

Château Latour Martillac Blanc 2018

CSPC# 867454

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

54% Sauvignon Blanc, 46% Semillon

Pessac-Léognan

Grand Cru Classe de Graves

<http://www.latourmartillac.com/en/the-wines/>

The estate takes its name from the tower which stands in the main courtyard of the château; it is the remnant of a fort built in the 12th century by the ancestors of Montesquieu. The structure occupied a strategic position and controlled the route between Bordeaux and Toulouse. The stones of the fort were used to build the existing château at the end of the 18th century.

In 1871, the estate attracted the attention of Edouard Kressmann who had just founded his wine merchant business in Bordeaux. He was seduced by the quality of the white wines grown on a remarkable gravelly hilltop with marked relief and outstanding exposure.

To this day one can still find in the plot grafted in 1884, the entire collection of Edouard Kressmann's selection of grape varieties for his « Grave Monopole Dry », as baptised by the Diva, Adelina Patti. Enhanced by their great age these vine stocks embody the breed, verve and essence which still characterises this wine. Alfred Kressmann, eldest son of Edouard, acquired the property in 1930. He changed the name: to avoid confusion with its illustrious namesake in the Medoc: Château Latour became Château LaTour-Martillac.

There then followed a long period of reconstruction. The vineyard consists of a dozen hectares of which the majority was planted in white wine. Without touching the oldest plots, Alfred Kressmann added Cabernet Sauvignon to the merlot already in place. Interrupted by the war, the reconstruction was continued after by Jean Kressmann, who succeeded his father in 1954.

Jean finally achieved the family dream to acquire the gravel slope, which separates the property from the village. Thus, the vineyard was gradually extended to nearly 30 hectares.

Winemaker

Valérie Vialard, œnologist

Vintage

Despite erratic weather conditions, this 2018 vintage gives us an enchanting wine. 2018 was a year marked by a spell of frost in April, reminiscent of the frost experienced in 2017 and followed in quick succession by an episode of hail on the 26th of May. The year was also marked by heavy downpours in Spring (113mm in the month of March alone!) and by a particularly hot and dry summer. Despite the attack of mildew at the beginning of the summer in certain parcels of red vines, the sunny period from July through to the beginning of October (with record temperatures in July & September) truly saved the vintage and guaranteed a good ripening of the grapes.

Vineyard

The vineyard is divided into two uniform subsectors. On the Martillac plateau, the hill dominates the property and is made up of a patchwork of gravel. These little pebbles deposited there by the river Garonne in the Quaternary period form a finely tuned mix of Quartz, Lydian, Jasper and Flint. These poor soils and drainage constitute an ideal terrain for the vine and in particular for the red grape varieties of Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Moving closer to the Garonne, the soils take on a different profile of clay and limestone, still with a gravel surface. It is here that the Merlot variety grows best and also our white grape varieties of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. 10 ha (total surface: 50 ha) for white wine grapes. Clay-limestone soil on the eastern slopes of the property, offering good natural drainage with optimum exposure for our white grape varieties.

Harvest

At Chateau Latour-Martillac, the white grape harvest began with Sauvignon on August 28th, followed by the Semillon on September 7th. The harvest took place



Harvest	in good conditions but required a lot of attention at both stages of picking and sorting, those red wine parcels affected by mildew. The meticulousness of our vineyard pickers, plus the effectiveness of our talented cellar team and our technical ability helped maintain healthy and ripe grapes.
Vinification/ Maturation	Alcoholic fermentation in oak barrels. Ageing: 15 months on lees, whose 11 months in French oak barrels. New barrels: 25%
Tasting Notes	According to Valérie Vialard, the œnologist of Château Latour-Martillac, the white 2018 is characterized by an “aromatic and complex freshness; notes of citrus, yellow fruits and hazelnut, delivering a delightfully, well-balanced, rounded and fresh palate.” The color is pale and shiny, with light green reflections. The nose is discreet with notes of citrus fruits such as lemon from Menton or pink grapefruit from Florida, yellow fruits such as peach, pears, plums and hazelnuts, toasted almonds, dried fruits. The palate is round, full-bodied, suave, with aromas of very ripe fruit. The finish is fresh, energetic, and tense.
Serve with	The white wine of Chateau LaTour Martillac is perfect to serve with shellfish, sashimi, sushi, all types of seafood, chicken, veal, and cheese.
Production	3,600 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2036
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021</p> <p>91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - March 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>88-91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>89 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2019</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>94 points - Falstaff Magazine - February 2021</p> <p>88-91 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2019</p> <p>17 points - Bettane & Desseauve - May 2019</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - June 2019</p> <p>16.5-17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France - April 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“This offers a mix of marjoram, thyme and fennel aromas backed with bright and engaging lemon peel, white peach and tangerine notes. Long finish ripples nicely with energy. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2024.”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“Peach, clementine, heather and almond notes are melding here, with a light zingy aspect giving the finish enough cut and drive.”</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“The Latour Martillac 2018 Blanc rolls out of the glass with upfront notes of spiced pears, lemon curd and lime cordial, plus hints of chalk dust, apple blossoms and coriander seed. The medium-bodied palate retains its sense of freshness and sophistication, even in this warmer vintage. It has delicately played citrus and stone fruit layers with a reassuring chalkiness to the finish. I love how this wine has managed to keep its cool in 2018—nicely done!”</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“The Latour Martillac 2018 Blanc have an expressive nose of fresh grapefruit, white peaches and lemon juice with a hints of lime leaves and chalk dust. Medium-bodied, the palate delivers great intensity with loads of minerally sparks and a long zesty finish.”</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *"Aromas of dried lemon zest, green apples, toasted nuts, flint and hay. It's medium-bodied with bright acidity and a dense, waxy texture. Tight, energetic, and focused. Long. Give it a few years in bottle to see its full potential. Try after 2022."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "This is an intense, mineral and acidity-driven white, showing dried fruit, such as lemon and pineapple. Medium to full body. Bright finish."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Packed with fruit and with zesty lemon tang, this crisp wine is dominated by Sauvignon Blanc. It is a lively wine, fresh with acidity and refreshing grapefruit flavors. Drink from 2022."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Barrel Sample. This wine is all about the lemon and apple fruit, with fresh acidity to maintain balance. That is not to say it does not also have texture, structure, and a taut edge, all set for aging."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Slightly cloudy. Lots of pure lemon and grapefruit on the nose, a touch of spice. Very spicy on the palate too but there's the fruit to fill out the middle. A bit sweet and sour but should come round. Certainly, plenty of fruit even if the acidity is slightly aggressive."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Ripe stone fruit flavours show the warmth of the summer but there's a lovely sense of restraint and freshness in this good quality wine. It has a touch of bitterness, which gives focus to the finish. Successful in both colours in 2018."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Fresh and juicy with a beautiful balance between the pineapple, pomelo, honeysuckle, lemon and crushed rock character. The wine was made blending 54% Sauvignon Blanc and 46% Semillon."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Citrus, flowers and background note of pineapple show up on the nose. On the palate, this is bright, crisp, forward, and juicy. The wine was made blending 54% Sauvignon Blanc and 46% Semillon. "*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The 2018 Latour-Martillac Blanc is bright, airy and impeccably balanced. Lemon peel, sage, mint and white flowers are nicely lifted. The 2018 is delicate and so precise, with tons of sheer style. Bright saline notes run through the textured, vibrant finish. "*
- AG, Vinous
- "A powerful, structured white, the 2018 Latour-Martillac Blanc has real feeling of density to it. Citrus, white flowers and mint all take shape in the glass, but it is the wine's textural resonance that stands out most? Some rough edges remain, but hopefully élevage will take care of them. More than anything else, it appears these old vines on clay handled the rigors of the growing season pretty well. The blend is 54% Sauvignon Blanc and 46% Sémillon. "*
- AG, Vinous
- "I loved the 2018 Château Latour-Martillac Blanc, a rich, nicely concentrated, vibrant white that shines on all accounts. Notes of ripe pineapple, flowers, honeysuckle, and subtle grapefruit notes define the bouquet, and it hits the palate with plenty of fruit, medium to full body, bright acidity, and a distinct sense of minerality on the finish. It's going to evolve for a solid 15 years or more."*
- Jeb Dunnuck

Reviews *"Pale color. Clean nose, of medium intensity, fine, fruity, pure, creamy, smoked. Caressing on the attack, mellow on the development, fragrant, with a taste of very ripe fruit, the wine evolves pleasantly on the finish with an average length. 2021-2027"*

- J-MQ

"Light yellow-green, silver reflections. Fine yellow tropical fruit aromas, delicate mandarin oranges, a hint of apricot, some blossom honey. Juicy, balanced, fine peach fruit, subtle acid structure, well developed."

- Falstaff Magazine

"This is a blend of 54% Sauvignon Blanc and 46% Semillon, picked at a yield of 50 hl/ha. The alcohol is 13.7%. This kicks off with a pure nose of white peach, smoky and lightly salty, with a little subtle matchstick reduction to the frame, and a lovely mineral confidence. A good substance on the palate, fresh, with plenty of nicely defined citrus and orchard fruits, with just a touch of grilled caramelisation to the latter, and plenty of pithy phenolic backbone too. Broad, full, grippy, but showing a softer structure than I would really have liked to find, because while the fruit profile is gorgeous it simply lacks acidity. The élevage will be in 25% new oak. Tasted twice."

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Blooming nose, delicate exotic fruit, sweet flowers, spicy notes, ample mouth, fruity and very lively, with a touch of bitterness that suits it perfectly. 2021- 2034"

- Bettane & Desseauve

"Extremely full-bodied, powerful, but also with class and juiciness, notes of ripe grapefruit in the final. 2024-2032"

- Vinum

'A very nice surprise for the vintage. The wine is energetic, tense, defined, with lots of flavor and length.'

- La Revue du Vin, France
