

Château La Louvière Blanc 2018

CSPC# 831559

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Website
Sustainability
General Info

100% Sauvignon Blanc

Pessac-Léognan

<http://www.andrelurton.com/>

HEV3 certification

Château La Louvière has long been famous for its white wines. In fact, these already highly prized by Canadian merchants in the 17th century! A century later, they were to be found on the finest tables in Russia. The very elegant white La Louvière is now among the finest dry white wines in the Graves and is a fine ambassador for the Pessac-Léognan appellation. Marked by the Sauvignon Blanc varietal character, but not overly so, it can age remarkably well.

The first small vineyard on the estate were planted in 1476, in a location named *La Lobeyra*, on land owned by the Guilloche family since 1398.^[1] During the period from 1510 to 1550 many land plots were acquired by Pierre de Guilloche and his son Jean de Guilloche. Lady Roquetaillade, the heiress to the Guilloche family, sold La Louvière in 1618 to Arnaud de Gascq, abbot of the Abbey of Saint-Ferme. He donated it in 1620 to Notre Dame de Miséricorde, a Carthusian Order in Bordeaux. At this stage, the property was in a poor state but was restored by the monks. Under the monks' management, both red and white wines were produced during the early parts of the 17th century, and shipped to customers in Picardy, England and Flanders.

In November 1789, following the French Revolution, the *Assemblée Nationale* confiscated all church property, which included the Carthusian-owned La Louvière. Following the confiscation, property was auctioned off, and La Louvière was bought by the Bordeaux wine merchant Jean-Baptiste Mareilhac in 1791. Mareilhac also built a modern château building on the estate. The château, for which François Lhôte was the architect, is a listed historical monument since 1991.

The Mareilhac family continued as owners for most part of the 19th century. From 1911 to 1944, La Louvière was run by Alfred Bertrand-Taquet, who was also mayor of Léognan from 1919 until the start of Second World War. After the war, La Louvière had absentee landlords and was neglected for a long period. In 1965, La Louvière was purchased by André Lurton, who embarked on restoration of both the château and of the vineyards.

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Winemaker Jean Marc Comte. Consultant is Valérie Lavigne.

Vintage 2018 was one of the warmest years since 1900, featuring above-average temperatures, the second hottest summer to date, and abundant sunshine... Heavy rainfall in the first half of the year was followed by persistent, near-record drought conditions in September.

Vineyards 61 hectares of vineyard on siliceous gravel with limestone on the lower slopes. Red varieties comprise 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. White varieties comprise 85% Sauvignon Blanc and 15% Sémillon. The planting density is on average 7,500 plants / ha. Average vine age is 23 years.

Harvest 27 August 2018.



Maturation	No malolactic fermentation. The white spent 10 months in barrel (30% of which are new) on lees with full bâtonnage,
Tasting Notes	Brilliant, pale-yellow colour. Understated at first, the nose gradually opens up with aeration, revealing pleasant floral and citrus notes, enhanced by delicate and particularly well-integrated oaky aromas. Incredibly voluminous and rich on the palate, with a lovely long aftertaste, underpinned by vanilla overtones. This wine is the perfect accompaniment to a meal from the starter to the cheese platter. It is equally delicious served with asparagus in gribiche sauce, turbot with morel mushrooms or hard cheeses such as Cantal, Beaufort, etc.
Serve with	Goes perfectly with starters, shellfish, fish, white meats, and cheese. Also great with lobster thermidor or crab stuffed sea urchins.
Production	5,833 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink now through 2030
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2020</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2019</p> <p>91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019</p> <p>16.5 points - Julia Harding JancisRobinson.com - October 2020</p> <p>16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p>2 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins 2021 - October 2020</p> <p>90 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2019</p> <p>89 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Quite plump, with a note of candied lemon peel amid the racier white peach, verbena and lemon zest flavors. Lots of honeysuckle and straw accents line the finish. Drink now through 2023. 5,833 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Herb, lime and kiwi core notes have zing, with a green apple and fennel aspect to the finish. Still rounding into form, but it's all there. 5,833 cases made. Score range: 89 – 92."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The La Louviere 2018 Blanc needs a little swirling to unlock vibrant notes of white peaches, fresh pears and lemon curd with touches of jasmine, lime cordial and coriander seed. The medium-bodied palate delivers racy citrus and apple flavors with a suggestion of creaminess to the texture and a provocative chalkiness on the finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The La Louviere 2018 Blanc leaps from the glass with pronounced grapefruit, lemon curd and honeysuckle scents with touches of mango and pineapple plus a waft of ginger. Medium-bodied, the palate is filled with intense citrus and tropical layers plus a satiny texture and oodles of freshness to lift the finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"From one of several estates owned by the Lurton family in Pessac-Léognan, this wine is floral, ripe, and packed with tangy, citrus acidity. Wood aging has smoothed the tight, mineral texture and brought up the fruitiness. Drink the wine from 2022."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"Barrel Sample. Pure notes of crisp, lemon and herbs give this wine freshness, intensity, and layers of acidity and minerality. The wine will age relatively quickly."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p>

Reviews *“100% Sauvignon Blanc. Ripe, creamy citrus, very inviting with just a hint of vanilla sweetness. Quite a hit of mealy, creamy oak flavour on the palate yet with cool fresh citrus fruit at the core. Well balanced and fresh for the vintage. (JH)”*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“100% Sauvignon Blanc; 30% new oak. Barrel sample. Creamy, mealy lemon and pear. Here the acidity is a bit intrusive and not (yet) integrated. Clearly lots of bright citrus but hard to judge how it will knit and evolve. I like the pure generous fruit at the core. (JH)”

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“Much better in bottle, than in barrel, now you find loads of ripe, sweet, round, creamy yellow citrus, flowers, a touch of honey, crisp green apple and grapefruit.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Light in color and fruit, the ripe, sweet, yellow citrus is quite juicy, but it lacks the length and freshness found in the best vintages.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2018 La Louvière Blanc is laced with hints of peach, apricot, slate, baked apple and a hint of toastiness that develops on the finish. Delicate and yet beautifully persistent, the 2018 Blanc has a lot to offer.”

- AG, Vinous

“This 2018 is a flattering pale yellow colour with silver highlights, accompanied by a delicate, complex bouquet of citrus, peach and white flowers underscored by hints of vanilla and oak. A very dynamic, full-bodied and rich wine, which is fine and silky on the palate, culminating in a long, fresh, lively and elegant finish. 2022-2027.”

- Le Guide Hachette du Vin
