deep wine oozing with class. Scents of lavender, mint and rose petal add the closing shades of nuance. Beams of supporting tannin give the wine its energy, while there is more than enough freshness to convey tension and vivacity. This is a strong showing. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“The true second wine of the estate is the 2015 Les Forts De Latour and it's slightly more Cabernet dominated with 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35.6% Merlot, and then less than one percent each of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. This ripe, sunny vintage delivered loads of terrific wines and the 2015 reveals a vivid purple/opaque color as well as fabulous cassis and jammy currant fruits intermixed with lots of cedarwood, leafy herbs, earth, and graphite. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and nicely structured, it has a wealth of fruit, building yet sweet tannins, no hard edges, and a great, great finish.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“This is a tight, sour Les Forts with stunning tension between the Cabernet Sauvignon and the Merlot, augmented by a dusting of spice coming from the Cabernet Franc and the Petit Verdot. The tannins are very focused and sharp, and this leads me to believe that this will be a particularly long-lived Les Forts but, like its Pauillac third wine sibling, it is more red than black. The oak is again exotic and perfumed and the length is considerable, but it is more related to its diminutive sibling rather than its noble father.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
