

Château Latour Martillac 2021

CSPC# 102907

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pessac-Léognan
Classification	Grand Cru Classe de Graves
Website	http://www.latourmartillac.com/en/the-wines/
Analysis	AT: 3.48 pH: 3.74 IPT: 80
Sustainability	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)
General Info	<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>
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. Oenologist: Valérie Vialard.
Vintage	2021 is a year that was characterized by complex climatic conditions. The very wet winter gave way to a mild and particularly dry spring, with only 40 mm of precipitation in March-April, compared to 70 mm on average. This month of April was marked by several episodes of frost, causing some damage to the earliest plots. Flowering, at the beginning of June, was particularly uniform. The summer was relatively cool, with the exception of a heat wave at the end of July and mid-August, which led to a slight delay in the veraison. The red grape harvest began late on September 24th and ended on October 13th. The red harvest then took over and ended on October 13. The heavy frosts of early April and the mildew had an impact on our yields, except for the Cabernet Sauvignon plots, which were rather spared. The 2021 red vintage is the second to be vinified in its entirety in the new cellar, which is now showing its full potential. 2021 is the first vintage driven by Edouard Kressmann.
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 soil takes on a different profile of clay and limestone, still with a gravel surface. It is here that the
Vineyard	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.



Harvest	Plot by plot handpicking. Merlot: from September 24 to October 1. Petit Verdot: September 29 and 30. Cabernet Sauvignon: October 1 to 13.
Winemaking	Alcoholic fermentation in thermo-regulated vats. Aged 14 months in French oak barrels. New barrels: 40%
Tasting Notes	Deep purple color. The wine reveals an attractive nose with intense aromas of fresh black fruits (blackcurrant, blackberry, black cherry) with a touch of menthol and a hint of spices brought by the Petit-Verdot. In the mouth, the attack is silky and expressive. The fruit is beautifully fresh. The acidity is well balanced by fine and elegant tannins. The finish is complex and pleasantly long on spices. This is definitely a wine with a great aging potential.
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	121,600 bottles. 10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2028-2043
Scores/Awards	<p>88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2024</p> <p>90 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>88-90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>90 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>89-91 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>93-94 points - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2022</p> <p>89 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>90-91 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - May 2022</p> <p>93-94 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Open-knit, with damson plum and black cherry notes, spiked with a bright savory edge and backed by a touch of warm earth on the finish, which shows minimal grain and a pretty smoldering hint. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2028. 10,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Latour Martillac was matured for 14 months in barrels and three months in tanks before bottling. It evokes a classic, elegant bouquet with aromas of spices, plum, cassis and raspberry, followed by a medium-bodied, juicy and round palate with a nicely tense mid-palate and structuring tannins, concluding with an ethereal, long finish."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A juicy red with plum, black-truffle and berry aromas. Medium body. Attractive finish. Round and creamy."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Gorgeous nose, rose tinted strawberries and raspberries. The fruit is a little severe on the palate, you get an initial burst of fresh red berries with juicy acidity, but the edges are a little stalky with the minty, robust, slate-edged tannins coming in and overtaking the freshness. The overall texture is impressive, this just lacks a little more density and push of the fruit, but you do get the feeling of precision, the integration of tannins and cool aspect throughout. And the minerality on the tongue is clean and crisp. An impressive effort with lots going on. One I look forward to tasting in bottle. Could easily go up in score."</i> - GH, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"Elegant, fresh, refined, spicy, sweet, and vibrant, the wine focuses on its lift, energy, and soft-textured fruits. There is a hint of salt and sprig of mint that comes in at the end of the finish adding complexity and character. Showing better from the bottle than it did in the barrel, this will drink well just about on release. Drink from 2025-2040."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p>

Reviews *“Cigar box, tobacco leaf, currants and dark cherries are in the nose. On the palate, the wine is round, lush and with a nice polish to the tannins. Supple and soft, with a plummy finish that includes just a bit of chocolate and spice in the endnote, this will drink well just about on release. Drink from 2024-2037.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2021 Latour-Martillac has an attractive nose: brambly red fruit, loam, and light cedar scents. Maybe conservative in style, yet it conveys purity and terroir. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannins and fine acidity. A slightly more sinewy Pessac-Léognan, yet it coheres in the glass. Its substance suggests that it will repay bottle age.”

- NM, *Vinous*

“The 2021 Château Latour-Martillac should be outstanding, and it stays nicely in the medium-bodied, balanced, elegant style of the vintage. Ripe red and black fruits, notes of leather, sandalwood, and earthy tobacco, fine tannins, and rock-solid balance all define this attractive Pessac.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Dark ruby with a purple hue to the rim. Fresh cranberries, a hint of plums, fine floral nuances; an inviting bouquet. Medium-bodied, red berry fruit, fresh structure, subtle tannins, and a touch of red cherry on the finish.”

- PM, *Falstaff Magazine*
