

# Château Latour Martillac 2020

CSPC# 887738

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Pessac-Léognan
<b>Classification</b>	Grand Cru Classe de Graves
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.latourmartillac.com/en/the-wines/">http://www.latourmartillac.com/en/the-wines/</a>
<b>Sustainability</b>	Traditional sustainable farming methods, with mechanical soil maintenance. The work on the growing vines is carried out manually (pruning, excess buds, shoots, and leaves removal). High Environmental Value Certification (HEV)
<b>General Info</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 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.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Jean Kressmann was a passionate winemaker and produced some excellent red wine vintages; 1959, 1961, 1966, 1970, 1975, 1982 and his favourite, the 1983. Oenologist: Valérie Vialard
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>The 2020 vintage was marked by 3 major climatic events:</p> <p>After a mild winter, the 3rd mildest winter ever recorded, and a bud break 15 days ahead of schedule, the spring was marked by great humidity, with a record rainfall on the weekend of May 10 and 11. These climatic conditions caused the appearance of a very virulent mildew on our red grapes.</p> <p>From mid-June onwards, the weather changed radically with a very dry summer marked by 8 weeks without rain, a first for the region of Bordeaux. The few rains in mid-August were essential to reactivate the ripening of the grapes. This drought had a major impact on the vines growing on gravels, which gave us small but very concentrated grapes. Finally, the early harvest was marked by an unprecedented heat wave in mid-September. This had the effect of further concentrating the grapes. And for the third time in our history, we finished harvesting our last Cabernet-Sauvignon in September.</p>
<b>Vineyard</b>	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 soil takes on a different profile of clay and limestone, still with a gravel surface. It is here that the
<b>Vineyard</b>	The 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.



<b>Harvest</b>	Plot by plot handpicking. Merlot: from September 9 to 17; Petit Verdot: from September 16 to 17; Cabernet Sauvignon: from September 17 to 29.
<b>Winemaking</b>	Alcoholic fermentation in thermo-regulated vats. Aged 14 months in French oak barrels. New barrels: 40%
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The color is very dark, deep, purple. The nose is intense with notes of blackcurrant, black cherry and fresh fruit followed by a touch of licorice and spices. The palate is greedy, powerful, juicy, and fleshy, coated, and velvety tannins. The finish is fresh, fruity, and persistent.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	9,350 cases were made. 112,000 bottles.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2027-2042
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>92 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p><b>90-92+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>15.5+ points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous (score only) - June 2021</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2021</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - July 2021</p> <p><b>91-92 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - July 2021</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Juicy and compact, with a solid core of dark currant and blackberry fruit waiting to unfurl, while sweet tobacco, tar, and bittersweet cocoa notes flash around. Reveals a light cedary thread on the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2033. 9,350 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Complex aromas of cherries, raspberries, rose petals, bay leaf and spices introduce the 2020 Latour Martillac, a medium to full-bodied, fleshy, lively wine with good depth and excellent balance. It represents an improvement on the 2019."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Latour Martillac needs a little swirling to release scents of wild blueberries, fresh blackcurrants, and mulberries with hints of chocolate box, aniseed, and mossy tree bark with a touch of charcoal. The medium-bodied palate is soft, juicy, and refreshing, offering a savory finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"This really builds on the palate with blackberry, blueberry and stone aromas and flavors. Medium to full body. Creamy finish."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"The deep inky colored 2020 Château Latour-Martillac is another classic Graves from this vintage with loads to love. Lots of red, blue, and black fruits, notes of flowers, chocolate, and gravelly earth, medium to full-bodied richness, impeccable balance, and silky tannins all make for an outstanding, undeniably impressive 2020 that shines more for its elegance and purity than outright power and richness. It will benefit from 3-5 years of bottle age and cruise for two decades."</i> - JA, Decanter.com</p>

**Reviews** *“Perfectly ripe, dark red, and black fruits are all over the place here. What makes them even better is the additional nuances of orange rind, flowers, smoke, cocoa, and dried flowers. But as good as the nose is, it is on the palate, with its layers of silky, sensuous, ripe, fruit-filled wave of flavor that does not want to quit. This is absolutely delicious today, but if you have patience, it is only going to get better, and better with age. This could be the best vintage of LaTour Martillac ever produced! Drink from 2025-2048.”*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“The 2020 Latour-Martillac has an impressive, quite engaging bouquet with blackberry, incense, graphite, and faint touches of black olive. This is very harmonious and well defined. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins, very well balanced, quite saline with a poised and quite persistent finish. Quintessentially Pessac-Leognan, this has a bright future ahead.”*  
- NM, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

*“The 2020 Latour-Martillac offers an enticing bouquet of black fruit infused with black olive, background citric scents lending a bit of zest. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, well-integrated oak, and impressive depth. This is a very assured and confident Latour-Martillac that continues their strong run of form. Perhaps one of the dark horses of the appellation in 2020, this should be on your primeur shopping list.”*  
- NM, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

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- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Dark ruby, purple reflections, delicate ochre tinge to the rim. Subtle nutty aromas, ripe plum, tobacco, a little nougat and lovage. Juicy, opulent texture, ripe cherry fruit, silky tannins, charming, developed style, versatile, seems a bit loosely knit.”*  
- PM, [Falstaff Magazine](http://FalstaffMagazine.com)

*“Still in a youthful and restrained phase but nice purity of fruit and a dense structure, fine tannin, savoury dark fruit and good length, certainly needing time to open but fine potential.”*  
- AL, [Tasted.com](http://Tasted.com)

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