

## Château Lafite Rothschild 2014

CSPC# 749573

750mlx6

12.7% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc
<b>Appellation</b>	Pauillac
<b>Classification</b>	First Growth. Premier Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.lafite.com/eng">http://www.lafite.com/eng</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>Château Lafite Rothschild is one of the most renowned wine properties in the Médoc. Owned by Baron Eric de Rothschild and Lafite Rothschild is also one of the largest Médoc estates.</p> <p>The vineyards of Ch. Lafite are found at the northern tip of the Pauillac appellation, just below the boundary with St. Estèphe. There is evidence of an estate on this site as far back as the 14th century, and of exports of wine to the UK in the early 17th century. The current owners, the Rothschilds of the famous banking dynasty, bought the property in 1866, but this is a different brand of the family from that which purchased Ch. Mouton-Rothschild. For many years, the Rothschilds' control of Lafite was very much exercised at a distance, compared to the hands-on influence of Baron Philippe at Mouton, but since the Second World War this has changed somewhat, with the current owner, Eric de Rothschild, presiding over an extensive programme of investment in both vineyard and cellar. Throughout the 20th century Lafite was dogged by periods of inconsistency, often producing sublime wines but also failing to live up to its billing in other years. Since 1994, however the estate has been under the control of Charles Chevallier, and he has brought about not just an admirable level of consistency but has also been responsible for some truly brilliant wines often vying for the title of "Wine of the Vintage".</p>
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>Significant rainfall from November to February restored groundwater reserves, which had already been substantially replenished by average or higher than average rain in 2012 and 2013.</p> <p>Temperatures remained above normal and the vines missed the hearty winter frosts; what we really wanted were about two weeks of crisp mornings with beautiful sunshine, dry cold and no wind. But you cannot control nature! Bud break was early, followed by uniform flowering during the first week of June, spurred on by a rise in temperatures.</p> <p>As always, the impact of the weather on the vineyard was our primary concern, and our teams worked throughout the year to ensure that the grapes reach maturity in perfect health. The onset of ripening occurred over two periods, first in late July and then again after 15 August, creating differences in the ripeness of the bunches on the same vine.</p> <p>Some "juggling" was therefore necessary when it came to the harvests, in order to make the best choices; the pickers and sorters were under strict orders to only keep the very best quality red grapes, suited to the production our Pauillac <i>grand vins</i>.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<p>All told the Lafite estate amounts to 178 hectares, although of this only 112 hectares are planted to vines, with the varieties dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon (71%), then Merlot (25%), Cabernet Franc (3%) and just a little Petit Verdot (1%). Average vine age is 45 years, although young vines (here meaning less than 10 years old) are not included in the <i>grand vin</i>, so those that are included have an average age of about 45 years. There are a few plots of more advanced age, including La Gravière, which was planted in 1886, and a number where the vines are between 50 and 80 years old. The <i>terroir</i> underfoot is typically gravelly, with Aeolian sands on a bedrock of tertiary limestone, known locally as <i>calcaire de St Estèphe</i>.</p>
<b>Harvest</b>	<p>Harvest took place between September 28 and October 9 for the Merlot, October 9-16 for the Cabernet Sauvignon.</p>



<b>Maturation</b>	Fermentation takes place in stainless steel vats, after which the wine is run off into barrels, 100% new for Lafite itself for 18 months.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Beautiful, intense red garnet colour. The nose is complex and fruity, characteristic of 2014, with beautiful floral notes. There is a light toasted note, but the wood is already well integrated. In the mouth, the wine is massive, displaying power and elegance at the same time. Blackberries and blackcurrants again declare a strong presence, and are complemented by the notes of violet and cedar so often found in Lafite's wines. The palate is fresh, harmonious and very long. There is a pleasant balance between richness and finesse. To enjoy this wine at its peak, one will have to manage to wait about ten years.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Lafite Rothschild is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Lafite Rothschild is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms and pasta.
<b>Production</b>	16,000 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2024-2045
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017</p> <p><b>94-97 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017</p> <p><b>97-98 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2017</p> <p><b>97-99 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>18.75 (95+) points</b> - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 14, 2015</p> <p><b>95-97+ points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 30, 2015</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015</p> <p><b>18+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - March 2015</p> <p><b>94-97 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Richard Jennings, rjonwine.com - January 2017</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - Gault &amp; Millau (score only)</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only)</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Reserved for now, but the core of cassis, bitter plum and raspberry coulis flavors is pure and energetic, while extra black tea, iron and singed alder notes fill in steadily through the finish. This has a very focused, streamlined feel overall, yet there's serious depth for the cellar. Best from 2020 through 2035. 16,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Very backward, with loads of cedar, espresso and juniper out front, while the core of currant and blackberry fruit stays in reserve. Shows ample grip on the finish, but this is fine-grained and exhibits superb cut. —Tasted non-blind. Score range: 94-97"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The Château Lafite-Rothschild 2014 is a blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, picked from 22 September until 10 October with the Petit Verdot, the Cabernet finished two days earlier. The Grand Vin is adorned with surprising richness and opulence on the nose: layers of ripe black plum and juniper, fine definition with even a hint of fig developing with continued aeration. After 5 minutes it turns volte face and becomes much more graphite and cedary - more Pauillac in essence. The palate is medium bodied with ripe tannin, a potent core of black and blue fruit with a bullish (for Lafite) peacock's tail on the finish. Very long in the mouth, this is a Lafite that yearns to compensate for last year and it accomplishes that with some panache."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p>

**Reviews** *"The aromas of stones, oyster shell, blackcurrants and mushrooms are very intense. Full-bodied, dense and powerful with lots of blackberries. Great finish. Super energy and depth."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"I love the sexy, perfumed and feminine style to this young Lafite with rose petals, rose stems and currants. Full body, super fine tannins and a wonderful finish. Lasts for a very, very long time."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"his is a major wine. It has enormous tension, structure and a core of dark tannins. Amid all this, the wine is also packed with fruit and concentrated blackberry and black-plum flavors. It will age slowly and steadily with its enormous structure and concentration. Drink this wine from 2027."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"97–99. Barrel Sample. A great wine, this Lafite has great power and richness as well as a wonderfully elegant touch. It is dark and brooding on the one hand and fresh in black currant fruit on the other. Woody tones support the superb fruits and complement the texture."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc. Nuanced, very healthy crimson with a ruby rim. Tea leaves on the nose. Rather severe palate with marked tannins quotient. Very Cabernet indeed – but Cabernet that is far from opulent. A bit more stolid than most Lafites. Bone dry and without the beautiful aromatic lift that characterises the best vintages. A bit short on charm."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Lovely floral nose and almost understated compared to Mouton – just a line of clarity and fruit purity that doesn't need description. Fine tannins and that wild violet lift over a firm textured depth of fruit, all in perfect harmony."*  
- SS, Decanter.com

*"An earthy mélange of cedar and ripe berries on the nose, this wine is smooth, soft and fresh with the aroma of cassis and blackberries. Its refined tannins evoke the silky finesse of a crisp, dark red berry finish. The harvest took place between September 22 and October 10, beginning with the Merlot, followed by the Petit Verdot and representing 38% of the crop. A combination of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 12.7% alcohol. Chateau Lafite Rothschild is often a difficult wine to taste young. This could easily out on weight, improving in bottle and beyond. 94-95 Pts"*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Deep and dark; fresh looking at edge; opaque centre; purple at edge; very ripe blackcurrants and cassis notes; graphite; intense cassis in fact; sublimated blackcurrants and cassis; plenty of flesh on the palate; focus; some oak to integrate but lots of blackcurrant fruit and cassis again; structure evident beneath; excellent purity and length; very long palate impression. This is concentrated Lafite, sublimated even. In the realm of the great years. [second sample showed similar characteristics – very concentrated blackcurrants; cassis]; exceptional stuff. [87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 12.6 degrees alc, harvest 22-27 September for Merlot and 29 September-8 October for Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc 2 October and Petit Verdot 10 October]. Drink 2022-2035. Tasted 30 March 2015 at Lafite. 95-97+."*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

*"A wine that proves that Bordeaux doesn't have to be full bodied to have concentration and ageing potential, this is a gloriously refined red that doesn't show its 100% new oak. Stylish tannins, fine red and black fruits and palate-cleansing acidity are framed by attractive oak. One of the wines of the year. (One of Tim's Top 10 Left Bank Reds.)"*  
- TA, timatkin.com

**Reviews**

*“Such was the demand from Asia a few years ago that Lafite was selling at much higher prices than the other First Growths. However, we are now back to reality. 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc. The Merlot was picked 22nd-27th September and the Cabernets from 29th September to 8th October. Deep colour. Very pure blue and black fruit on the nose which is densely aromatic. There is added complexity from exotic all spice and vanilla, but this is all about the purity of Cabernet fruit which is charged but elegant. Very Lafite. The palate has a rich and sweet entry but structure from the super-refined tannins and acidity make it fresh and clean at the same time. Real clarity, purity and precision. Focused and long, with a little wood smoke and spice. There is a dense core of blackcurrant and blueberry fruit, but the precision is what makes this wine and gives it real typicity. A return to form for Lafite after a difficult 2013.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The nose has a fragrant floral charm of spring violets and the start of the palate has bilberry and bramble freshness lots of bright fruit. Rich in the middle the sweet cassis supported by fine tannins the back palate fleshy and supple. There is an underlying freshness and brightness, but the finish has depth with black fruited richness.”*

- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2014 Lafite-Rothschild is a beautiful, vivid wine. It is also going to need a number of years to come together. All the classic Lafite signatures are present in the glass. Dark red and bluish-hued fruits, grilled herbs, crème de cassis and leather are some of the many notes that gradually open up. The wine is finessed and nuanced to the core. I imagine it will drink well with minimal cellaring, although it clearly also has the potential to grow in bottle. (AG)”*

- AG, Vinous

*“A rich, powerful wine, the 2014 Lafite boasts superb depth, nuance and class. Hints of plum, cinnamon, wildflowers and exotic spices are woven throughout, but the flavors remain quite primary. The delicate, brilliant finish points to a bright future for a Lafite that should start to drink well with minimal cellaring. The blend is 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Lafite accounts for 38% of the production.”*

- AG, Vinous

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