

# Château La Louvière Blanc 2020

CSPC# 831559

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

100% Sauvignon Blanc

**Appellation**

Pessac-Léognan

**Website**

<https://eng.andrelurton.com/Our-Wines/Our-wines/Chateau-La-Louviere-Blanc>

**Sustainability**

Thanks to its environmentally friendly viticulture, the chateau is recognized for its High Environmental Value (Level 3/3)

**General Info**

Château La Louvière has long been famous for its white wines. In fact, these already highly-prized by Canadian merchants in the 17th century! A century later, they were to be found on the finest tables in Russia. The very elegant white La Louvière is now among the finest dry white wines in the Graves and is a fine ambassador for the Pessac-Léognan appellation. Marked by the Sauvignon Blanc varietal character, but not overly so, it can age remarkably well.

The name of Chateau La Louviere suggests that the origins of the estate date back to the 13th century, when the provost of Leognan Guilhem de la Louviere would have given his name to the castle. After having shone in the hands of the Guilloche and Chartreux families, in 1791 the estate became the property of Jean-Baptiste Marheilac, a great merchant from Bordeaux. He asked François Lhote to build the superb castle which still stands out today as one of the most beautiful of Bordeaux. Thanks to the great attention paid by the Marheilac family, who remained the owners for more than two centuries, the estate's wines stand out as some of the greatest wines of the Pessac-Leognan appellation. Today, the chateau belongs to the Andre Lurton family, a great Bordeaux wine family.

2003 marked an interesting experiment when Chateau La Louviere became one of the first, well-known Bordeaux estates to bottle their wine using the Stelvin screw cap enclosure. The estate was once again modernized in 2008. Today, the estate is managed by Andre Lurton. This branch of the Lurton family owns several other Bordeaux chateaux including Chateau Couhins-Lurton and Chateau Dauzac in Margaux.

Chateau La Louviere has good neighbors. They are located in Cadaujac, which is not far from Chateau Haut Bailly and across the way from Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte. Even with their new wine making facilities and good terroir, the wines have not always been consistent.

**Winemaker**

Jean Marc Comte. Consultant is Valérie Lavigne.

**Vintage**

2020 was marked by very mild temperatures and contrasting precipitation: heavy spring rainfall was followed by an intense summer drought. The fairly mild winter led to early bud break. The summer heat gave way to cool nights in late August, ideal for ripening grapes. Nevertheless, the grapes present a beautiful freshness and a great aromatic richness.

**Harvest**

By hand in several passes, on August 20, 2020

**Vineyards**

The 61.5-hectare vineyard of Chateau La Louviere is planted to 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, although there are some Petit Verdot vines remaining in the vineyard. The Cabernet Franc has been completely removed. 13.5 hectares are devoted to white wine grape varieties which are planted to 85% Sauvignon Blanc and 15% Semillon, with a similar planting density and vine age as the red wine varieties.

The terroir is gravel with limestone deposits in the soil. On average, the vines are close to 25 years of age. The vines are planted to a density that ranges from 6,500 vines per hectare up to 8,500 vines per hectare. The higher levels of density are for the newer plantings.

**Maturation**

No malolactic fermentation. After the manual harvest, the grapes are pressed, and settling is carried out. Then, alcoholic fermentation takes place in barrels. Finally, the wine ages for 10 months in barrels on its lees with regular stirring.

**Tasting Notes**

Colour is pale yellow with silver highlights. The nose is intense, complex, revealing delicate notes of white fruit (pear, peach) and citrus (pomelo, lime). The attack is ample. It is a fine and elegant wine, with a lot of volume in the middle of the mouth: a nice fatness, a nice freshness, a well-integrated woodiness. The notes



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	of ripe white fruit (pear, peach) and citrus peel blend harmoniously together, enhanced by a hint of vanilla. Long and complex finish.
<b>Serve with</b>	All the qualities of this great white wine can be appreciated with "bouchées à la Reine" with sweetbreads, baked fish, or a cheese platter. The long aftertaste goes beautifully with lobster as well as sheep's cheese from the Pyrenees. Will also go well with salads, fish, and white meats.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2023-2035
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - December 2021</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2023</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p><b>86 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2021</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Ian D'Agata, Terroirsense.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>90-91 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p><b>87-88 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - July 2021</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"A successful rendition of this 100% Sauvignon Blanc bottling, which over the years has exemplified the winemaking style popularized by the late Denis Dubourdieu, the 2020 La Louvière Blanc exhibits aromas of pink grapefruit, lemongrass, and pastry cream. Medium-bodied, bright, and incisive, with a pretty core of fruit, bright acids, and a saline finish, it's a charming middleweight that will likely put on a bit of weight with additional bottle age. It's bottled under Diam 30."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2020 La Louviere Blanc opens with notes of applesauce, white peaches, and pink grapefruit with hints of honeysuckle and allspice. The medium-bodied palate is packed with apple and stone fruit flavors, supported by a racy backbone, and finishing with a spicy kick."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Fragrant nose of lemongrass, lime zest, green pineapple, cloves, and herbs. Vibrant and zesty, with a medium body. Driven. Plenty of tension and length, slowly evolving to cream, orange zest and white chocolate. Fantastic this year. Sauvignon Blanc. Drink or hold."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"A bright, fruity white with sliced apple, green mango, and lemon. Crushed stone, too. Medium to full body and a creamy texture. Flavorful finish. Pristine white."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Barrel Sample. Beautifully fruity while also showing texture that will allow for plenty of aging, this is richly complex wine. With acidity shooting through the wine, it has great freshness as well as concentration. The wine needs plenty of time."</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"Aged in oak for 10 months with lees stirring. Restrained nose. Very marked acidity and intense fruit with the acidity extremely well integrated into it. A very bordelais Sauvignon Blanc with layers of flavour and oodles of salinity. Very refreshing already. Lots of attractive green-fruit flavours but a dry finish."</i></p> <p>- JR, JancisRobinson.com</p>

**Reviews** *“Bright Sauvignon Blanc aromatics on the nose, this is good quality. Power, concentration, and spliced citrus and slate minerality. Maintains momentum, easy to love. A yield of 31hl/ha, with 10 months ageing on lees with regular stirring in to fatten up the mouthfeel. An impressive La Louvière stands out from recent vintages at this estate. Drinking Window 2021 – 2027.”*

- JA, Decanter.com

*“Bright Sauvignon Blanc aromatics on the nose, this is good quality. Power, concentration, and spliced citrus and slate minerality. Maintains momentum, easy to love. A yield of 31hl/ha, with 10 months ageing on lees with regular stirring in to fatten up the mouthfeel. An impressive La Louvière, stands out from recent vintages at this estate.”*

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

*“Crushed rocks, lemons, grapefruit, green apples, spice, and white flowers create an intense perfume. Rich, fresh, fruit-filled, and juicy with yellow and orange citrus, white peach and green pear, packed finish, with a touch of ginger in the endnote, this is already fabulous in your glass. Drink from 2023-2034.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Barely ripe pears, green apples, grapefruit, waxy lemon and lime with ginger and honeysuckle create an intense perfume. On the palate the wine is fresh, juicy, energetic, and sweet, with a crispness and purity to the array of citrus that stands out in the crowd, carrying through to the finish.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2020 La Louvière Blanc, which is pure Sauvignon Blanc cropped at 31hl/ha, has an attractive bouquet of orange pith, apricot, persimmon, and beeswax scents that gain complexity with aeration. The palate is well balanced, offering crisp acidity that neatly counterbalances the mango and citrus peel notes, and lightly spiced toward the finish, which feels persistent on the aftertaste. This is a classy La Louvière Blanc.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2020 La Louvière Blanc is a very pretty dry white. Lemon peel, jasmine, white pepper, and sage lend brilliance to this taut, beautifully focused offering from La Louvière. The 2020 is not super complex, but it is certainly both engaging and delicious.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2020 La Louvière Blanc is laced with wildflowers, mint, chamomile, almond and sage. Drink this soft, easygoing white over the next few years. It offers good freshness, lovely brightness, and fine balance in an understated style. Tasted two times.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“Clean lemon pith, honeyed pineapple, and some floral, spicy notes all emerge from the 2020 Château La Louvière Blanc, a medium-bodied, juicy, remarkably pure Graves Blanc that's going to continue drinking nicely for 5-7 years. This is classic stuff and well worth seeking out.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Pure and floral nose displaying fresh citrus, lemongrass, elderflower, and white fleshed fruit with mild oak in the background. Good grip and extract on the palate, layered with a vibrant freshness, good volume, and a long pure finish.”*

- AL, Tasted.com

*“Clean straightforward linear delivery of green apples, grapefruit, and hints of ginger on the nose and in the mouth. A strong mineral note and an earthy tone on the long finish add complexity and a tactile nuance. Sneaky concentration and complexity here: I think my score for the finished wine will come in at the upper end of the range I have written for the Primeurs version I tasted and am writing about. Drinking window: 2026-2035”*

- ID, Terroirsense.com