
Château Latour 2014

CSPC# 756554

750mlx3

12.89% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	89.9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9.2% Merlot, 0.6% Cabernet Franc, 0.3% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Premier Grand Cru Classe
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 Génin
Vintage	2014 was the most successful vintage in Bordeaux since 2010 and certainly paved the way for the golden half-decade that followed it, despite being slightly topsy-turvy in a traditional sense: a positive start to the growing season was temporarily derailed by a dull, cool, and cloudy July and August – the sort of weather that would really ruin your long-awaited fortnight in the Dordogne. Then September arrived, bringing with it the summer conditions that had been so sorely missed for the two months prior, and the days remained pleasantly warm and sunny deep into October. As Bordeaux fans will be well aware, an Indian summer is manna from heaven for Cabernets and the well-drained gravelly soils of the best Medoc vineyards delivered small bunches of intensely flavoured berries. Intense and focused work in the winery, making further use of the optical sorting equipment which proved so vital in 2013, meant only the very best fruit made it through the estate's hallowed doors. If you think that sounds like a recipe for a bloody good Château Latour – well, you'd be right.
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. The heart of the Enclos is the only terroir that, every year, can produce the depth, elegance, and concentration that we expect of the Grand Vin. It is here that the Cabernet Sauvignon (accounting for more than 90% of the blend) can achieve optimal expression in terms of colour, richness and freshness. These wines need time - often a decade- before they begin to be ready for drinking.
Harvest	Harvest took place from 18 September with the Merlot vines and finished with the Cabernet, picked between 6 and 15 October.
Vinification/ Maturation	Château Latour's Grand Vin is made exclusively from "vieilles vignes", an average of 60 years-old, in the Enclos. Gravettes, Sarmentier, Pièce de Château... these are the names of some of the finest plots that express the character of the terroir and forge the wine's identity every year.
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.
Serving Temp	Chateau Latour is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift.
Production	7,632 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2027-2055



Scores/Awards **97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - February 2017
96-99 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2015
97+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - March 2022
96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - April 2017
95-97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015
96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2022
97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2022
99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017
98-99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015
97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2018
19 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2018
18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015
96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - February 2022
96 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2015
97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2017
95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
98 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015
97 points - Farr Vintner - March 2015
94-98 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2022
95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2018
96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017
96 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2017
97 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2015
97 points - Thomas Parker MW - March 2022
98 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - April 2015
19 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2018
19 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - January 2018
18.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2017

Reviews *"This shows terrific cut and drive from the start, with mouthwatering acidity and a chiseled graphite note leading the way, backed by a core of pure cassis and blackberry preserves. Licorice snap and sweet tobacco details flutter through the finish, where the graphite edge reemerges and sails on and on. Best from 2022 through 2040. 7,632 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Dense, but remarkably silky in feel, with gorgeous raspberry and blackberry fruit embedded with anise, violet and iron notes. A terrific graphite spine drives the finish. Shows great energy throughout. This is all length and cut, with just a hint of classic Bordeaux austerity. The one first-growth in 2014 that feels like it could be from a cooler vintage. Tasted non-blind. Score Range: 96-99"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2014 Latour is one of the very finest wines of a vintage that favored the northern Médoc. Mingling aromas of wild berries and cassis with hints of cigar wrapper, loamy soil, black truffles, and classy new oak, it's full-bodied, rich, and concentrated, its broad attack segueing into a deep, tightly wound mid-palate that's framed by powdery, chalky tannins and bright acids, concluding with a long, mouthwatering finish. This classically balanced, youthfully structured young wine looks set to enjoy prodigious longevity. It's reminiscent of a modern-day version of a cooler vintage such as 1996, though of course these days maturity is more complete and selection even more rigorous than was the case two decades ago."

- WK, Wine Advocate

Reviews

“The 2014 Latour, which was bottled in July 2016, but of course will not be released for several years depending upon subsequent vintages, has a very pure, tightly-wound bouquet with blackberry fruit infused with black olive and graphite, just as it was out of barrel during en primeur. After several minutes, it is joined by subtle hints of pressed violets. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin. This is very classic in style, exhibiting superb freshness and harmony, the texture perhaps a little silkier than I recollect from barrel. It fans out with a very attractive marine influence that it shares with its neighbor Léoville Las-Cases, whilst the persistence is very impressive and reinforces its First Growth pedigree. This should be a quintessential Latour once released: aristocratic and noble. Drink Date 2025-2055”

- NM, Wine Advocate

“The Château Latour 2014 is a blend of 89.9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9.2% Merlot, with a pinch of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Harvest took place from 18 September with the Merlot vines and finished with the Cabernet, picked between 6 and 15 October. The alcohol level here comes in at a modest 12.89%. It has a very pure and seductive bouquet with an irresistible cocktail of black and red fruit (perhaps more towards the red side of the fruit spectrum compared to Lafite-Rothschild), flanked by hints of black olive and pencil lead. The palate is underpinned by a lattice of very fine tannin matched with well-judged acidity. Despite the irregularity of the season this is quintessential Latour with that unmistakable stoic, aristocratic finish. This is a serious Grand Vin that should age in consummate fashion, and there is some irony that possibly the finest contribution to the 2014 vintage will not be made available to consumers for a number of years. In a word - regal. Drink: 2025-2050.”

- NM, Wine Advocate

“Deep garnet-black in color, the 2014 Château Latour needs a little swirling to unlock sophisticated scents of unsmoked cigars, Indian spices, smoked meats, and espresso over a core of cassis, baked plums, and boysenberry preserves, plus suggestions of dried mint and crushed rocks. The light to medium-bodied palate has a solid foundation of firm, grainy tannins and compelling tension framing the savory flavor layers, finishing with great length and impressive earthy fireworks. This vintage delivers a remarkably understated, quiet intensity, making it as deliciously drinkable as it is cerebral. Possessing approachable tannins and emerging tertiary notes while maintaining its core of black fruit preserves, it is delicious right now. It should continue to improve over the next decade and cellar for another 15+ years beyond that. The blend is 89.9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9.2% Merlot, 0.6% Cabernet Franc, and 0.3% Petit Verdot, while the alcohol weighs in at 12.89%. 2022-2047”

- LPB, Wine Independent

“This has aromas of black fruit, olives, wet earth, dried lavender, cloves, and bark. Bitter chocolate and walnuts, too. It’s medium-to full-bodied with firm, tight-grained tannins. Structured, with great freshness and length. Cedar notes on the lighter mid-palate. Still a little tight and chewy. Try from 2024.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“So much violets, licorice, pencil, flowers and currants define this on the nose before it moves to fresh mushrooms. It’s full-bodied yet compacted with tension and a compressed center palate. Incredible, fine-grained tannins and energy. The length is truly great. Should be even more beautiful in 2024. Give it time.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Aromas on this are so complex already with blackcurrants, red chilies, stones, and iodine. Then it turns to blackcurrants and blueberries. Full-bodied, yet tight and compressed with an extraordinary finish and intensity. This goes on for minutes. Vibrant. A good part of the production is made with biodynamically grown grapes. Alcohol is less than 13%.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“The tannins in this fine vintage of Latour are still enormous, dominating the black currant fruit. It has spice, tannins, impressive fruit, and a pure, cool character. To be released in the mid-2020s, the wine is likely to age for many years. Enjoy from 2027.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *“Tasted blind. Big and bold and spicy with intensity. So much on the end! Massive density. Dry tannins but luscious fruit too. Really pure and so Pauillac! Drink 2026-2050.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Incredible depth of colour. More perfumed than usual for Latour. Maybe the biodynamic influence is kicking in. Different balance (see that of Palmer 2014 too). Racy and lifted and very different from the dense mineral style of old. Great balance and almost delicate. But not wimpy. Thanks to the feminine touch perhaps? Mineral underneath. Chewy but lifted and ethereal. Such energy! A most interesting wine. See its relatively low alcohol. 12.89%. Drink 2025-2045”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“The depth, power, and just sheer confidence of Latour shines through. This is an extremely classic 2014 - everything in focus, with clarity, grip and poise, sculpted blackcurrant and blackberry fruits, touches of raspberry leaf and crushed rocks. Cabernet Sauvignon dominant, still strict and muscular in its tannins, with heft and width through the palate. As it opens graphite, violet and campfire smoke curls through the centre of the wine, along with slow and steady waves of saffron and sage spice. Easily one of the wines of the vintage, and one to take your time with, allowing the slow progression of flavours and textures to unroll at their own pace. It will benefit from another few years in bottle before really getting underway and has decades ahead. Eric Boissenot consultant, H  l  ne G  nin technical director. Harvest September 18 September to October 15.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“My Left Bank wine of the vintage. Superb cassis fruit from 89.9% Cabernet Sauvignon yet I most understated for Latour. Wonderful ripe texture and chalky tannins, the 'Latour soil' showing more than the 'Latour style' of the past. Pure Cabernet over pure gravel, beautifully expressed. Drinking Window 2022 – 2050”

- SS, Decanter.com

“Showing much better in bottle than it did in barrel, the wine offers a wealth of fruit, which is best described as being regal in character. Yet, as you would expect, most of this stunner is still held in reserve. Freshness, elegance, and balance are in charge here. The wine is not about power, it's about elegance, grace, and harmony. Nothing is overdone here. It's a great Latour! By the time this is released to consumers, in about 2024 or 2025, it should have added a lot of additional nuances and complexities.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Fleshy, ripe, concentrated and long, with refined tannins, lush textures, depth and layers of sweet, ripe, dense, juicy berries, the wine promises and delivers purity, length, richness and a serious, age worthy, vibrant character. If I can afford it when it comes up for sale, I'd buy it! Using 89.9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9.2% Merlot, 0.6 Cabernet Franc and .03 Petit Verdot that reached 12.89% alcohol, the Grand Vin represented 33.9% of the production.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“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. The brave policy here is to no longer sell the wines en primeur but to wait until they are mature before they are released. 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, with a touch of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot in 2014. The Grand Vin makes up 33.9% of the total production, with 40.1% in Forts de Latour and 26% Pauillac de Latour. Deep purple colour. Huge, intense, pure black fruit nose with lots of blackcurrant and layered vanilla, nutmeg, and cinnamon. The palate is full bodied, firm, structure, opulent and powerful. There is plenty of glycerol and weight behind the dense cassis fruit core. The tannins are mouth filling but ripe and rounded. The mid-palate is complex and powerful with lots of spice and a little minerality giving a cool edge to the ripe black fruit. Precision, balance, and power combined.”

- Farr Vintners

Reviews *“Will this prove to be a great Latour in years to come? I certainly think so. This is effortlessly concentrated yet has less than 13% alcohol. Deeply coloured, aromatic, stylish and poised, it's all graphite, violets, dark berries, red fruit, and tapering palate length. Beautifully balanced.”*

- Tim Atkin, MW

“Black cherry, sloe cassis the nose has a mix of black fruit depth of flavour. The palate seems quite light at first bilberry freshness fragrance but there is a brooding richness in the middle depth sweetness and power. Although rich on the back palate the finish is lighter fresher and fragrant. 2027-40.”

- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2014 Latour has a beautifully defined bouquet with intertwined blackberry, briary, crushed stone, and pencil box scents. This takes time to unfold in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with tobacco and graphite-infused black fruit framed by svelte tannins. This has a fine bead of acidity, cohesive with straight-down-the-line Pauillac tropes of graphite and tobacco towards the finish. Strict and aristocratic, the tobacco element has been accentuated with time. Superb. 2028 – 2055.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2014 Latour has a backward and austere bouquet that does not respond to coaxing from the glass. This is so broody and sultry, only reluctantly eking out pencil shaving and sous-bois aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannin, finely judged acidity, quite dense and “solid” at the moment and yet there is elegance and stylishness to spare here. It just needs to manifest more charm and personality à la Mouton-Rothschild, but do not under-estimate this Latour whenever it is released. Tasted blind at the annual Southwold tasting. 2025 – 2055”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2014 Latour is deep and beautifully layered in the glass, with deceptive power and plenty of structure lurking in the background. Powerful and vivid, yet also super-refined, it possesses remarkable nuance and polish for a young Latour. It will be interesting to see if it develops more explosiveness or remains on the more understated side of things. There is plenty of time. If the current schedule of releases from bottle is any indication, the 2014 will likely not be released before its 15th birthday.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2014 Latour is one of the most inward wines of the vintage. It is also incredibly refined, with less overt muscle and tons of pure sophistication. A striking bouquet laced with lavender and violet melts into layers of dark red and blue stone fruits in a wine that is clearly at an embryonic stage in its development. The Latour tannins are there, but they are pretty much buried by the sheer intensity of the fruit. In 2014, the Grand Vin represents 36% of the chateau's production.”

- AG, Vinous

“Deeper, richer, more concentrated, and stately than the Les Forts De Latour, the 2014 Château Latour is the wine of the vintage from the Médoc. Possessing a flawless, full-bodied, sexy, and surprisingly open style on the palate, it's relatively closed aromatically and only reluctantly gives up notes of cassis, chocolate, and lead pencil shavings. With incredible tannin quality, a layered, concentrated mid-palate, perfect balance, and a great finish, it's a classic Latour, as well as one of the few 2014s that demands cellaring. Hide bottles for 5-7 years and I suspect it will continue drinking nicely over the following three decades. 2023 – 2053”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Deep, saturated ruby in the glass. The nose is archetypal Latour - graphite and cedar beneath cool, pristine black fruit. There is an easy power and focus to the nose that is savoury and youthful in equal measure. The palate brings the same effortless power, a deep, intense black fruit at the core. Layers of savoury spice, cedar and the lingering graphite tones add complexity. There is the slightest tone of undergrowth, too, showing the early signs of bottle age. Yet, the savoury fruit it to the fore and coated in plentiful, ripe tannins. Though chewy and persistent, they are starting to ease and allow for a surprisingly drinkable edge at just eight years

Reviews *old. The best, however, is still to come. The palate builds to its greatest intensity at the finish, which is very long. This is a perfect example of the northern Médoc's excellent potential in 2014 - it is certainly one of the wines of the vintage. Superb. Drink now with a long decant and food, or cellar for at least two more decades."*

- Tom Parker MW

"Fresh fruity dark berries, cedar, floral, an undertone of menthol. Enormous pressure on the palate, soft onset, fine trace of acid, crumbly, grainy tannins, light note of chocolate. Carefree in the way the extract is staged, extremely mineral and very precise. Big potential. And only 12.9 percent alcohol. 90 percent Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine of the year?"

- Falstaff Magazine
