

Ch Latour Martillac Rouge 2015

CSPC# 801716

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot
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.

Vintage A cold winter finishing with an even colder month of March, explains a late bud break. This late start was quickly offset by very mild temperatures from the 10th of April. The early and clustered flowering began at the end of May, the weather conditions in June allowed an even and rapid flowering. The months of June and July were particularly hot and dry. A water shortage led to the creation of small berries and a stop to early growth of the vine. The rainy period at the beginning of August was beneficial in producing a speedy ripening. The harvesting started early and spread out.

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. 40 ha (total surface: 50 ha), 55% Cabernet Sauvignon; 40% Merlot; 5% Petit Verdot

Harvest September 15th to October 8th, 2015.



Vinification/ Maturation	Alcoholic fermentation in thermo-regulated vats. Aged 16 months in French oak barrels. New barrels: 40%
Tasting Notes	The 2015 is a deep garnet red. The nose is very intense with lovely maturity on red fruits (raspberry, cherry) and black fruits (blackcurrant, blackberry) notes. A touch oaky. A swirl round the glass opens more complex aromas of peony, liquorice, blackcurrant liquor and cocoa. A lovely mouthfeel, densely packed and seductive. Present but soft tannins give the wine a classical profile. The finish is long and slightly toasted.
Serve with	Chateau LaTour Martillac is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees F. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Production	11,667 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2019 - 2040
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 27, 2016</p> <p>91+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - February 2018</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>89-91 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016 (score only)</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>90-92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>17 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Features a flash of ganache that gives way quickly to gently mulled plum and blackberry reduction flavors, carried by silky tannins and backed by warm tar and smoldering tobacco notes. Just a touch shy on stuffing in the end but shows nice typicity and balance. Drink now through 2025. 11,667 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2015 Latour Martillac has a spicy nose of cinnamon stick, cloves and aniseed with a core of red and black cherries and a waft of fragrant earth. The palate is medium-bodied with plenty of juicy fruit and a firm frame of fine-grained tannins with bags of freshness lifting the finish."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 La Tour Martillac is ...matured in 40% new French oak. It has a slightly more high-toned and outgoing bouquet, with dark cherries and blackcurrant aromas, a smidgen of cassis emerging with time in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, a pleasant saltiness here, very focused with a finish of real pedigree. This is a superb Pessac-Léognan from the estate - one of the best in recent years."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Latour Martillac has a more austere bouquet with blackberry, sous bois, woodland and smoke aromas that only gradually find their voice. This is one Pessac-Léognan that seems to have gone into its shell. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, quite focused and strict, a linear Pessac-Léognan that does not want to give too much away in its youth. One to watch, but perhaps one for the more patient Bordeaux lover."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Journal</p>

- Reviews** *"Some handy depth here. Ripe dark cherries and blackberries are framed in slightly nutty, cedary and spicy oak. The palate's built on polished layered tannin sheets, delivering depth and sturdiness amid fresh flavors of dark cherries and cassis. Best from 2022."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Solid tannins mark this still very young wine. At the same time, the fruit is rich and well proportioned. Black currants dominate the fruity spectrum, giving the wine richness as well as great potential. Drink from 2025."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "93-95. Barrel Sample. This wine has ripe, dusty tannins that go with the rich black currant fruits. It is full, generous and packed with both acidity and forward fruitiness."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Mid crimson. Smells initially riper than the Ch Haut-Bailly but drier on the palate than the nose suggested. Elegant and refined, powder-fine texture. (JH)"*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Very dark crimson. So big it hasn't that much aroma! Smooth tannins and rather attractive inky savour. Good tension."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Silky, sexy, rich damson fruits aged in 30% new oak. A beautiful example of this wine: very strong in an already good vintage. Tannins grip the fruit without strangling; plenty of development potential."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Soft, elegant, silky fruits create a wine of finesse, freshness and ripe, red berries. There is a good balance of acidify and round, soft fruits here."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Elegance, freshness and a tobacco, smoke, espresso, forest and cherry character that just sings. Soft and refined, this should drink well early."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Smoky, spicy and loaded with supple textured, soft, dark fruits, the wine is refined, elegant and charming."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Oak, smoke, fennel and sweet, dark berries on the nose move to a silky, soft, refined, fresh expression of fruit and earth, with ample ripe berries and charm."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep and saturated look; pretty briary, brambly fruit; nice style; cherry and chocolate notes; ripe fruit on the mid-palate; quite grippy on the finish with some extracted elements; this has the fruit though. [54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot 13.9%alc]. Tasted UGCB 7/4/16. Drink 2020-2028. 89-91"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Subtle, layered and quite plush on the palate, this is a suave red with gentle flavors and good mid palate intensity. Although the wine is quite closed right now, there is potential for the wine to greatly improve in bottle. Best after 2023."*
- JCL, asianpalate.com

Reviews *"The 2015 Latour-Martillac is a powerful, muscular wine. Beams of tannin give the 2015 its potent, brooding personality. Savory herbs, new leather, wild cherry, smoke and kirsch get an extra kick of intensity from bright acids and pointed yet well-integrated tannins. Today, the 2015 is a bit reticent and tightly wound, but that should be less of an issue with more time in bottle."*

- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Latour-Martillac is terrific. Charcoal, smoke, licorice, plum and violet notes make a strong first impression. Powerful and muscular on the palate, the 2015 delivers superb depth and overall intensity. This is a decidedly dark, virile wine, yet all the elements are nicely balanced throughout. The 2015 Latour-Martillac is shaping up to be one of the pleasant surprises of the vintage."

- AG, Vinous
