

Château Lafite Rothschild 2021

CSPC# 848128

750mlx3

12.71% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	First Growth. Premier Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.lafite.com/eng
Analysis	pH: 3.77 Total acidity: 3.44 g/l
Sustainability	In 2021, with our application for official certification, we confirmed the move toward organic farming for all our French properties. This is a new step in our CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) approach.
General Info	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. 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 Chevalier, 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".
Winemaker	Oenologist and winemaker: Christophe Conge Winemaker: Régis Porfilet
Vintage	Romain Gary said that "renewal has always been first and foremost a return to the roots." There couldn't have been a finer revelation this year, from what we know how to grow best on the mythical plateau of Lafite: great Cabernets which have dominated the tastings from the écoullages. Freshness and density were already there, in a balancing act that we have grown used to from our great terroirs. This year, they are the ones who spoke their voice more clearly than ever. The dice were therefore loaded against the Merlots from the start, and they paled in comparison: only half a vat from Pointon Gravette, a plot on our legendary Carruades plateau, went into the blend.
Vineyards	Chateau Lafite Rothschild is located to the north of the appellation, bordering Saint Estèphe. Lafite's best terroirs stretch on the 50ha Plateau des Carruades to the west of the Château. This plateau, which is the highest point of the Pauillac appellation, is well-drained and enjoys optimal sun exposure. Its clayey gravel soils offer excellent water regulating abilities and provide optimal ripening conditions for the Cabernet Sauvignon. Some 4.5 ha planted in the neighbouring Saint Estèphe appellation, count amongst the oldest vines of the property and provide year after year grapes of outstanding quality for the Grand Vin.
Harvest Winemaking	The harvest took place September 22 to October 8. Yields came in at 33 hl/ha. For Lafite's terroir to produce its magic, the vinification process must be carried out with extreme precision. The distribution of the grapes between wooden, stainless steel and concrete vats is determined on the basis of the characteristics of each plot and the grapes' degree of maturity. Alcoholic fermentation takes place at a controlled temperature with regular pumping over to gently extract all the phenolic compounds. The maceration period is around 22 days. After malolactic fermentation, the wines are transferred to French oak barrels. The wine is then aged in new oak barrels for 15 months.



Tasting Notes	Deep red color. The nose is still dominated by fresh fruit and elegant toasty notes. On the palate, an immediate sensation of power, without any excess, follows a fleeting vivacity. The freshness of the finish, the grain of the tannins and the velvety woodiness suggest great ageing potential.
Serve with	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.
Production	unknown
Cellaring	Drink 2027 - 2055
Scores/Awards	<p>96+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>95-97 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>94-96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2022</p> <p>17.5+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p>97 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - January 2024</p> <p>96-98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>94-97 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>95-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024</p> <p>94-96+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>19.5 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>97 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>97 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>98 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>95-98+ points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"To my palate, the 2021 Lafite Rothschild has emerged as the finest of the Pauillac first growths this year. Wafting from the glass with aromas of dark minty berries mingled with notions of iris, licorice, and cigar box, it's medium to full-bodied, deep, and concentrated, with a velvety attack that segues into an elegantly dense and structured mid-palate that's nicely framed by sweet but abundant tannins, concluding with a long, penetrating finish."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A brilliant wine that shares some similarities with the formidable 1996, the 2021 Lafite Rothschild wafts from the glass with inviting aromas of dark berries, cigar box, loamy soil, black truffle, and violets. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and layered, it's rich and concentrated, with beautifully powdery tannins, lively acids, and a long, saline finish. Of course, this isn't as dramatic as the 2020 or 2019 out of the gates, but the 2021 is a brilliant success in its own right. What's more, its structure and balance mean that it is likely to prove almost immortal. It's a blend has one of the all-time highest percentages of Cabernet Sauvignon chez Lafite."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Lafite Rothschild is a blend of 96% CS, 3% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot. Deep garnet-purple colored, it needs a lot of swirling to shake loose notions of ripe blackcurrants, fresh blackberries, and black raspberries, followed by hints of cedar, graphite, cloves, and cast-iron pan with a waft of roses. Light to medium-bodied, the palate delivers intensely perfumed black fruits with a floral and herbal undercurrent textured by firm, finely grained tannins, and featuring well-integrated acidity, finishing on a lingering fragrant earth note. This should be one of the most long-lived wines of the vintage, with cellaring potential of 40+ years. Yields came in at 33 hl/ha and the wine has a pH of 3.9."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Independent</p> <p><i>"Polished and refined with a firm, fine and linear tannin structure. Harmonious. Perfumed violets, roses, and subtle licorice. All in balance here, with precise layers of black fruit, minerals, and pencil lead. Rather seamless. Firm, yet fine and sleek to the end. Very classy. Fine-velvety texture."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

Reviews *"96–98. Barrel Sample. This is essentially Cabernet Sauvignon, giving beautiful black currant notes that come through in succulent juiciness and a serious core of tannins that are giving the wine a solid backbone. This will push the wine's maturity well into the long-term."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot. 33 hl/ha. Cask sample. Deep crimson hue. Customary elegance rather than power. Perfumed nose, attractive fruit, and a surprising density of tannin (15% press wine to bolster the structure). Quite discreet and measured in its form but good length and should improve further in bottle. (JL) 12.6%. Drink 2030 – 2050."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Surely a contender for wine of the vintage, certainly on the Left Bank. Vibrant and explosive, what a wine in 2021. Graphite, black chocolate, black pepper, and blackcurrant aromas but also with floral edges - so intense! Supple and racy on the palate, this is a firecracker of a Lafite, so much energy and acidity that you get this rush of red and black fruits then the stoney minerality and then the spice. It's sharp and racy with the length that goes on and on. You get it all here but so well delivered, real refinement and elegance in terms of fruit precision and clarity but it's just so energetic and bright. This puts you squarely in Bordeaux with the lively and balanced freshness with these gorgeous powerful and structured Cabernet aspects telling you it's from Pauillac, ending with liquorice, stone, graphite, and toasted spice from the one block of old-vine Petit Verdot that went into the blend this year. Vibrant and explosive - an absolute thoroughbred - albeit a young one! Made with 96% Cabernet as opposed to a usual amount between 80-85%. A yield of 33hl/ha. The first year of full organic farming also in 2021."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Deep in colour, has grip and presence. Loganberry, blueberry, wet stones, hawthorn, forest floor, this is a long-ageing Lafite, not one that I would rush to open. It delivers tannic power from beginning to end, with density and juice and length, a reminder that Lafite manages to perform strongly in so many different styles of vintage. Delivering right at the very top of Pauillac. 1st year organic conversion. 90% new oak. No frost at the estate, yields of 34hl/h, harvest September 22 to October 8. 40% 1st wine."

- JA, janeanson.com

"One of the wines of the vintage, as it was En Primeur, and delivers grip and character, laced with slate, graceful cool blue and black fruit. Finessed tannins opens to show waves of sage, liquorice root, cloves and forest floor. Almost entirely Cabernet Sauvignon, with the Petit Verdot slice from 100-year-old grapes. 34hl/h yield, harvest September 22 to October 8, 90% new oak for ageing. A long-ageing wine within the context of the vintage, and a reminder that this is a wine that takes all kind of weather conditions in its stride. 1st year organic conversion"

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Flowers, blackberries, charcoal, cigar box, black currants, spice, cedar, graphite, and tobacco come through on the nose with a bit of coaxing. On the palate, the wine offers a pure expression of red fruits, black cherries, spice, and a touch of orange rind, along with boysenberry, licorice, and red plums on the backend. This is an elegant, regal, classic style of Lafite Rothschild that will age and evolve quite well. The wine is complete from start to finish and was produced from blending 96% Cabernet Sauvignon. 3% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot. 12.6% ABV, 3.9 pH. Drink from 2032-2060."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The yield was low at 33 hl/ha, as is the alcohol at a more traditional level of 12.6% abv. It is strongly Cabernet Sauvignon at 96% with just a touch of Merlot and Petit Verdot. Eric describes it as being a "classic, balanced and elegant vintage, in the style of the 1996". Deep purple in colour. Silky cassis, braised game, toasted cumin and fine graphite on a very sophisticated nose. These characteristics continue on the palate, together with hints of black pepper and iron. Very fine but persistent tannins line the palate and provide a deep focus. Vertical, harmonious, and long, this is perfectly proportioned, cool Cabernet with all the savoury refinement expected from the Lafite stable. Tobacco, cedar, and pencil shavings flicker through the pure and fine fruit on

Reviews *the finish, which is full of vigour and energy. This should only get better with further élevage, but it is already a very, very fine example of the vintage."*

- TP, Farr Vintners

"The 2021 Lafite-Rothschild is driven by the Cabernet Sauvignon, as you would expect with 96% in the blend. Blackberry, cigar box and touches of gravel are entwined with the fruit— linear and quintessentially Lafite. The palate is medium-bodied with chiseled tannins. It's a growing season that suits the style of Lafite-Rothschild, classically built and not austere because there is fine depth and weight, but there is a sense of paradoxical weightlessness and a dash of cracked black pepper on the finish. Excellent."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2021 Lafite-Rothschild, which was aged in 90% new oak, has a deep, almost opaque hue. This has quite an arresting bouquet with dense blackberry, sous-bois and pencil box scents, quintessential Lafite aromas with nuanced floral scents surfacing with time. The palate is medium-bodied, though with more weight than you would expect given the growing season. The Cabernet Sauvignon imparts graphite and almost briny elements into the aromatic profile. Sapid and classic in style, head winemaker Eric Kohler suggests that it is a return to the style of Lafite-Rothschild of the nineties in terms of freshness. I concur."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2021 Lafite-Rothschild is every bit as exceptional as it was from barrel. The high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon comes through loud and clear. All the elements are so well balanced. The 2021 is dark, racy and full of Lafite sensuality, all kicked up by the natural intensity of the year. Dark red/purplish fruit, mint, lavender and rose petal are all on display. It's not a showy wine, and it will need quite a bit of time to fully reveal its charms."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2021 Lafite-Rothschild casts an imposing presence. Black fruit, sage, menthol, licorice and incense give Lafite its dark, almost somber, personality. Cabernet Sauvignon is dialed up, and that very much comes through in the wine's flavor profile and overall feel. The tannins are quite prominent at this stage. In some ways, the 2021 reminds me of the 1996, but with the greater delineation found in today's wines. I can't wait to see how it ages. The 2021 is one of the stars of the Left Bank."

- AG, Vinous

"A classic expression of this Château, the 2021 Château Lafite-Rothschild checks in as 96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot brought up in a mix of new and used barrels. It's not massive but textbook Lafite with its red and black currant fruit as well as cedar pencil, ripe tobacco, graphite, and spicy nuances. More medium-bodied on the palate, it has a great mid-palate, ample concentration, ripe, polished tannins, and a gorgeous finish. The vintage doesn't get much better than this beauty, and it should round into form (I would gladly drink a bottle today) with 4-6 years of bottle age. It might be one of the longest-lived wines in the vintage, offering 30 years or more of prime drinking."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"I loved the Grand Vin 2021 Château Lafite-Rothschild, and if anyone is going to excel in a cooler, elegant vintage like 2021, it will be Château Lafite. Based on 96% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot, it has a brilliant perfume of pure crème de cassis, spring flowers, graphite, gravelly earth, and sandalwood, which will turn toward more classic Lafite cedar pencil with age. Medium-bodied on the palate, it has supple, elegant, yet substantial tannins, great balance, and a beautiful finish. Like most wines from this estate, it has a classy, regal, incredibly impressive style."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Grainy, introverted, tense, and monastically composed, this is a classic Lafite stance on the palate, and then something rather enchanting occurs. No matter how much it tried to keep a straight face and furrowed brow, Lafite cannot hide the incredible purity of Cabernet fruit, nor can it stop the flavours from seeming extraordinarily appealing at this extremely young age. Lafite is usually a challenge to taste in its youth, but the 2021 vintage is a positive pleasure. In addition, Lafite is generally a wine that takes 20 years to open and blossom and a further 20 to start to gather pace. But it appears that much of the fruit charm of this stunning young wine is already on display, but that is not to say that it lacks anything in the longevity stakes. There is impressive openness and charm coupled with discreet sensuality and fragrance, and this all adds up to make a

Reviews *thrilling, (relatively) forward, and mesmerizingly flattering vintage that I can guarantee everyone will fall for. You will note that Cabernet forms a mighty 96% of this blend and, in the end, only half a vat of Merlot from Pointon Gravelle, a plot on the legendary Carruades plateau, went into this wine. This is further proof of how captivating, intriguing and unique 2021 is for this famous estate. 19.5.”*
- Matthew Jukes

“Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, purple hue to the narrow rim. Fine noble wood savouriness, black forest berries, nougat, and fresh orange zest; an attractive bouquet. Complex and taut; red berry fruit underpins ripe cherry fruit. Vivid, very fine tannins that give the wine beautiful structure, mineral, salty with lovely length. A great food companion, marked by freshness and openness; plenty of ageing potential here as Lafite fully shows off its outstanding terroir.”
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fruity, fresh, elegant, aromatic and shows complexity, concentration, and finesse. There are notes of fleshy blackberry, fleshy/fresh blackcurrant and more slightly fresh/juicy bigarreau cherry combined with delicate hints of violet plum as well as hints of violet, racy/terroir minerality as well as discrete hints of graphite, a subtle hint of zan and toasted almond. The palate is fruity, fresh, mineral and reveals some richness, a nice grain, a little fleshiness, a nice work of the bitter taste, freshness, minerality, an acidulous backbone, some mellowness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/fresh blackcurrant, purple plum and more slightly chocolate, fresh raspberry combined with hints of toast, toasted almond, a subtle hint of mellow hazelnut, iodine/fresh grape minerality, a subtle hint of mocha. Good length.”
- Vert de Vin
