

Château Latour 2008

CSPC# 756554

750mlx3

13.5% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

CSPC# 837341

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 0.75% Cabernet Franc, 0.25% Petite Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Premier Grand Cru Classé
Website	http://www.chateau-latour.com/index_en.php#/home
General Info	If Lafite is renowned for elegance, Latour is prized for power. Vines were first planted on the site in the fourteenth century, but Latour's reputation stems from the late part of the seventeenth century, when the estate was inherited by Alexandre de Ségur. In recent years, no finer wine has been made in Bordeaux, for Latour displays an uncanny combination of deep color; Cabernet-dominated flavors of dark berries, licorice, and minerals; the finest oak that money can buy; and great length on the aftertaste.
Winemaker	Hélène G�nin
Vintage	After a warmer than normal January and February, the growing season began with cool temperatures. The spring was wet, with regular rain from March to April. May was a little warmer than normal, but then there was cooler weather from June to September. A shortage of rain in July resulted in moderate water stress. The end of the summer was very rainy with frequent showers from early August to mid-September. Fortunately, the second half of September improved, with dry weather conducive to ripening. The harvests took place in beautiful late summer weather, from 29 September to 19 October. This enabled an optimization of a valuable balance between high phenolic indicators, correct sugar levels and fairly high acidity.
Vineyards	Many have called this the best vineyard in the world and the dynamic Director of Chateau Latour, Fr�d�ric Engerer, is determined to make the greatest wine possible. He has the confidence of owner, Fran�ois Pinault, to do all that it takes to achieve this aim. Production levels have been slashed in recent vintages with only the best parcels of vines now producing grapes for the Grand Vin. Latour has always had a fantastic terroir and now has a wine-making team working with state-of-the-art modern equipment under inspired leadership.
Harvest	The harvest took place between September 29 and October 7 for the Merlot, but the Cabernet Sauvignon finished around the 19th of October.
Tasting Notes	Beautiful dark color. An aromatic nose that is fresh and pure. Whilst a little austere, it is rich on the palate yet taught and very elegant. The tannins are soft and supple. A magnificent vintage with an alluring velvetiness accompanied by great depth and body.
Serve with	Chateau Latour is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Latour is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	9,500 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2015-2045
Scores/Awards	94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2011 91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2009 95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019 95+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011 96-98 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #182 - April 2009 95+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012 95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - October 2010 92-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2009 95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - December 2010 96 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2011



Scores/Awards **94-96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 2009
94 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - July 2011
18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2012
18.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2009
19.5 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2009
98 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2010
97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2018
97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2010
94-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 2009
92-96 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2009
96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2018
96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2019
95 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2011 (score only) - January 2018
97 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - March 2011
92 points - Falstaff Magazine - March 2013
18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2010
18.5 points - Bettane & Desseave (score only) - April 2010

Reviews *"This is dense and muscular, but balanced, with the flesh to offset the sinew, as pure mulled black currant, melted fig and crushed plum fruit is caressed by substantial but fine-grained structure. The long, iron- and tobacco-filled finish has excellent focus and drive. This could rival LLC for longest-lived wine of the vintage."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Offers currant and blackberry aromas, with hints of flowers. Starts as a slow attack on the palate, then builds with super-polished tannins and pretty fruit, offering berries and mineral. Long and caressing. 9,500 cases."
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Composed of 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 0.75% Cabernet Franc and 0.25% Petit Verdot, the 2008 Latour gives a medium to deep garnet color and slips sensuously out of the glass with Chinese five spice, unsmoked cigars, sandalwood and dried roses scents over a core of warm cassis, Black Forest cake, chocolate mint and smoked meats plus a waft of black olives and garrigue. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is well-sustained in the middle with generous black fruits and lovely red fruit sparks, layered with savory nuances and a firm, grainy backbone, finishing with bags of perfume and freshness."
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

"An extraordinary wine, the classic 2008 Latour (13.5% natural alcohol) has 40% of the production made it into the grand vin. Its dense purple color is followed by hints of espresso roast, cassis, burning embers, truffles and graphite. Rich with full-bodied power, beautiful purity and graciousness allied to a voluminous, savory, broad mouthfeel, this beauty will be drinkable in 4-5 years and will keep for three decades."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"Damn me for saying it, but I actually think the 2008 Latour will turn out to be even better than the 2005 or 2000. I still have a weakness for the 2003, but it is somewhat atypical in how forward, fleshy, and opulent it is. The 2008 Latour is a more concentrated version of the 1996, and that's saying something. The natural alcohol of 13.48% may be the highest ever achieved at Latour. Moreover, in a low yield year, only 40% of the production made it into the grand vin, so even with the global economic crisis, this is going to be a tightly allocated wine – with under 10,000 cases produced. A fabulous infant, it exhibits an inky/purple color as well as extraordinarily pure notes of creme de cassis, crushed rocks, and flowers. The fact that there is no hint of oak is a testament to the vintage's density and richness. The wine possesses full-bodied power as well as a boatload of tannin, and it is even more backward than Lafite Rothschild. Nevertheless, the hallmark of a great wine and potentially top-notch vintage is the sweetness of the tannin, and that is evident. The wine is young, unevolved, and incredibly pure (another hallmark of this unexpectedly magical vintage) with an amazingly long, textured, layered finish. It should be forgotten for 5-8 years and consumed over the following four decades."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted ex-chateau and single blind in Southwold. The Latour 2008 has a reserved, slightly tertiary bouquet that is aristocratic and rather aloof compared to say, Lafite 2008. Yet it has immense focus and tension, mineral-laden blackberry, graphite, and cassis. The palate is full-bodied with firm, slightly chewy tannins that will take

Reviews *some considerable time to soften. Clean and crisp with unerring symmetry, yet somehow uncompromising and far less generous than say, the 2009. This will require a couple of decades in the cellar, when that embryonic generosity that is demonstrated in barrel will spring forth. Tasted January 2012."*

- NM, Wine Journal

"Frederic Engerer describes this as a mixture of the 01, 02 and 04...he might be right. Tasted at the chateau, 2008 Chateau Latour has an intense blackberry, cedar, graphite-scented bouquet that is very tight at first but opening in the glass. The palate is full-bodied with mouth-coating black fruits infused with a touch of liquorice and black plum. The Latour -08 is underpinned by tensile tannins that lend it a linearity that finally broadens out on the long, persistent finish. Coming back after a few minutes I notice a touch of espresso on the finish. One feels that this could still surprise in a few years-I wonder if this has something up its sleeve? Drink 2014-2035. Tasted October 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"..representing 40% of the production, this Latour has a ripe blackcurrant nose, cedar, crushed stones, just a hint of sous-bois. Full-bodied on the palate, very fine tannins, ripe blackberry, dark plum, a touch of spice, cedar, very "Cabernet". Masculine, but very well poised. Minerally towards the finish. Like the Les Forts de Latour, there is an aloofness about it but it certainly a little sulky on the finish. Hopefully it will gain a greater sense of purpose and ebullience throughout its élevage. Tasted April 2009."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Gorgeous aromas. Sandalwood and flowers, so perfumed and beautiful. Spices and currants with cassis too. Amazing nose. Such beauty and density with an iron and pure fruit character. Solid and racy."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Expressive fruit aromas and wood perfumes announce this wine. With 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, this is a complex wine marked by purity of black fruits, berries, toast, and tannins. It has power, richness, and a lovely edge of spice to go with the acidity. The wine is firmly structured, while bursting with fruit and freshness."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"94-96 Barrel sample. Elegance and fruit are the hallmarks at Latour in 2008. The tannins are present but subdued. The balance is what is impressive, with tight ripe fruits, nothing over-stated."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Saturated ruby-red. Subdued but wonderfully pure nose hints at black cherry, graphite, tobacco, licorice, black olive and crushed stone. Lush, sweet, and deep, with terrific energy and early sex appeal to the dark berry, spice, and vanilla flavors. The sweetness builds on the very long aftertaste, where the solid tannins are in perfect harmony with the wine's fruit. Leaves a black cherry perfume in the retro nasal passage. Likely to be one of the vintage's longest-lived examples."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"High toned, even slightly acetic. Mature Cabernet grapes. Lovely spread across the palate. Not a hint of under-ripeness. Very flattering richness on the palate. Very complete even if a little dusty on the finish. 18/20 points."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Lowest Merlot proportion ever in the grand vin. The last time there was more than 90% Cabernet Sauvignon was 2004. 'Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot don't complement each other at Latour - Merlot diminishes our Cabernet Sauvignon unless they are very, very old Merlot vines which add texture and density and concentration. The rest dilute it. It's also probably our taste. I just don't like these Merlots - I prefer to keep this precision...'Very dark and rich-looking. Dense and purple. Graphite notes and very dense. Some seductive perfume. Then very ripe start with lots of ripeness. Very firm and confident and pure. Fine stones, very precise. Sucky stones. Still very cool, very neat, very fine. Masses of density stops it being painfully dry on the finish. Very fine sleek and dense - well back on track after '07 by Latour!' One of the most polished Latour's but very Latour. Very healthy. Health juice."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

"This takes a heartbeat to kick in, and then the weight and impact of this wine slowly kicks in. Those Cabernets have lift and punch, and although it's not ethereal like the Ausone or even the Lafite, it has power, structure, impact, and kick, and you know it's going the distance. It has really lovely menthol notes which play around on the finish, preceded by layers of cassis and liquorice. It's more accessible than many Latour's at 10 years old - just give it another couple of years to fully get into its stride."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Black-red, terrific expression of blackcurrant fruit, slightly smoky and already complex, really fine floral fruit, really fine clear depth and length, a tight style, firm and classic, full of energy and savoury fruit, excitingly precise, tannins in perfect balance. Drink 2018-40."

- SS, Decanter.com

"There is a lightening in the color, giving a slight bricking effect. The wine is as concentrated as it is tannic. This is still youthful, fresh, and holding on to most of what it has to offer. There is definite power here, and layers of ripe, juicy, dark, red berries. Clearly this wine has improved over the decade, as you would have expected. But it is still on the young/semi-strict side, so you should wait another 10 years or more. Utilizing only 40% of the harvest for the Grand Vin."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"2008 Latour is powerful, full bodied and concentrated with ripe cassis, tobacco, truffle, slate, and black plum aromatics. The wine covers your palate with waves of dark berries and ripe, round, polished tannins. The long, pure, fresh finish remains in your mouth for over forty-five seconds!"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"2008 Château Latour features a dark, ruby color with purple tints. Cedar, spice, cassis, and earthy scents were easy to find. Plush and elegant on the palate, with stunning levels of concentrated, ripe fruit, coupled with a brilliant, long finish and structure make this a wine that will reward cellaring. The round tannins give the wine a seductive feel in the mouth. Only 40% of the harvest will be placed in the Grand Vin. This is a suave style of Latour."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The concentration of fruit gives richness to the nose. Cassis, blueberry, and sloe all vie for dominance. The tannic cage is firm, but the tannins feel ripe, nothing aggressive. Lighter flavours bilberry and some raspberry give a surprising elegance towards the finish. It is a wine with power and style."

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2008 Latour has a more bold and concentrated bouquet compared to the Lafite-Rothschild, scents of blackberry, bilberry, iris, cigar humidor and cold wet stone that all surge from the glass. This is beautifully defined. The palate is medium-bodied with firm in tannin, a light marine influence infusing the black fruit, a little spice towards the finish with superb persistency. It is an authoritative Latour as usual, one now beginning to enter its stride although naturally it will last for two or three decades with ease"

- NM, Vinous

"I continue to love the 2008 Château Latour, unquestionably in the top handful of wines in the vintage. A rich, powerful blend of 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc, this ruby/purple-hued beauty boasts a classic Latour nose of blackcurrants, spice box, saddle leather, tobacco leaf, and cedar pencil. Deep, medium to full-bodied, and perfectly balanced, give it another 2-3 years, count yourself lucky, and enjoy bottles over the following 2-3 decades."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate brightening of the edges. Dark berry jam underlaid with tobacco on the nose, fine herbal spice, somewhat restrained bouquet, vegetal nuances. Only medium body, red forest berry jam, slightly angular, present tannins, a delicate bitter chocolate finish, not quite balanced, the length is still missing, has gone to sleep for the time being, patience is required here. (92 - 3rd rank)"

- Falstaff Magazine
