
Ch Latour Martillac Blanc 2015

CSPC# 801696

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

60% Sauvignon Blanc, 40% Semillon

Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

Classification

Grand Cru Classe de Graves

Website

<http://www.latourmartillac.com/en/the-wines/>

General Info

The estate takes its name from the tower which stands in the main courtyard of the château; it is the remnant of a fort built in the 12th century by the ancestors of Montesquieu. The structure occupied a strategic position and controlled the route between Bordeaux and Toulouse. The stones of the fort were used to build the existing château at the end of the 18th century.

In 1871, the estate attracted the attention of Edouard Kressmann who had just founded his wine merchant business in Bordeaux. He was seduced by the quality of the white wines grown on a remarkable gravelly hilltop with marked relief and outstanding exposure.

To this day one can still find in the plot grafted in 1884, the entire collection of Edouard Kressmann's selection of grape varieties for his « Grave Monopole Dry », as baptised by the Diva, Adelina Patti. Enhanced by their great age these vine stocks embody the breed, verve and essence which still characterises this wine. Alfred Kressmann, eldest son of Edouard, acquired the property in 1930. He changed the name: to avoid confusion with its illustrious namesake in the Medoc: Château Latour became Château LaTour-Martillac.

There then followed a long period of reconstruction. The vineyard consists of a dozen hectares of which the majority was planted in white wine. Without touching the oldest plots,

Alfred Kressmann added Cabernet Sauvignon to the merlot already in place. Interrupted by the war, the reconstruction was continued after by Jean Kressmann, who succeeded his father in 1954.

Jean finally achieved the family dream to acquire the gravel slope, which separates the property from the village. Thus, the vineyard was gradually extended to nearly 30 hectares.

Jean Kressmann was a passionate winemaker and produced some excellent red wine vintages; 1959, 1961, 1966, 1970, 1975, 1982 and his favourite, the 1983.

Vintage

A cold winter finishing with an even colder month of March, explains a late bud break. This late start was quickly offset by very mild temperatures from the 10th of April. The early and clustered flowering began at the end of May, the weather conditions in June allowed an even and rapid flowering. The months of June and July were particularly hot and dry. A water shortage led to the creation of small berries and a stop to early growth of the vine. The rainy period at the beginning of August was beneficial in producing a speedy ripening. The harvesting started early and spread out.

Vineyard

The vineyard is divided into two uniform subsectors. On the Martillac plateau, the hill dominates the property and is made up of a patchwork of gravel. These little pebbles deposited there by the river Garonne in the Quaternary period form a finely tuned mix of Quartz, Lydian, Jasper and Flint. These poor soils and drainage constitute an ideal terrain for the vine and in particular for the red grape varieties of Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot. Moving closer to the Garonne, the soils take on a different profile of clay and limestone, still with a gravel surface. It is here that the Merlot variety grows best and also our white grape varieties of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. 10 ha (total surface: 50 ha) for white wine grapes. Clay-limestone soil on the eastern slopes of the property, offering good natural drainage with optimum exposure for our white grape varieties.

Harvest	Sauvignon Blanc: From August 31st to September 14th, 2015 Sémillon: From September 3rd to 11th, 2015
Vinification/ Maturation	Alcoholic fermentation in oak barrel Ageing: 15 months on lees, whose 11 months in French oak barrels New barrels: 25%
Tasting Notes	The 2015 is a greenish yellow. A complex, intense nose with fruity notes of white peach, apricot, lemon, grapefruit and passion fruit. Also present are some elegant aromas of lemon verbena, minerality and delicately toasted. The mouth is rich and fleshy, with juicy pear flavours. The finish is long, fresh and delicious.
Production	3333 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 27, 2016</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - February 2018</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - September 2017</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>87-89 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>89-91 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Alluring, with a lemon curd and creamed yellow apple profile enhanced by notes of chamomile and honeysuckle. Shows a butter brioche note on the finish, adding to the lush persona. Drink now through 2021. 3,333 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The Latour Martillac 2015 Blanc opens with fresh straw, preserved lemons, kumquat and peach kernel notes. The medium-bodied mouth is fine and intense with a lively backbone and fruity finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 La Tour Martillac has a gorgeous, complex nose, subtle pear and green apple scents, a whiff of the old sea spray coming in from the Atlantic. The palate is very well balanced with crisp acidity, very complex in the mouth with lip-smacking salinity towards the finish. What a fabulous white Bordeaux from the estate, certainly one of the best that I have ever encountered."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The Latour Martillac 2015 Blanc has a very satisfying bouquet with fresh green apple, white peach and orange blossom, all very nicely integrated with the oak. The palate feels crisp and energetic, very linear and taut at the moment but with an impressive, mineral-driven, almost Chenin-like finish with traces of fennel and sunflower seed. This is a superb white Pessac-Léognan that should age with style."</i> - NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"Aromas of stones, bark, lemon peel and green apples. Steely undertone. Full-bodied, dense and supple with delicious fruit and depth. Solid acid backbone with a brightness and liveliness. Drink now."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"A brilliant and intense white with oyster shell, lemon, pear and sea salt character. Full body, flavorful finish."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *"Deliciously aromatic, this wine is tight and structured but holds great promise. Acidity and citrus flavors balance with the perfumed character of the richer fruits and the touch of wood from the barrel aging. Drink this structured wine from 2023."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "92–94. Barrel Sample. Finely balanced, this shows great style and breeding. If it seems at first to be ready to drink now, what is behind, in the wood and structure, says otherwise. The fruit quality is straight, crisp and perfumed."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Creamy, spiced and rich in herby citrus fruit. Very crisp but with the fruit to carry the mouth-watering acidity. Moderate intensity with nice harmony and a very slight grip on the finish adding length. (JH)"*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "60% Sauvignon Blanc, 40% Sémillon. Cooked lemon, sweet spice, white chocolate, pineapple – absolutely delicious. Soft acid and fairly light in body, but there is fantastic fruit persistence. (RH)"*
- RH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Medium-intense nose that's limey and smoky. Lots of acidity and medium weight. Attractively creamy texture. Should not disappoint even if it's not one of the most dramatic."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "This is focused and rich, lacking the zest of the fresher years but there's no question that it still delivers an enjoyable glass. Touches of freshly cut rosemary add complexity. (JA)"*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Washed silver; saline; appetising; oyster shells; lacks a bit of definition; more elegant style on the palate. Tasted UGCB 7/6/16. Drink 2019-2025. 87-89"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Medium bodied, quite creamy white with lovely gooseberry and herbal flavors. Latour-Martillac is always consistent and even in this vintage which produced quite light bodied whites, this wine is quite generous with nice mid palate intensity."*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- "Power and aromatic intensity are two of the signatures of the 2015 Latour-Martillac Blanc. The citrus peel, almond and floral notes are finely sketched, but it is really the wine's bouquet that gives the 2015 its distinctive personality and pedigree. There is plenty to admire here. (AG)"*
- AG, Vinous
- "The white is the star of the show at Latour-Martillac and the 2015 Blanc is a rich, incredibly mineral-driven beauty that gives up lots of buttered citrus, honeysuckle, crushed rock and tropical fruit. It's crisp and vibrant on the palate, yet has building richness, as well as excellent concentration."*
- Jeb Dunnuck
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