

Ch Latour Martillac Blanc 2016

CSPC# 860787

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

60% Sauvignon Blanc, 40% Semillon

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. Jean Kressmann was a passionate winemaker and produced some excellent red wine vintages; 1959, 1961, 1966, 1970, 1975, 1982 and his favourite, the 1983.

Winemaker Tristan and Loïc Kressmann

Vintage A mild and very wet winter led to an early and even budbreak. The wet weather lasted all the way through Spring accompanied by some very cool temperatures. Miraculously, full flowering took place between the 7th and the 11th of June which was a 5-day period of lovely weather and relatively hot temperatures. These conditions encouraged a quick and uniform flowering followed by a good return of fruit. The midpoint of the colour change of the berries happened around the 10th of August, with excellent uniformity across all the grape varieties. Despite these unpredictable swings of nature, the heat and the absence of rain, the vines could maintain a healthy foliage right up to the beginning of the harvest thanks both to the water reserves and to the ploughing of the plots. Harvesting started 8 days late. Light showers at the beginning of September and a lovely Indian summer during the picking meant that all the grape varieties achieved perfect ripeness and a healthy condition placing the 2016 vintage among the great vintages.

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



Vineyard	Merlot variety grows best and also our white grape varieties of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. 10 ha (total surface: 50 ha) for white wine grapes. Clay-limestone soil on the eastern slopes of the property, offering good natural drainage with optimum exposure for our white grape varieties.
Harvest	September 6th to 20th 2016
Vinification/	Alcoholic fermentation in oak barrels.
Maturation	Ageing: 15 months on lees, whose 11 months in French oak barrels. New barrels: 25%
Tasting Notes	The 2016 Latour-Martillac is pale yellow color with sparkling highlights and has complex aromas of both floral (verbena, honeysuckle) and some exotic fruits (passion fruit) and lemon. The palate is beautifully fresh and is balanced by a delicious creaminess. In the mouth, there is elegance with the same complex, fruity aromas of white peach and ripe apricots as well as the floral note of verbena and fresh mint. This wine is remarkably long length on the finish. This is good for drinking over the next 8-10 years and is a blend of 60% Sauvignon Blanc, 40% Semillon.
Production	3,600 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2019</p> <p>90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - May 2017</p> <p>91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>88-90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - December 2018</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - January 2016</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>88-91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2017</p> <p>91 points - Falstaff Magazine - May 2017</p> <p>88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019</p> <p>90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - April 2017</p> <p>15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Lightly toasty, with a brioche frame around creamed yellow apple, verbena and melon flavors. The brioche note lingers prettily. Drink now through 2021. 3,600 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Good crackling feel here, with quinine and fleur de sel notes rippling underneath the mix of yellow apple, fennel and white peach flavors. Has range and energy. Score Range: 90-93"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The Latour Martillac 2016 Blanc is a little closed on the nose, offering up glimpses of lemon peel, yuzu and fresh grapefruit scents with hints of wet pebbles and lanolin. Medium-bodied, the palate has plenty of exuberant citrus fruit with a lively backbone and mineral finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Missing some complexity on the nose, especially after such brilliant examples produced in the previous two vintages. The palate is well balanced with orange rind and mandarin notes, though to be honest it is missing some tension on the finish, and it does not draw you back for another sip."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A succulent and punchy style with very assertive, yellow-grapefruit and lemon aromas and a super concentrated, long, focused palate that is very tightly contained for now. The finish holds so long."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *"This estate, owned by the Kressmann family, is particularly known for its white. Lightly wood aged, this wine is already delicious, boasting great citrus and white fruits, and sure to be delicious."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Barrel Sample. While this wine is crisp, it is also full of ripe apricot and spice tones as well as pink grapefruit and intense acidity. The balance is great, setting the wine up for some excellent aging."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "A good quality wine. As in many vintages, I have a slight preference for the red over the white, but it's hard not to enjoy this citrus and peach mid-palate, given a rosemary, salty lick on the finish, with persistency helped by a firm punch of lime zing."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Already open, this fresh, bright, juicy, yellow citrus filled wine can already be enjoyed today, or aged for a years for even more aromatic complexity."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Sweet, bright crisp lemons, flowers and a dollop of honey are what you'll find in this forward, bright, sweet wine that is ready to go."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Sweet aromas of honeysuckle, just squeezed citrus and vanilla bean are brought to you with a lemon filled center and semi-sweet, round, citrus finish."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The 2016 Latour-Martillac Blanc has an attractive bouquet of pineapple, lemon zest and cold, wet limestone, the latter becoming more prominent with aeration. The palate is very well balanced with a fine line of acidity. White peach mixes with pink grapefruit and quince, all leading to a harmonious and quite persistent saline finish. This comes highly recommended for all dry white Bordeaux lovers."*
- NM, Vinous
- "The 2016 Latour-Martillac Blanc is impeccable, not to mention incredibly inviting. Lemon confit and floral notes are creamy and beautifully textured in this delicious, super-appealing dry white."*
- AG, Vinous
- "The 2016 Latour-Martillac Blanc offers lovely persistence from start to finish. Lemon confit, white flowers, and sweet mint notes, along with the texture of the Sémillon, give the wine its midpalate creaminess and depth. This classy white will drink well upon release"*
- AG, Vinous
- "I loved the white from this terrific estate. The 2016 Château Latour-Martillac Blanc has impressive notes of caramelized limes, tangerine, and lemon curd in a medium-bodied, pure, elegant package. It shows some salty minerality on the finish, has good acidity, and should keep for 10-15 years."*
- Jeb Dunnuck
- "The 2016 Château Larrivet Haut-Brion Blanc is brought up in a mix of new and used barrels of varying sizes. It offers a serious bouquet of white graphite, caramelized lemons, crushed rocks, and just hints of brioche. With beautiful purity, a balanced, juicy, layered texture, and a great finish, this outstanding Bordeaux Blanc will keep for over a decade."*
- Jeb Dunnuck
- "Light yellow-green, silver reflections, white peach, still a bit shy, a hint of lemon, looks light-footed, white apple, fine acid structure, green apple, mineral aftertaste."*
- Falstaff Magazine