

## Château Latour 2010

CSPC# 881224	750mlx3	14.4% alc./vol.	SOLD OUT
CSPC# 881225	750mlx1	14.4% alc./vol.	SOLD OUT
CSPC# 837341	750mlx6	14.4% alc./vol.	

**Grape Variety** 90.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.5% Merlot, 0.5% Cabernet Franc, 0.5% Petite Verdot  
**Appellation** Pauillac

**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** François Pinault

**Vintage** The first months of 2010 were particularly cold and dry. Temperatures were 2.1°C below the normal season, causing a delay in the budding. This was quickly reduced with nearly summery temperatures in April thus allowing for a good vegetative development. The flowering was disturbed by the rainfall and cool days of the first fortnight of June, which led to a strong flower abortion and mixed berry size. Only during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June the temperatures went back to normal. The summer was characterised by little rainfall and temperatures only 1.5°C higher than normal with a hot July. Water stress increased in July, halting vine growth. At the end of August, strong levels of stress took place on a few sandy and gravelly terroirs which helped the anthocyanin synthesis and phenolic compound. Latour's clay terroir helped the vine to keep the water and obtain a more regular maturity process.

Mid-September, grapes were in rude health with an aromatic and phenolic structure that was dense and deep. Between September 6 to 8, the 18mm of rainfall helped the grape skins to ripen. The Merlot harvests started on September 20<sup>th</sup> with Latour's young vines. Their best Merlot plots were picked on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and showed some potential alcoholic degrees of 14.4% vol on average with an acidity of 4.5g/l on sulphuric acid, giving plenty of freshness on the tasting.

After a period of heavy rainfall (21.5mm), the lovely weather returned at the beginning of October and stayed until the end of the harvest. Latour started picking again with the Cabernet Sauvignon on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The analytic parameters showed excellent balance with high potential sugar and a good level of acidity.

**Vineyards** Many have called this the best vineyard in the world and the dynamic Director of Chateau Latour, Frédéric Engerer, is determined to make the greatest wine possible. He has the confidence of owner, François 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** Merlot started Sept 20<sup>th</sup> and Cabernet Sauvignon on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Tasting Notes** An exceptional vintage with a very noble, characteristic bouquet. Exquisite notes of fruit, truffles and violets. A deep wine, with a tremendous intensity and remarkable freshness. Enormous potential to improve with age.

**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.

**Cellaring** Drink 2020 onwards

**Scores/Awards** **99 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013  
**96-99 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011  
**100 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013  
**98-100 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011  
**100 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2013



**Scores/Awards** **96-98+ points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011  
**100 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013  
**98-99 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011  
**99 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2013  
**97-99 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011  
**96-99 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011  
**17.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012  
**17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011  
**20 points/5 stars** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011  
**100 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012  
**99 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2011 (score only)  
**100 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 8, 2013  
**99-100 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 30, 2011  
**98-100 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2011  
**100 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011  
**86-89 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011  
**15.5+ points** - Farr Vintner - April 2011  
**100 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2011 (score only)  
**98-100 points** - John Sweeney, JJBuckley Wines - April 2011  
**95-99points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2011  
**97 points** - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 24, 2011  
**15 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)  
**20 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

**Reviews** *"Unbelievably pure, with distilled cassis and plum fruit that cuts a very precise path, while embers of anise, violet and black cherry confiture form a gorgeous backdrop. A bedrock of graphite structure should help this outlive other 2010s. Powerful, sleek, and incredibly long. Not perfect, but very close. Best from 2020 through 2050."*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"Lush and layered, with nearly endless fig sauce, currant compote and blackberry cobbler notes, wound with cocoa, espresso, and charcoal. This is seamless, despite its power and range, with hints of violet, blood orange and spice box fluttering in. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 96-99"*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"One of the perfect wines of the vintage, Frederic Engerer challenged me when I tasted the 2010 Latour at the estate, asking, "If you rate the 2009 one hundred, then how can this not be higher?" Well, the scoring system stops at 100, (and has for 34 years,) and will continue for as long as I continue to write about wine. Nevertheless, this blend of 90.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9.5% Merlot, and .5% Petit Verdot hit 14.4% natural alcohol and represents a tiny 36% of their entire production. The pH is about 3.6, which is normal compared to the 3.8 pH of the 2009, that wine being slightly lower in alcohol, hence the combination that makes it more flamboyant and accessible. The 2010 is a liquid skyscraper in the mouth, building layers upon layers of extravagant, if not over-the-top richness with its hints of subtle charcoal, truffle, blackberry, cassis, espresso and notes of toast and graphite. Full-bodied, with wonderfully sweet tannin, it is a mind-boggling, prodigious achievement that should hit its prime in about 15 years, and last for 50 to 100."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

*"It's too early to know for sure, but the 2010 Latour appears to be a huge and massive Pauillac fruit bomb from this property. With 14.4% natural alcohol, this blend of 90.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.5% Merlot and .5% Cabernet Franc, director Frederic Engerer told me it is unlike any other wine made at this estate. Possessing abundant amounts of everything, it even eclipses the 2009 in terms of power with a lower pH and higher total acidity. Representing only 36% of the production (making it even more difficult to find than usual, as this is the smallest of the Medoc first growths), it possesses an opaque black/purple color along with an extraordinary perfume of spring flowers, blueberry, blackberry and cassis liqueurs and hints of white chocolate as well as earth intermixed with vague charcoal and truffle-like components. With unreal concentration, full-bodied power, and a precision, freshness and refined level of tannins that are something to behold, this remarkable offering is one of my personal favorites of the vintage. It will undoubtedly shut down after bottling and enjoy 50-60 years of longevity."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

## Reviews

*"Tasted at the chateau, my sample was decanted for almost three hours. After the fireworks on the nose of the Les Forts de Latour, the Grand Vin comes as a shock. You have to readjust your mindset - this is subtle, understated, brooding Latour. Leaving it to one side to open up, it gradually unfurls to reveal very precise black fruits and minerals. It is not as immediate as say, Margaux or Lafite, but draws you in to its charms. The aromatics are misleading. The palate is incredibly intense with mouth-gripping tannins even although the IPT is actually less than the Les Forts de Latour. It offers unbelievably intensity, an almost brutal Latour at the moment that will need 15-20 years in bottle before it becomes approachable. This will rank alongside legends such as the 1961 and 1982 - but it is a wine for the next generation, not mine. Tasted November 2012."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"A blend of 90.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.5% Merlot, 0.5% Cabernet Franc and 0.5% Petit Verdot with 14.4% alcohol. The Grand Vin is quite conservative and "strict" at first, very pure with cedar and graphite dominating the profile against a backdrop of pure black fruit. But it opens up with 3-4 minutes of aeration with hints of gravel, perhaps crushed rose petals lending it a femininity to counter its intrinsic masculinity. The palate is full-bodied with firm tannins, real grip in the mouth, even more intensity than the 2009 but with that weightlessness and elegance towards the finish. Extraordinary. Drink 2020-*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"The aromas of flowers such as roses, violets and lilacs jump from the glass then turn to dark berries such as blueberries and blackberries. It's full-bodied, with velvety tannins and dense and intense with a chocolate, berry and currant character. This is juicy and rich with wood still showing a bit, but it's all coming together wonderfully. Muscular yet toned. Another perfect wine like the 2010. Try in 2022."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"The quality of the tannins and density of fruit is truly beautiful. This is so focused, with purity and beauty. The 1990 Latour came into my head when I tasted this (twice). It starts off slowly and then builds and builds and builds. So intellectual. A superb wine with precision 90.5 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.5 percent Merlot, .5 percent Cabernet Franc and .5 Petit Verdot."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Stern, almost severe initially, this great wine takes time to show its immense fruit power. Black currant and blackberry notes are packed into the wine, along with an impressive array of spices from new wood that gives a more exotic element. At the end, though, it has a fine, structured sense of proportion. Obviously for aging over decades, so don't drink before 2022."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"97-99. This has great beauty, with delicious fruits at the beginning. The structure comes from behind, with such sweet fruit tannins, then chocolate, an edge of wood and finally acidity reigns supreme."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Deep, opaque, glass-staining ruby-purple. Intensely pure, classic Bordeaux cabernet sauvignon aromas of fresh blackcurrant, minerals, cedar and truffle, with sweeter blueberry and intense floral notes emerging with air. The palate offers great depth of flavor, but the wine is currently hard as nails and lacking in generosity. Still, there's great depth of pristine dark fruit lurking beneath the heavy cloak of smooth, high-quality tannins. Amazingly balanced and extremely long, but this Latour will need a good two decades to approach optimal maturity, and may be better suited for your grandchildren. A winemaking tour de force, this may very well be the wine of the vintage."*

- ID, International Wine Cellar

*"Extremely dark purple. Again, more 'glamour' than I expected. Especially on the nose. Very ambitious and gorgeous. Thick and dense and hugely long term and dry on the end. Spices - something quite Asian about this - a hint of Szechuan pepper. Explosive. Super dry and introvert but with great velvety texture. So, introvert and super dry, super Latour. Monumental. The massive fruit lurks underneath the very ripe tannins at the moment. IPT 83, less than Les Forts, but it tastes much firmer. 19 out of 20."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

## Reviews

*"36% of grand vin, blended the first two weeks of March, as is typical. This needs time and concentration to really get behind. Many, many different strands of flavour, so powerful. Such precision of fruit, so intense. Have horses working 10 to 15 hectares of vines within the L'Enclos, have been starting biodynamic farming since 2007, horses since winter 2009/2010, based below the chateau, in the vines near to the Gironde. Not all L'Enclos of in 1st wine, generally of the 47 hectares of L'Enclos, certain parcels go into Forts and the very young vines go into Pauillac. Just such stunning expression of cabernet sauvignon, irresistible power. Demands concentration – you keep going back and it reveals a little more each time. Last year 38.3% first wine, this year 36%. Drink 2025-2050."*

- JA, *The New Bordeaux*

*"Sensational depth of colour, incredible sweetness and ripeness of fruit, but very massive now, a monumental expression of the Latour vineyards. Drink 2025-70."*

- SS, *Decanter.com*

*"A glorious follow up to the 2009 with even lower yields, considerably more alcohol and tannin, a little more acidity and massive, muscular concentration. This is a very dense wine, built for the long haul. One wine-writing colleague lamented that he wouldn't live long enough to drink it at its peak and I know how he feels. Licorice, sweet spice, vanilla oak and dark black fruits are thickly entwined on the palate here."*

- TA, *timatkin.com*

*"Inky and opaque in color, the wine screams with licorice, truffle, dark black fruits, Asian spice and wet forest scents. The wine is stunningly concentrated filling your mouth, coating your palate and staining your teeth with each delicious sip. There is not a single hair out of place. Everything is exactly where it should be. The sublime finish grows and expands for more than 60 seconds. This wine could possibly outlive anyone currently reading this tasting note!"*

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"2010 Latour Completely opaque in color, this stunning Chateau Latour is filled with scents of, licorice, blackberry liqueur, Asian spice, oak and gravel. The wine is packed with layers of concentrated, fresh, pure dark fruits, sweet cassis, spice, blackberries and dark, bitter chocolate. This wine ends with a sensation of your palate drenched in waves of perfectly ripe, dark berries. Everything is in balance and harmony. This is a seamless tasting experience. Over the years, this will be seen as another reference point vintage of Chateau Latour. 99-100 Pts"*

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"Latour - This special wine was crafted from only 36% of the harvest. Using 90.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.5% Merlot and equal parts Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, the wine reached 14.4% alcohol. In the glass, this inky, black colored wine is filled with truffle, cassis, chocolate fudge, leather, spice and Cuban cigar aromas. Combining delicacy, power, richness and elegance, (which is always difficult,) the palate is washed over by waves of intense pure cassis and spicy black plums that fill your mouth and coat your mouth. With ripe tannins, purity of fruit and freshness, this is so rich, concentrated and creamy, you can eat it with a spoon. Seamless, balanced and harmonious, the finish lasts for over one minute. The essence of Pauillac, this is pure liquid intensity."*

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

*"Dense, legs; graphite, minerals; sublimated and strong; really strong minerality, very intense with extraordinary depth on the nose; aeration revealed tightly packed layers of aroma, very focused; a nose of density and strength; very concentrated core of blackcurrant fruit on the palate; dense yet fresh; blackcurrants and cream; layer upon layer of flavour; lovely poise; terrific concentration and very, very long. Amazing. [90.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.5% Merlot, 0.5% Cabernet Franc, 0.5% Petit Verdot, alc 14.4% IPT 83] 100/100 Tasted 8 April at Latour."*

- JW, *winewordsandvideotape.com*

## Reviews

*"Many have called this the best vineyard in the world and the dynamic Director of Chateau Latour, Frédéric Engerer, is determined to make the greatest wine possible. He has the confidence of owner, François 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. In the last 10 years Latour has made the wine of the vintage more times than any other Chateau. This wine is made from only 36% of the vineyard's total production and is a strong expression of Cabernet Sauvignon - 90.5% of the blend with 8.5% Merlot and a touch of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. A dense, inky-black colour. The nose is full of spice, leather and cassis fruit. There is massive structure and unfathomable depth here. It simply goes on and on, with wave after wave of black fruit. Viscous, thick and mouth-coating, it is warm in alcohol yet dry and firm. Monolithic and massive, this is a wine for the grand-children that may well take 30 years to reach maturity. We had Derek Smedley MW tasting this with us, who first sampled the 1961 vintage here in 1962. He said that the 1961 then tasted very much like this 2010 does today. The 2009, shown alongside it, seems much sweeter and opulent - the new 1959 perhaps? - while this is a tannic brute that will out-live us all. A masterpiece."*  
- Farr Vintners

*"The nose is serious profound with concentrated richness and power. The palate is deep packed with sultry brooding fruit and despite firm tannins it is remarkably lush. There are seamless layers the mix of powerful flavours lingering on the long finish."*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*"The Grand Vin represents only 36% of the harvest in 2010 which began on September 20th with the merlot and finished on October 11th with the cabernet sauvignon. 14.4% alcohol. Cassis, graphite, and black pepper soar from the glass and meld into an intoxicating perfume. The mouthfeel and presence on the palate is phenomenal, incredibly intense flavors and layers of depth and complexity. This beautiful wine has incredible concentration, and the structure is massive but balanced perfectly by the vibrant acidity and powerful dark cabernet driven flavors. The tannins are beautifully integrated, even more so than 2009 or 2005 at the same stage. The finish lasts for minutes and stayed with me long after I left the Chateau. This classic Latour will easily last 50 years."*  
- JS, JJ Buckley Wines

*"Deep ruby, with aromas of blackberries, blueberries, plums, and cedar, the 2010 Latour is full bodied, restrained, intense and filled with layer upon layer of flavours and firm tannins. Density is the key in this vintage and Latour is massive and very typically Latour - all about power and longevity and needing at least 10 years before it can be approached. The 2009 will be approachable much earlier on, but I love both vintages for very different reasons? they are the two faces of Latour."*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com

*"After last year's utter show-stopper I wasn't really looking forward to tasting this year's offering, truth be told. How could it leave me totally speechless? How could it be flawless? I should have had more faith! A hushed awe fell over our merry band of tasters as this legend drew us into its profound depths. Such power, but with such incredible precision and intensity – any form or combination of descriptive words just doesn't do it justice. It had the same effect on us as last year but very different in way. Last year the generous, voluptuous, seductive puppy fat of the vintage lay majestically over the fine tannins and elegant structure of the wine. This year the incredibly fine tannins encapsulate the rich, ripe, round and dense perfect core and a finish that's almost never ending. A sensational double triumph, it's up there with Ch. Margaux as the wine of this incredible vintage. (90.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.5% Merlot, 0.5% Cabernet Franc, 0.5% Petit Verdot.)"*  
- SS, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

*"Intense crimson. Profound nose of red fruit coulis with subtle oak. Rich, full attack with tightly-wound stuffing framed by power. Robust middle palate that is massive, well-structured and closely-integrated. Firmer finish. Warm across the palate."*  
- en.gilbertgaillard.com