

## Les Forts de Latour 2010

CSPC# 811814

750mlx12

14.3% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

CSPC# 854934

750mlx6

14.3% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

72.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22.5% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

### Appellation

Pauillac

### Website

<http://www.chateau-latour.com/en/a-time-for-sharing/les-forts-de-latour>

### 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

Frédéric Ardouin

### Vintage

The autumn of 2009 was mild and wet whereas the first months of 2010 were particularly cold and dry. We then noted a delay in the budbreak which did not properly get going until April which was almost summery. Flowering was disrupted by rain and cool temperatures during the first half of June resulting in significant flower abortion and uneven grape size. We had to wait for the last ten days of June for temperatures to return to seasonal norms. Water stress began to develop at the end of June in some plots in the Enclos and increased in July. Generally, the vines stopped growing at the end of July.

As with all the first growths there seems to be an obsession with making less grand vin and the immediate beneficiary is the second wine. We honestly believe that the 2010 Forts de Latour, Carruades de Lafite, Petit Mouton, Pavilion Rouge and Clarence de Haut Brion are all the finest examples to date. Wonderful floral notes, cabernet perfume, earth, graphite pencils, brooding, savoury bouquet with high toned minerals notes interspersed. The palate is immensely serious, packed with crème de cassis fruit, exquisite purity, multilayered, dense, mineral, complex and tremendously long. The tannins are laser cut such is their detail. A velvety, polished, outstanding Forts de Latour.

### 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

Harvesting of the Merlot began on September 20th with the young vines, and the Cabernet Sauvignon on October 4th (after stopping for a few days between grape varieties).

### Vinification/ Maturation

There is a second wine, Les Forts de Latour, which comes from the young vines of the Grand Enclos. The vines used to produce Les Forts de Latour are most often at least 12 years of age. Les Forts de Latour made its debut in 1966. Les Forts de Latour is aged in 50% new, French oak barrels.

### Tasting Notes

An intense and beautifully bright colour. the nose is incredibly expressive, pure and aromatic. On the palate, the structure is extremely delicate, elegant with matured fruits flavours. Tannins are rich, noble, and silky.

### 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** **95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013  
**93-96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011  
**95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013  
**92-95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011  
**95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2014  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2013  
**93-95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011  
**96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013  
**94-95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011  
**94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2013  
**87-89 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011  
**16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - September 2017  
**18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2014  
**18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011  
**18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2011  
**18 points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011  
**95 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2011 (score only)  
**94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 8, 2013  
**91-93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 20, 2011  
**90-93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2011  
**96-98+ points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011  
**93-96 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011  
**18 points** - Farr Vintner - April 2011  
**90 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2011  
**91 points** - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 24, 2011  
**93 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)- March 2013  
**15 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)  
**18.5 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016  
**17.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2014  
**16 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

**Reviews** *"A solid, briary, grippy, tarry Pauillac, with a sappy edge to the kirsch, blackberry, plum skin and steeped fig notes, liberally laced with anise and tar. Shows good energy through the finish, with a cassis bush note echoing. Best from 2017 through 2035."*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"This comes off as almost sweet, thanks to gentle ripeness and friendly plum sauce, raspberry and cherry compote notes, all backed by an energy that's in reserve. There's latent acidity rippling through the finish, where briar, pastis and graphite lurk as well. Really pure. A noticeable step up from the Pauillac. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 93-96"*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"Bizarre as it may sound, the 2010 Les Forts de Latour is also the finest I have ever tasted from this selection, which comes from specific vineyards, not really so much a second wine as just another wine from estate holdings. A blend of 72.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27.5% Merlot that represents 40% of the production, this astonishing wine hit 14.3% natural alcohol. Extremely ripe and rich, it reminds me of the 1982 on steroids (and that wine is still drinking great 30 years after the vintage). Sensational notes of graphite, crushed rocks, black fruits, camphor, and damp forest notes are present in this expansive, savory, full-throttle wine, which is better than many vintages of the great Latour itself from the past. (That may be a heretical statement, but it's the truth as I see it.) This wine needs a good 5-6 years of cellaring and should age for three decades at minimum, given the fact that the 1982 is in terrific form and wasn't this concentrated or prodigious."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

*"Possibly the most profound Forts de Latour ever produced, the 2010, like its bigger brother, Latour, was harvested between the third week of September and October 11. Representing 40% of the production and tipping the scales at 14.3% alcohol, it is a blend of 72.5% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest Merlot. Super-concentrated as well as unctuously textured and opulent, this pure, deep Forts de Latour should drink well for 25-30 years. It is as great as the prodigious 1982, which is still drinking well at age 29."*  
 - RP, Wine Advocate

## Reviews

*"Tasted blind at the Southwold Bordeaux 2010 tasting. This is a very strong performance from Les Forts de Latour. It has a vivacious bouquet with ripe blackcurrant, raspberry, cedar, and mint scents, very ripe and opulent with layers of discretely embroidered vanillary new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannins, well-judged acidity and a sophisticated, graphite finish with a long cedar and sous-bois influenced tail. Excellent."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"The Les Forts de Latour has a very complex nose with subtle notes of raspberry preserve, blackcurrant, graphite and a very faint, almost marmalade-like scents. The palate is medium bodied with great tension and poise, the acidity slicing through the dense blackberry fruit laced with white pepper and graphite. This is a sense of "solidity" to this Les Forts that is paradigmatic of the vintage. Excellent - although it deserves a decade in bottle. Tasted November 2012"*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"It has a glorious bouquet with stupendous delineation: blackberry, cedar, mint and a touch of pot pourri. The palate has a tannic entry, the Cabernet Sauvignon is very pronounced with cedar, tobacco, and pencil lead. Very classic and very pure, symmetrical towards the finish. Great focus and length. Superb. Tasted March 2011."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Aromas of currants, blueberries and blackberries with a dark chocolate undertone. Perfumes and beautiful. Full body, with velvety tannins that are fine-tuned and tentative. It lasts for minutes. Gorgeous fruit and richness. Perhaps the greatest Les Fort ever? Try in 2018."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is hyper fine, with beautiful tannins that are incredibly integrated. Full and super intense. Licorice and currants and violets. Splendid."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Powerful, yet beautiful and smoothly structured. It has ripe, rich fruits, spice, and sweet acidity. As a contrast, there is a dense core of tannins where the wine shows some severity and youth"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"(72.5% cabernet sauvignon, 25.5% merlot and 2% petit verdot; 87 IPT, 14.3% alcohol, 40% of total production) Deep, almost opaque glass-staining ruby. Clove, cedar, and herb notes on the nose, with black fruit aromas lurking underneath. Clean and fresh but presently dominated by oak, with black fruit and cedar flavors currently held in check. The lingering finish shows mounting dryish tannins, which this big, structured Les Forts de Latour will need extended bottle aging to shed. Still, I wonder if the tannins aren't a little too much."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Restrained and stately on the nose – is this entering a closed phase? Certainly not as showy as you might expect, given the vintage. Better concentration on the palate, although the fruit ripeness remains understated."*

- RH, JancisRobinson.com

*"Lustrous dark crimson. Very flashy and attention-grabbing. Lots of sweetness and ripeness. Not classical in style but great freshness and ripe tannin on the end. Lots going on here. A popular choice. "*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Very, very dark purple. Scented and supple on the nose! Oddly enough this seems lighter than one might expect from this vintage and name – has it absorbed all the lighter cuvées? Really quite luscious and sweet, despite its IPT of 87! Very rich for Forts. Very flattering and winning. The open face of Latour. A bit sweeter than usual – very much the open face. Less classic Latour than usual."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

**Reviews** *"Very dark crimson. Still fresh and seems skinnier than the Forts 2009. Lean almost. Very polished and energetic."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Coffee, oak, earth, blackberry and licorice, the wine is dense, concentrated and lush. There has a strong Pauillac character, with stunning intensity and purity of fruit. With the exception of 1982 and 1990 Latour, this is better than any vintage of Latour between 1967 and 1994. Wow!"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Deep ruby in color, the wine opens with an earthy spicy, mineral driven nose. With round tannins, supple textures, and a long creamy crème de cassis filled finish, this is very much in a Pauillac style of Bordeaux wine."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Les Forts de Latour is produced from 72.5 Cabernet Sauvignon, 25.5 Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot. This deeply colored, earth, oak, cassis, and tobacco scented wine offers concentration, freshness, blackberry and chocolate flavors in the finish. This wine shares a family resemblance with its big brother, Chateau Latour."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Very dense, tight to the meniscus; cream and blackcurrants, very fresh and very deep; more forward and seemingly lush than the grand vin; very appealing; very seductive on the nose; plush palate but with real extract and density and real freshness too; concentrated with layers; polished and pure; perfect extraction; powerful but somehow elegant. Lovely wine of fantastic length. Focused and persistent. Quite terrific. [72.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25.5% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, alc 14.3%, IPT 87] 96-98+/100"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"First produced in 1966, this is not really a second wine as it is produced from separate parts of the vineyard which contain many old vines, as well as from some vats that are not quite up to the standards of the Grand Vin de Château Latour. Grapes from the vineyard's young vines do not go into Les Forts de Latour but are used for a generic Pauillac third label. Clearly the equivalent of a top classed growth. Under Frédéric Engerer's management, Les Forts de Latour has continued to improve in quality and recent vintages have been at "super-second growth" levels. This is 40% of Chateaux Latour's production with a further 24% relegated into the generic Pauillac label. 72.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25.5% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot. An opulent rich nose, packed with black cherry, cedar, and cassis. Lovely intensity of fruit and a creamy, rich texture in perfect balance with the considerable tannins. Powerful and dense but pure and precise. This is an awesome wine of clear super-second quality that Frederic Engerer is convinced is the best that he has ever made."*

- Farr Vintners

*"There is a lot of concentrated fruit serious and brooding rich blackcurrant backed by black cherry and slightly firmer sloe. Although the tannins are firm the richness, power, sweetness of the fruit is not over dominated. There is a fleshy power to the finish."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"The deep ruby 2010 Fort de Latour has aromas of plums, fresh blackberries, juicy blueberries and cedar, echoed on the palate but lurking behind a wall of tannins. This wine has good length and depth, but is very closed and backward at the moment, and will need at least 7-8 more years before the tannins soften and the fruit comes to the fore. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young."*

- JCL, asianpalate.com

*"Deep crimson. Generous nose of red fruits and coulis with a sensation of sweetness. Powerful, warm structure framing slightly harsh tannins on the finish. Should melt."*

- en.gilbertgaillard.com

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