

# Château Latour Martillac 2017

CSPC# 801716

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**Classification**  
**Website**  
**General Info**

63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot  
Pessac-Léognan  
Grand Cru Classe de Graves  
<http://www.latourmartillac.com/en/the-wines/>

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.

**Winemaker**

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**

Following a dry winter, this vintage was hit by late frosts on the 27th, 28th and 29th of April which badly affected our vines, notably the white grape varieties. Luckily the best Cabernet Sauvignon parcels in the heart of the village were spared. It was the furthest away parcels, which normally produce our second wine, which were most affected. Those parcels, which escaped the frost started a very early cycle of vegetation, leading up to a quick and uniform flowering. The month of June was hot and sunny. Fortunately, the temperate climate of July and August allowed the acidity and the freshness of the fruit to be preserved. "The veraison" was as equally early around mid-July. The reds were harvested between the 12th and the 29th of September, confirmation again of an early harvest. Before the harvest, in the partially frost hit parcels, considerable work was undertaken to identify the unaffected vines and to select which first generation, non-frost damaged bunches to pick.

**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



<b>Vineyard</b>	Merlot variety grows best and also our white grape varieties of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. 40 ha (total surface: 50 ha), 55% Cabernet Sauvignon; 40% Merlot; 5% Petit Verdot.
<b>Harvest</b>	Plot by plot handpicking: Merlot: from the 12th to the 19th of September; Cabernet Sauvignon: from the 20th to the 29th of September; Petit Verdot: from the 23rd to the 29th of September.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	Alcoholic fermentation in thermo-regulated vats. Aged 16 months in French oak barrels. New barrels: 40%
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	A lovely fresh and powerful nose imprinted with red and black fruits such as blackcurrant and black cherry. The mouth is all juicy, creamy fruit incorporating delicate and silky tannins. On the finish the oak is rounded. The density and complexity of the fruit is surprising.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau LaTour Martillac is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees F. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
<b>Production</b>	8,375 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink now-2023
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>89 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p><b>91-92 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2020</p> <p><b>88-90 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2019</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2020</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - October 2019</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2020</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Fresh, with a subtle iron thread amid the core of red currant and damson plum fruit. Mineral note darts through the finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2022. 8,375 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This sports some dark plum and fig fruit flavors allied to a gentle and silky structure. A light licorice snap hint echoes through the finish, with sweet spice notes. The polished finish shows a gloss of toast. 8,375 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2017 Latour Martillac is deep garnet-purple in color and has a nose of warm blackberries, black plum preserves and stewed tea with hints of dusty soil, sautéed herbs and tobacco. The medium-bodied palate is soft and lively with an earthy finish."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A dark-berry and dark-chocolate character with spices. Medium body and a delicious finish."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Packed with tannins as well as delicious black-currant fruits, this is a dense wine. Dark tannins are an important part of the wine's potential, underlining the structure while supporting the ripe fruits. Drink from 2023."</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"88-90. Barrel Sample. Smoky and tightly mineral, this wine shows solid tannins and a crisp character. There is an herbal hint here, with stalky fruit adding to the fresh character of the wine. Drink from 2022."</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p>

**Reviews** *"63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 7% Petit Verdot. Light leafiness here entwined with restrained cassis, lead pencils, but with air this becomes more fragrant and scented with violets. Quite a grip to the tannins at the moment, just enough fruit at the heart to balance the structure. Chewy finish. (JH)*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*"Inky crimson. Lifted, pure cassis aroma with a touch of cassis leaf. Dry, powdery tannins. Fine texture, rather elegant, not for those who want masses of fruit, but harmonious and fresh. Perhaps a little bit skinny."*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*"Oak finessing gives a nice grilled edge. Broad-shouldered, with lovely plum and damson flavours. A slight dip through the mid-palate but finishes with deep black fruits. A success in an austere vintage. (JA)"*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*"Fresh, juicy, ripe, crisp, medium-bodied, with soft-textured, smoky red fruits, earth and tobacco leaf with a forward approach."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Medium-bodied and on the bright, fresh, crisp, juicy side of the style range, the fruit offers a lot of pop, purity and energy along with a nice core of bright, red plums. The wine was made from a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 7% Petit Verdot."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The 2017 Latour-Martillac needs a little time to fire up its motors on the nose, although it eventually reveals attractive blackberry, wild hedgerow and cedar scents that continue gaining intensity. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins, a fine bead of acidity and a fine, silky texture. Perhaps my only criticism is that it does not dovetail into something more complex on the finish, but it remains a finely crafted Pessac-Léognan Grand Cru. (NM)"*  
- NM, Vinous

*"The 2017 Latour-Martillac is a dark, powerful wine with a ton of Cabernet Sauvignon savouriness, depth and structure. Black cherry, graphite, spice, leather, lavender and menthol infuse the 2017 with striking character and power. The 2017 is a serious, at times stubborn, wine that needs time to soften. Even in the early going, though, it is impressive. (AG)"*  
- AG, Vinous

*"The inky-colored 2017 Château Latour-Martillac is another terrific wine from this consistent estate. Blackberries, crushed rocks, espresso, and ample herbal notes give way to a medium-bodied, nicely concentrated 2017 that has ripe tannin and a focused, firm style on the palate. Give it 2-4 years and it should keep for a decade."*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

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