

Carruades de Lafite 2011

CSPC# 763537

750mlx6

12.8% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 3.5% Cabernet Franc and 2.5% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Website	http://www.lafite.com/en/chateau-lafite-rothschild/the-wines/carruades-de-lafite/
General Info	Given the refined selection of fine wines after two decades, the Carruades feature characteristics similar to those of the fine wine, but with their own personality linked to a higher percentage of Merlot in its composition, and plots of land that are clearly identified as producing Carruades. The origin of the name comes from the Carruades plateau, the name of a group of plots adjacent to the chateau's best vineyards, purchased in 1845 by Château Lafite. In the 20th century, the Carruades were marketed separately from Château Lafite before being integrated. The name Carruades adopted as the name of Château Lafite Rothschild's second wine, was initially called "Moulin des Carruades" before the 1980's
Vintage	The weather conditions for the 2011 vintage were unusual and required all of our technical teams' vigilance and expertise. This was a very early vintage, with an exceptionally hot spring, low rainfall at the beginning of the year, but then more in the summer, and a persistent threat of powdery mildew (a vine disease that is usually quite rare in the Bordeaux region). Finally, just as we were getting ready to harvest, a huge hailstorm in the north of Pauillac and Saint Estèphe on 1 September obliged us to reorganize the picking schedule. The plots that had been affected had to be picked first; fortunately, as a result of the conditions, the grapes had ripened early, and quality was not compromised
Vineyards	Chateau Carruades de Lafite, second wine of Lafite Rothschild, is located in Pauillac. Plantings on the vineyard adjacent the chateau's best plots consist of 50 to 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30 to 50% Merlot and between 0 and 5% Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot.
Vinification/ Maturation	Wines mature for 18 to 20 months in oak barrels, 90% are old barrels and 10% are new ones. The style has more Merlot in the blend and a distinct personality.
Tasting Notes	Closed nose. Very flavourful palate, fairly full-bodied with well-defined tannins. Notes of red fruit and tobacco. Aromas of coffee, tobacco and spices. A long, very well-rounded wine.
Production	20,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2012-2027
Scores/Awards	90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014 90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012 87-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012 87-89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012 91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012 91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2014 92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - November 5, 2012 86-89 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012 17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012 17 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012 92-93 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012 95 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2012 (score only) 92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012 88-90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 10, 2012 91-92+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012 87-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2012 14+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2012



Scores/Awards **92 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012

15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

90 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)

15.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"This has a slightly grainy feel, with cedar and ground vanilla bean notes leading to layers of plum, cherry compote and lightly mulled currant fruit. A strong tobacco accent fills in on the finish, revealing a cedary echo at the very end. Best from 2016 through 2026."*

- JM, [Wine Spectator](http://WineSpectator.com)

"This has a richness that stands out for 2011, delivering roasted fig and plum flavors, with good smoldering tobacco and black tea notes, before the tangy damson plum and iron elements more typical of the vintage finally start to emerge on the finish. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 90-93"

- JM, [Wine Spectator](http://WineSpectator.com)

"The 2011 Carruades de Lafite is composed of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Soft berry fruit, underbrush, fresh herb and bay leaf characteristics as well as soft tannins, a velvety texture, and a medium-bodied, slightly superficial, but satisfying style suggest this 2011 should be consumed over the next 10-15 years."

- RP, [Wine Advocate](http://WineAdvocate.com)

"A blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 3.5% Cabernet Franc and 2.5% Petit Verdot, the Carruades has quite a voluminous bouquet, much more rounded thanks to that Merlot with blackberry, mulberry and sous-bois. The palate is much rounder and more forward than I was expected with soft, very supple tannins...this will be an approachable Carruades to drink for pleasure rather than intellectual return. Tasted April 2012."

- NM, [Wine Journal](http://WineJournal.com)

"A wine with sweet tobacco and coffee character. Full body, with velvety tannins and a medium finish. The Petit Verdot comes out here with spices and hints of fresh herbs. Blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot 3.5% Cabernet Franc, and 2.5% Petit Verdot."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Firm and closed this is a dark and tannic wine, although black currant flavors are also very present. It feels austere with a mineral texture and concentrated final acidity. Drink Lafite's second wine from 2017."

- RV, [Wine Enthusiast](http://WineEnthusiast.com)

"92-94. Barrel sample. Serious and structured, this is a concentrated dark-hued wine. It has all the acidity of the vintage while also showing firm tannins. A dry and powerful second wine."

- RV, [Wine Enthusiast](http://WineEnthusiast.com)

"(55% cabernet sauvignon, 39% merlot, 3.5% cabernet franc and 2.5% petit verdot): Good full red-ruby. Good lift and spice to the musky aromas of dark plum, licorice and gunflint. Juicy and fairly intense, with bitter chocolate and graphite flavors perked up by mineral energy. Finishes pure, clean and long, with lovely floral nuances."

- ST, [International Wine Cellar](http://InternationalWineCellar.com)

"55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 3.5% Cabernet Franc, 2.5% Petit Verdot. Colour of elderberries with inky core. Lovely dark fragrance, pure, lightly spiced black fruit. Savoury and ripe but no sweetness at all to the fruit (that's not negative). Dense, dry, structured and upright but not stern or hard, just very masculine and still smooth. Drink 2019-2030"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Fine ripe blackcurrant fruit that firms up on the palate. It is quite tannic but distinctive and elegant too. Drink 2016-2030."

- SS, Decanter.com

Reviews *"Cabernet sauvignon 55%, merlot 39%, cabernet franc 3.5%, petit Verdot 2.5%. Good whoosh of power, with attractive aromatic complexity, having this year taken all the cabernet franc that is usually in the first wine of Lafite. 12.8%ABV. Clearly continuing the severe selection and careful winemaking of recent years. 92-93"*
- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Described by the chateau as a classic year, the 2011s at Lafite are solid rather than spectacular, partly because it resorted to chaptalisation for the first time since 2007. This is fresh and focused, if a little insubstantial, with attractive cassis fruit, less oak than usual and a slightly firm, dry finish. 5+ years."
- TA, timatkin.com

"55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 3.5% Cabernet Franc and 2.5% Petit Verdot produced a wine with scents of forest floor, cassis and black cherry. Medium bodied with cassis, spice, black olive tapenade and bright sensations. 88-90 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Lots of depth; purple at edge; tight to rim; blackcurrant, cassis and black cherry notes; quite open; lovely clean and pure palate with nice harmony; depth but surprisingly supple [much more Merlot than the grand vin]. Delicacy here. Not forced or pushed. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 3.5% Cabernet Franc 2.5% Petit Verdot 12.7% alc. Tasted at Lafite. 91-92+"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"The black fruits on the nose feel quite rich but behind the sweetness the tannins are very firm and structured giving tightness on the mid palate. There is a mix of flavours towards the back cassis and black cherry backed by fresher bilberry. The finish has power but the acidity that comes through gives a lighter fresher feel."
- Derek Smedley MW

"The Second wine of Chateau Lafite. Thanks to the fact that the label design is very similar to that of Lafite itself, demand for Carruades from China has rocketed in the past few years with the result that the market price of any physical vintage is around £3000 per case. The 2011 is made from 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, and all of Lafite's Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. There is fresh red fruit here and quite brisk acidity (some of the Cabernet Sauvignon was picked as early as September 3rd). A nice touch of nutmeg and Asian spices from the oak, this medium weight wine should give relatively early drinking."
- Farr Vintners

"This is a delightful Carruades that is more open and exuberant than the grand vin. According to Charles Chevalier, the Estate Manager, there was too much rain in August and unwanted botrytis, so selection was key to their success. Since Lafite doesn't have a dedicated parcel in the vineyard for the Carruades, when the grapes are picked, it is not certain which wines will go into the grand vin or 2nd wine. The tannins on this wine are velvety and generous supporting a flavour profile that ranges from fresh Chinese red dates to cedar and cassis. A well crafted, balanced wine that will age well. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Drink."
- JCL, asianpalate.com
