

## Château Latour 1999

CSPC# 742357

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot

### 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

The winter was drier than normal. The first Merlo budbreak was on 20 March and the Cabernet sauvignons on 5 April. Dry, hot weather followed, accelerating the opening of the buds. Subsequently rain, cold and wind delayed the vines' growth, very fortunately, the weather quickly improved in May. The end of June and July were particularly hot with temperatures between 30-35 degrees Celsius. August was more difficult because regular showers increased the risk of disease. The sun stayed out properly after 20 August. On 14 September the first grapes to enter the vat confirmed that vintage's great richness.

### 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. . The Latour vineyard covers around 78 hectares of the Pauillac appellation, of which 47 hectares surround the chateau, these being referred to as l'Enclos. Only the grapes from these 47 hectares make the "Grand Vin de Château Latour";

### Harvest

Because of extremely hot weather in late August and early September, Latour began harvesting its Merlot on September 14, bringing in grapes with 13.5-14% potential alcohol. The harvest ended on 30 September.

### Tasting Notes

A vintage of great character. Dark, complex, balanced with excellent concentration, rich in fruit. Our first impressions on tasting were of aromas of very ripe black cherries, wild strawberries, blackcurrants and plums. The tannins are silky, the palate is long and sleek, with great freshness.

### Production

13,330 cases made

### Cellaring

Drink after 2012

### Scores/Awards

**93 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010  
**93 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2002  
**91-94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2000  
**94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #140 - April 2002  
**93-95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 2001  
**92-94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #128 - April 2000  
**93 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown (In Asia) - November 2012  
**93 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2011  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2009  
**92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2008  
**92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2003  
**18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - June 25, 2009  
**17.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 1, 2004



**Scores/Awards** **17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 5, 2003  
**93 points** - Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar - May/June 2002  
**4 stars** - Decanter.com

**Reviews** *"Focused and fresh, with milk chocolate and berry aromas. Subtle and refined on the nose. Full-bodied and very elegant, featuring a solid core of ultrafine tannins and a long, long finish. So much finesse here. Still tight, needing time in the bottle to open. No longer big, this is in just the right proportions for the vintage. —'89/'99 Bordeaux blind retrospective (2009). Best after 2012. 13,330 cases made."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Big, yet racy '99. Shows blackberry aromas, with a hint of spice, and is full-bodied, with a solid core of fruit, firm tannins and a dark chocolate and coffee aftertaste. Wonderful texture. Goes on and on. Best after 2006. 13,330 cases made."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"One of the wines of the vintage. Wonderful mineral, berry, currant, violet and toasted oak. Full-bodied, with superfine, silky tannins. Very fine indeed. Wonderful texture; goes on and on. Score range: 91-94"*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Readers looking for a modern-day version of Latour's magnificent 1962 or 1971 should check out the sensational 1999 Latour. It is a big, concentrated offering, exhibiting a dense ruby/purple color, and a classic nose of minerals, black currants, leather, and vanilla. The wine is long, ripe, and medium-bodied, with high levels of sweet tannin. This surprisingly full, concentrated 1999 should be drinkable in 5-6 years; it will last for three decades. Drink 2007-2032"*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"A terrific effort, this sexy, open-knit, opulent effort possesses plenty of tannin, but it is largely concealed by the wine's wealth of fruit, high extraction level, and noticeable glycerin as well as unctuousity. Dense ruby/purple-colored, with a sweet, evolved nose of black fruits (cassis, leather, and blackberries), cedar, spice box, and liquid minerals, this powerful yet seamless Latour will be surprisingly accessible at an unusually young age. Long and full-bodied, with the acidity, tannin, alcohol, and wood all beautifully integrated, it will be at its finest between 2007-2030. A classic!"*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Deep garnet colored with a touch of brick, the nose offers notes of cassis, tobacco leaf and tar with hints of tree bark and earth. The palate is taut and savory / minerally with very firm chewy tannins somewhat dominating the restrained fruit at this stage."*  
- LP-B, Wine Advocate

*"Served blind at the chateau. Compared to recent vintage the '99 Latour is showing a little more maturity in colour than most. The nose is foursquare and masculine, the sous-bois element accentuated here and just missing the breeding of others. Lots of cedar aromas beginning to emerge. The palate is tannic, lifted with a slight graininess to the texture, a digestif quality just inflecting the finish that misses a little length. Fine."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted at the 1999 horizontal at Bordeaux Index. Superb breeding on the nose, pure blackberry, cedar, tobacco and a touch of hot gravel. The palate is full-bodied with very fine but assertive tannins, very good depth (similar to Mouton) but with the finesse of Lafite. There is a vibrant sense of minerality here, a sense of transparency, relatively high-toned and showy (like the 2004 tasted just days before) that lends it more approachability. Very impressive persistency on the finish. Excellent. Drink 2012-2030. Tasted June 2009."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"The nose is rather conservative compared to more recent vintages with blackberry, cedar and tobacco with just a faint hint of the sea. The palate is medium-bodied, very clean fruit, supple texture, but rather foursquare. High toned finish with just a hint of black olives. Good length. Fine, but it does not have something to say like more recent vintages. Drink now-2020. Tasted September 2008."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

**Reviews**

*“First tasted in March 2000 at the chateau: an almost impenetrable nose with dense tobacco flavoured fruit. Tough uncompromising structure with fine balance. Possibly lacking depth and complexity to be a classic. Very fine though. Again, in April 2003 at Christies: deep black/purple colour. Almost opaque. The nose is quite closed with faint notes of damp earth and hedgerow. The palate exhibits well-knit tannins, elegant and charming but not profound. Dark cherry and mocha notes developing more in the glass. Certainly, one of the best 1999`s. Quite subtle. Drink from 2006. November 2003: a lovely classy, authoritative nose of black fruits, sea salt and wet earth. The palate is sprinkled with black pepper, quite austere and dominated by the Cabernet Sauvignon and black cherries. Slight savory edge to the finish. Excellent.”*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*“Medicinal and sinewy on the nose. Exciting and vibrant. Deep-flavoured. Long but the tannins are still very evident (though in this case there seems to be enough fruit to stand up to them). Ambitious - needs quite a bit of time yet. Drink 2012-2028”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Oddly, Latour is more perfumed than Lafite, and almost Lafite-like in weight. Though firm tannins then kick in, not to say clobber the palate, at the end. These tannins certainly betray this wine's origins. Relatively graceful for Latour though. Drink 2008-2025.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Very glossy, concentrated purple. Racy, aristocratic nose. Very, very appetising. Racy and flirtatious. Very slightly minty. Good firm undertow of clean tannins. Delineation. Lost a little concentration at the end, but quite fine. Slightly dry finish. Too oaky? Drink 2009-2016.”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Full red-ruby. High-pitched aromas of red- and blackcurrant, minerals and leather. Wonderfully harmonious in the mouth, with compelling sweetness of fruit but also superb grip. A lush, rich wine that already displays impressive inner-mouth perfume. Finishes with broad, essentially gentle tannins. Doesn't quite possess the grip or thrust of the '01, but this is wine-of-the-vintage material.”*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

*“Saturatedly dark, Latour has a fine scent of ripe, sweet blackcurrant. The same fruit swirls flamboyantly on the palate, backed by the unusually soft and voluptuous tannins.”*  
- Decanter.com

---