

Château Latour 2009

CSPC# 749577

750mlx6

13.7% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

91.3% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.7% Merlot

Appellation

Pauillac

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. Typically, the blend is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot

Vintage

After a relatively humid start to the spring, the 2009 vintage will be remembered thanks to its amazing hot and dry summer. The end of Autumn 2008 was cool until the beginning of spring 2009, slowing down the vegetative cycle. From May, the vintage was marked by monthly temperatures that were slightly higher than seasonal norm. This helped to fill its deficit. Following a wet 2008, the rainfall in January was 30% higher than the last 30 years. Winter ended in dry conditions leading to spring that was generally wet. The vineyard didn't suffer from early water stress and this was reflected by the good vegetal development conditions in June. The very dry climatic conditions during the first fortnight in September helped the concentration of berries that were already small-sized.

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

Merlot harvested September 23-30, under perfect sunshine.

The Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested from October 5-10

Tasting Notes

In the last 10 years Latour has made the wine of the vintage more times than any other Chateau. The 2009 is made from a whopping 91.3% Cabernet Sauvignon with the rest Merlot. The grand vin represents only 38.3% of the total production with less than 10,000 cases produced. Big and black of course, with a classic nose of cassis fruit and some spicy oak. On the palate there is dense black fruit - cassis and cherry - but there is also very much a sense of elegance and class, not just raw power. Long, supremely classy and it builds in the mouth. Significant tannins at the finish. Serious and stunning. Monsieur Engerer says its like the 2000 but with more power, like the 2005 but thicker, as if it had a dash of 2003 in it. Really impressive. Wow!

Production

9,580 cases made

Cellaring

Drink over the next 10-25 years

Scores/Awards

99 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012

97-100 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010

100 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012

98-100 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010

97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012

98-100 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010

99 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012

96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010

97-100 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010

19 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010



Scores/Awards **19.5-20 points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010
19.5 points/4 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010
98-99 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2010
97 points/19 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010
99 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010

Reviews *"This seems to come full circle, with a blazing iron note and mouthwatering acidity up front leading to intense, vibrant cassis, blackberry and cherry skin flavors that course along, followed by the same vivacious minerality that started things off. The tobacco, ganache and espresso notes seem almost superfluous right now, but they'll join the fray in due time. The question is, can you wait long enough? Best from 2020 through 2040. 9,580 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This is incredibly floral on the nose, with violet and lilac as well as dark and ripe raspberry and blueberry. Full-bodied, with a dense and incredibly rich palate yet held back and in reserve. Such precision and beauty. It lasts for minutes on the palate. This reminds me of the 1990, but better made and better raised. It is really the style of Latour, where the tannins grab you at the end. This will most likely be a perfect wine. Score range: 97-100"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"A blend of 91.3% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8.7% Merlot with just under 14% natural alcohol, the 2009 Latour is basically a clone of the super 2003, only more structured and potentially more massive and long lived. An elixir of momentous proportions, it boasts a dense purple color as well as an extraordinarily flamboyant bouquet of black fruits, graphite, crushed rocks, subtle oak and a notion of wet steel. It hits the palate with a thundering concoction of thick, juicy blue and black fruits, lead pencil shavings and a chalky minerality. Full-bodied, but very fresh with a finish that lasts over a minute, this is one of the most remarkable young wines I have ever tasted. Will it last one-hundred years? No doubt about it. Can it be drunk in a decade? For sure. Proprietor Francois Pinault and his director, Frederic Engerer, have pulled out all the stops to produce one of the most monumental Latour's ever made."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2009 Latour has off the charts concentration in addition to the highest level of tannin ever measured at the estate. The final blend was somewhat unusual in that it consists of 91.3% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8.7% Merlot and clocked in at 13.7% alcohol (even higher than the 2003). Possibly a 100-year wine, it boasts an inky/black/purple color as well as an extraordinary perfume of super-intense blue and black fruits, graphite, and a liqueur of rocks-like minerality. Enormously full-bodied yet at the same time incredibly fresh, vibrant, and precise, it coats the mouth, and builds incrementally to skyscraper-like texture, and a whopping finish that lasts over a minute. This remarkable wine reveals a certain accessibility already, yet one senses that it will be even richer, more nuanced, and fuller by the time it is bottled in mid-2011. A monumental wine from a monumental vintage in the Medoc, this is our children's children's children's elixir. (Tasted once.) There is no doubting that Director Frederic Engerer and owner Francois Pinault are thrilled with what they have accomplished at Latour. These three wines are hugely different in price, but all are extraordinary."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the chateau. Frederic Engerer told me that the 2009 had a comparatively long fermentation of up to two weeks. It delivers a show-stopping bouquet: classic seductive Pauillac with ebullient black fruits infused with graphite, crushed stone, pencil box, cedar and a touch of mint. With aeration there is a suggestion of something more exotic...wild honey or apricot blossom. The palate is full-bodied with supple but powerful tannins, beautifully integrated oak, perhaps a little edgier thanks to its redoubtable tannic finish. Majestic. Tasted November 2011."
- NM, Wine Journal

"(91.3% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.7% Merlot) Black red, huge concentration of black fruits and great purity, wonderfully fragrant nose with wild violets and lifted freshness, great length and perfect texture, totally Latour and all the fruit and vineyard will come out over the years."
- SS, Decanter.com

Reviews

"Tasted at the chateau. Very deep purple colour. The nose is very well defined with scents of small blackberry, boysenberry, cold granite and just a hint of pencil lead. Great clarity and expression here. This is a majestic Latour, utterly pure, wonderful minerality showing through, very fine tannins and incredible poise. Blackberry, touches of briary, coiled up energy towards the finish, utterly focused with that tannins leaving an off-dry finish with bewitching persistency. There is paradoxically weight and weightlessness...sorry to be so cryptic, but that is how it is! A monumental Latour that constitutes one of the greatest wines of the vintage. Tasted March 2010."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A big, powerful wine that sums up the richness of the vintage. It is densely fruity, spicy with an enormous black plum and berry fruit character to go with the acidity. It's concentrated while still showing such wonderfully pure fruit. The aging potential is immense."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"96-98 Barrel sample. So, velvet, you cannot imagine that this is also a powerfully dense and tannic wine. The black berry fruits have just the right ripeness, while the texture is soft, spiced a little with wood. Under the extreme richness, powerful chocolate and delicious final acidity."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"(a 91/9 blend of cabernet sauvignon and merlot; 13.7% alcohol; 87 IPT; roughly 38% of the total crop) Purple ruby. Flamboyant aromas of red cherry, cassis, graphite and cedar soar from the glass. Then very dense, supple and smooth, with a noble texture and great breadth to its red cherry, blackcurrant, spicy plum, ink and cedar flavors. Finishes with exceptionally velvety tannins and a very ripe, almost perfumed quality to the red and black fruit flavors. A large-scaled and clearly great wine that calls to mind a combination of the 1982 and 2005 Latours. That said, while this wine shares some of the 2009 Mouton's voluptuous perfume, it lacks the extraordinary finesse of either the 2009 Lafite or Margaux but is much more powerful than both of those wines. Millionaires will have a lot of fun over the years comparing the first growths of 2009 and arguing over which is the best."
- ID, International Wine Cellar

"Very deep and glowing crimson. Very rich and sweet ink on the nose. Wonderfully gorgeous and lush on the front palate. Then lots of heat and richness. Amazing power of fruit on the mid palate gives way to extremely pronounced tannins. Transparent, mellifluous, spicy. Violets says Engerer. Dry Taylors port? Latour backbone. Glossy ripe fruit. Candied violets. Maybe in 03 we went overboard. Enormous energy. Very impressive."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Cabernet Sauvignon 91.3%, Merlot 8.7%. Alcohol 13.7%, IPT 87, 38.3% of the harvest. Dense, red purple, very creamy concentration. The aromas here are magnificently perfumed and lifted, but with a very dense and tightly creamed layer of dark berry fruits tinged with a sweet exoticism. What a palate too, broad and svelte, creamy seamlessness, but underneath this upper layer a ripe, dense, velvety but mouth-coating layer of prodigious tannins. The fruit copes admirably with them, and the acidity plays its part, providing a gentle balance rather than a vigorous tingle. This is an exceptional vin de garde which will need 20 or 30 years before this is anywhere near drinking. How can this be so harmonious, so balanced, and yet so structured and built up? The tannins persist in the mouth for minutes, the flavours slowly fading during this time. Undoubtedly a wine to make you sit up and pay attention. This is what Bordeaux is all about! Incredible; a wine to move me to tears."
- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Around 10% press wine has gone into the First wine, and it underwent a slightly longer maceration than in 2008. This is very different from the other firsts in Pauillac. Absolutely full of liquorice and a tangy blueberry and blackcurrant coulis. There is a clear fist of tannins, but I disagree with some assessments that it is too much. It's more of a wave to surf over than a wall to scale. Like this very much, just such elegance and depth of flavour, and superb freshness on the finish. The blend is 91.3% cab sauvignon, 8.7% merlot, 13.7% alcohol. IPT 87 (2008 was closer to 70) – but again these silky fruit tannins. A very successful wine. 38.3% of total production."
- JA, The New Bordeaux

Reviews *“Intense dark color. Complex and fine nose of cedar and black fruits, creamy as was the 2003 vintage. I even find this 2009 fresher and more nuanced. Superb, fresh and unctuous on entry, the wine develops melting, tannic and particularly rich in taste but also fat and complex as well as a bit austere compared to other wines from the vintage. It evolves flavorful and complete before finishing powerful and very long. This is a great piece of wine, very typical from Pauillac and which delivers a slightly firm character on finish that will be embellished through barrel aging. Its main asset lies in its very great length, full of taste. It is a blend of 91.3% cabernet sauvignon and 8.7% merlot. Alcohol content: 13.7%; IPT: 87. The 2009 Latour represents a selection of 38.3% of the harvest. 96 – 97”*
- J-MQ

“A whisper away from perfection, this is one of the most profound Latours I have ever tasted. It's thick and dense with lashings of new oak. Rich concentrated and powerful, with the high percentage of Cabernet providing backbone and structure, this is a wine for the long haul with incredible fruit concentration, but smooth tannins. 30+ years.”
- TA, timatkin.com
