
Château Latour Martillac 2018

CSPC# 801716

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot
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

Jean Kressmann was a passionate winemaker and produced some excellent red wine vintages; 1959, 1961, 1966, 1970, 1975, 1982 and his favourite, the 1983.

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 and 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

Vineyard

Merlot variety grows best and also our white grape varieties of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. 40 ha (total surface: 50 ha), 55% Cabernet Sauvignon; 40% Merlot; 5% Petit Verdot.



Harvest	The harvest took place 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. Plot by plot handpicking Merlot: from the 12th to the 19th of September Cabernet Sauvignon: from the 20th to the 29th of September Petit Verdot: from the 23rd to the 29th of September.
Vinification/ Maturation	Alcoholic fermentation in thermo-regulated vats. Aged 16 months in French oak barrels. New barrels: 40%
Tasting Notes	Deep red colour, with purple reflections. A complex and aromatic nose with notes of black fruit (black cherry, blackcurrant), cashew and peony. The palate is well-balanced, round, and fleshy, with powerful and velvety tannins. The finish is long and aromatic.
Serve with	Chateau LaTour Martillac is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees F. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	8,375 cases made
Cellaring	Drink now-2032
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>93+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>93-95 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>95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>91 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p>88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p>16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Sleek, with mesquite-infused cassis laced with an additional iron and sanguine thread. Finish picks up light savory and tobacco details. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2032."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Dark plum and boysenberry compote notes are fleshy in feel, infused with dark tea, ganache and licorice accents. There's a smoldering hint through the finish. Intriguing. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Score Range: 92-95"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2018 Latour Martillac comes barreling out of the glass with bold notes of baked blackberries, plum preserves and redcurrant jelly, plus suggestions of garrigue, pencil shavings and menthol with a waft of tree bark. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has a sturdy frame of firm, grainy tannins and just enough freshness to support the generous fruit, finishing long and earthy."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *“Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Latour Martillac bursts from the glass with bold cassis, chocolate-covered cherries and plum preserves scents followed up by smoked meats, violets and aniseed hints plus a waft of Provence herbs. Full-bodied, firm, and fine-grained in the mouth, the palate is laden with juicy fruit and savory layers, finishing long and fragrant. (LPB)*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

“Aromas of blackcurrant, spiced cherry, charred wood and some smoked meat. It’s medium-to full-bodied with firm, fine-grained tannins. Tight layers of dark fruit and spice. Better from 2024.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“The blackberry and wet-earth character with some bark undertones, comes through clearly here. Medium - to-full-bodied. Savory finish.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Owned by the Kressmann family, this estate has released an age worthy wine. Rich tannins are balanced by dark, juicy blackberry fruits and dense, concentrated tannins. The wine needs to age, so drink from 2026.

**Editors’ Choice* (RV)”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Barrel Sample. Firm and spicy, this wine has a dense structure that will lend to good development. It shows a concentrated black-fruit flavor and intense acidity. Expect this wine to have some good medium-term aging.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot, 40% new oak. Barrel sample. Black core. Lovely fragrance of fresh dark fruit and something like lavender. Dark-fruited but still pretty. Elegant, scented with a complex range of aromas that are dark fruit, crushed rocks, and a hint of something floral. Poised and fresh. 17/20 points. 14,4% Drink 2023-2033 (JH)”

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“This has clear austerity on the attack, but the style of this wine is always to be a little more classic and understated than some others in the appellation, and it is heading towards an attractive, well-placed and well-judged wine. A ton of cassis and bilberry fruits, firm tannins, and gentle uplift through the finish. Takes its time to unroll, but you get a lovely juicy finish, and raspberry leaf and peony aromatics. Harvested 17 September to 10 October, yielding 37hl/ha. 40% new oak. 3.71pH. (JA)”

- JA, Decanter.com

“This takes its time to open, eventually revealing blackberry and black cherry fruits, layered with liquorice and chocolate, followed by some touches of bitterness on the finish.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Vanilla, plums and smoky red fruits with a touch of flowers create the nose. Silky, medium-bodied, sweet, fresh, supple, and juicy, with a little touch of cocoa in the finish, this is one of the best, if not the finest vintage of La Tour-Martillac I have ever tasted. The wine is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 8% Petit Verdot”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Boysenberry, licorice, smoke, black cherry and floral essences open the wine. On the palate, the wine is medium bodied, fresh, bright, sweet, and lively, allowing the red fruits and silky tannins to come through easily. Give this a least seven years or so of aging and enjoy it over the following two decades. The wine is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 8% Petit Verdot. The harvest took place from September 17-October 10.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *"The 2018 Latour-Martillac is generous on the nose, offering plenty of black and red fruit, and touches of mint and menthol gradually emerging with time, though as I stated previously, I would like to see more Pessac DNA come through. The palate is well balanced, although the oak is quite prominent at the moment and you can feel the wood tannins, especially toward the tobacco-tinged finish. Not bad, but it needs a couple of years to fully meld. (NM)"*

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Latour-Martillac is powerful, dense and explosive, with tremendous richness and energy that drive through to the palate staining finish. Abnormally low yields produced an unusually sumptuous, rich Latour-Martillac. Black cherry, chocolate, spice, gravel, and incense build as this arrestingly beautiful wine shows off its racy, curvy personality. The blend is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 8% Petit Verdot. Tasted three times."

- AG, Vinous

"A plump, up-front, and nicely textured Pessac, the 2018 Château Latour-Martillac has lots of red and black fruits, classic Graves notes of damp earth, tobacco, and earth, medium to full body, ripe tannins, and wonderful purity and elegance on the palate. It's beautifully done, and while it drops off slightly on the finish, I love its tannins, the balance is spot on, and it's going to drink nicely for 15 years or more"

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Dark ruby garnet, good depth, violet reflections, delicate edge lightening. Dark berry fruit underlaid with tobacco and herbs, delicate spicy wood. Medium body, fresh cherries, lively structure, integrated tannins, already developed, a versatile companion at the table. (2020 - 2040)"

- Falstaff Magazine
