

Château Latour Martillac Blanc 2020

CSPC# 887737

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

68% Sauvignon Blanc, 32% Semillon

Appellation

Pessac-Léognan

Classification

Grand Cru Classe de Graves

Website

<http://www.latourmartillac.com/en/the-wines/>

Sustainability

Traditional sustainable farming methods, with mechanical soil maintenance. The work on the growing vines is carried out manually (pruning, excess buds, shoots, and leaves removal). High Environmental Value Certification (HEV).

General Info

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.

Winemaker

Valérie Vialard, œnologist

Vintage

The 2020 vintage was marked by 3 major climatic events:

After a mild winter, the 3rd mildest winter ever recorded, and a bud break 15 days ahead of schedule, the spring was marked by great humidity, with a record rainfall on the weekend of May 10 and 11. These climatic conditions caused the appearance of a very virulent mildew on our red grapes.

From mid-June onwards, the weather changed radically with a very dry summer marked by 8 weeks without rain, a first for the region of Bordeaux. The few rains in mid-August were essential to reactivate the ripening of the grapes. This drought had a major impact on the vines growing on gravels, which gave us small but very concentrated grapes.

Last but not least, the early harvest, which started on August 24 for the whites, was marked by an unprecedented heat wave in mid-September. This had the effect of further concentrating the grapes

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 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	Sauvignon Blanc: Aug. 24 to Sept. 2 Sémillon: Aug. 27 to Sept. 3
Vinification/ Maturation	Alcoholic fermentation in oak barrels. Ageing: 15 months on lees, whose 11 months in French oak barrels. New barrels: 25%
Tasting Notes	The color is very pale, the white wine is fruity with notes of white nectarine, lemon and passion fruit. The palate is concentrated, round, juicy with a touch of pear and almond. The finish is fresh, mineral, tasty and tense
Serve with	The white wine of Chateau LaTour Martillac is perfect to serve with shellfish, sashimi, sushi, all types of seafood, chicken, veal, and cheese. Above 10°C / 50°F for young wines. Between 12°C / 53°F and 14°C / 57°F, after 4-5 years of aging.
Production	2,750 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2029
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p>91 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - December 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2023</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>89 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>92 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Glistens with wet pebble, verbena, tarragon, and lemon peel notes, along with gooseberry, grapefruit and white peach flavors. There's a lot to like in this wine. Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Drink now through 2026. 2,750 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Unwinding in the glass with aromas of pastry cream, grapefruit, beeswax and macadamia nut, the 2020 Latour Martillac Blanc is medium to full-bodied, satiny and concentrated, with ripe acids, chalky extract and a saline finish."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2020 Latour Martillac Blanc has a fragrant nose of lemongrass, spiced pears, and lime leaves, plus hints of fresh peaches and shaved almonds. The medium-bodied palate has an impressively racy backbone cutting through the intense citrus and stone fruit flavors, finishing long and zesty."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"This has aromas of grapefruit, cardamom, juniper, apricots, lemon curd and lemongrass. Zesty and spicy with excellent weight and ripeness too. Medium to full body. Lengthy and concentrated. Drink now or hold."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Citrus and crisp white apples go with the wine's mineral texture. It is balanced, full of white fruits as well as the beginnings of fine concentration. The wine will age well over the medium term."</i></p> <p>- RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"I love this white; it has confidence and power and a sense of direction as well as a slate minerality that drags though the palate in a good way. Savoury white fruit - good stuff. A yield of 44hl/ha, 25% new oak. 14 months ageing on lees."</i></p> <p>- JA, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"Easy-going, subtle charm, finely boned structure, lime blossom and citrus, enjoyable, soft on the finish with plenty of charm. 44hl/ha yield, 25% new oak, with lees stirring. Diam cork closure."</i></p> <p>- JA, Inside Bordeaux</p>

Reviews *“Flowers, waxy lemon, honeysuckle, grapefruit, and tangerine peel scents take no effort to find. The palate is fresh, sweet, juicy, and vibrant, with creamy textures, minerality, purity and freshness in the citrus dominated finish.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2020 Latour-Martillac Blanc has shut down since tasting from barrel, yet it opens with yellow plum, jasmine, and light frangipane scents. I admire the precision here. The palate is well balanced with a fine bead of acidity, quite taut and well defined. Real precision on the finish that drags you back for one more sip. This is a classy dry white Bordeaux that will give immense pleasure over a number of years.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2020 Latour-Martillac Blanc has a more reserved bouquet compared to its peers, but still quite compelling, with crushed rock infusing the dried yellow flowers, white peach, and chai tea scents. I could nose this all day. The very well-balanced palate is quite intense, offering a fine bead of acidity and plenty of tension and mineralite toward the saline finish. If I was going to spend my money on one dry white Bordeaux this year, it might well be this.”

- NM, Vinous

“The deep inky colored 2020 Château Latour-Martillac is another classic Graves from this vintage with loads to love. Lots of red, blue, and black fruits, notes of flowers, chocolate, and gravelly earth, medium to full-bodied richness, impeccable balance, and silky tannins all make for an outstanding, undeniably impressive 2020 that shines more for its elegance and purity than outright power and richness. It will benefit from 3-5 years of bottle age and cruise for two decades.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Light greenish yellow, silver reflections. Delicate meadow herbs, a hint of grapefruit, white peach, lime background. Medium complexity, green apple, fresh acidity, mineral-lemon finish, salty aftertaste, a lively food wine.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“Nice layers, a clear sémillon presence adding texture and weight, notes of pineapple, grapefruit, white peach and an herbal spiciness, modest oak notes, good extract and long lingering finish.”

- AL, Tasted.com
