
Château Lafon-Rochet 2000

CSPC# 785927

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc
Saint Estèphe

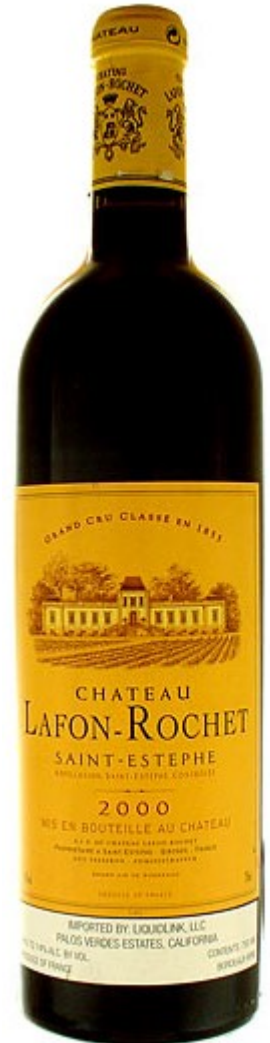
Fourth Growth. Quatrieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<http://www.lafon-rochet.com/en/>

Chateau Lafon Rochet in St. Estephe dates back to the middle of the 17th century. The estate was founded in 1650, when Antoinette de Guillemotte, brought the land of Rochette as her dowry to her husband, Pierre de Lafon. Shortly after they were married, following the custom of the day, they renamed the estate, using their last name, coupled with the previous name of the property and Chateau Lafon Rochet was born.

While many Bordeaux vineyards were confiscated during the French Revolution, that did not happen to Lafon Rochet. In fact, the Left Bank estate remained the property of the same family for more than two centuries.

Everything changed at Chateau Lafon Rochet in 1959 when Guy Tesseron purchased the estate. The property needed extensive work as it had fallen into a dilapidated state. The Tesseron family, under the direction of Guy Tesseron completely renovated Lafon Rochet from top to bottom. This was something that had to be done as most of the original buildings were in such bad shape, they could no longer be used. The vineyard also needed extensive replanting. At the time of the purchase, the vineyard was only 17 hectares. Through replanting and subsequent purchases, the estate has more than doubled in size since the Tesseron family took control of the property. That marked the start of the modern era for Chateau Lafon Rochet. Tesseron had his work cut out for him at his Medoc property in the 1960's. The vineyards were as we mentioned in poor shape. Much of the land needed to be replanted in part, but the grape varieties that already existed in the vineyards were planted in the wrong types of soils for their varietal. The Merlot was in the gravel and the Cabernets were in the clay. That is still slowly being corrected today, although currently, almost everything is as it should be. This explains why the wines are so much better today. Because the wine making facilities had also become dilapidated under the previous owners, Guy Tesseron was forced to build all new wine making facilities. Even the Chateau had to be replaced! In fact, Chateau Lafon Rochet is the only 1855 Classified growth with a new chateau that was constructed in the 20th century!

In 1999, after being in the Bordeaux wine trade for more than four decades, Michel Tesseron, took over the property and decided to change the classic style of the 18th century design that was created for the chateau. Michel Tesseron did it by adding some color to Lafon Rochet in 2000. As you can see, the chateau of Lafon Rochet is now a bright, sunny, bold, Mediterranean shade of yellow. It's an artistic statement according to Michel Tesseron. At the same time, the labels of Chateau Lafon Rochet were also changed to showcase the new, artistic, sun filled, yellow theme. Chateau Lafon Rochet is still in the Tesseron family hands. Currently the Saint Estephe property is ably managed by the son of Michel Tesseron, Basile Tesseron. It is Basile Tesseron who is helping usher Chateau Lafon Rochet into the modern age. Basile Tesseron, who started at the estate in 2007, after training with négociants, speaks perfect English, with a subtle accent. This is something he picked up while living in England.



Vineyards The 45-hectare vineyard of Lafon Rochet is in almost one single, large parcel, which is unusual for the region. They have 41 hectares under vine. Their terroir is mostly gravel, clay, sand, limestone and marl soils. Part of what makes their terroir unique is that some of the clay in their vineyards is the same type of hard, blue clay found in Pomerol at Petrus . Chateau Lafon Rochet has good neighbors. They are ideally placed not far from Chateau Cos d'Estournel and Chateau Lafite Rothschild in Pauillac . The Saint Estephe vineyard of Lafon Rochet is planted to 57% Cabernet Sauvignon , 37% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc . This shows a slight increase in their Cabernet Sauvignon plantings. On average, the vines are kept at 37 years of age. However, the estate has old vines. Their oldest parcels have Merlot vines that were planted all the way back in 1938. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of 9,000 vines per hectare on 40 separate blocks.

Lafon Rochet continues to experiment with organic and biodynamic farming techniques. At least 10% of their vineyards were farmed using these techniques with more of their vineyards to follow if they like the results. Things turned around quickly here. In 2016, for the first time, they farmed almost 100% of their vines using organic farming methods. At Chateau Lafon Rochet, they take advantage of optical sorting techniques.

Harvest 25th September-7th October 2000

**Vinification/
Maturation** Manually harvested, crushed into vat for cold pre-fermentation maceration for 24-72 hrs. Alcoholic fermentation for 10 days, wine is separated from Grape seeds and skin and run into barrels for maloOactic fermentation which lasts from November to February with final blend made in March, then aged in oak till bottling. Aged 16 to 18 months in 50% new barrels.

Tasting Notes A particularly successful vintage that offers a complex nose which, although still quite restrained, has clear potential. In the mouth, the wine is superbly balanced, silky and warm, with a lingering, elegant finish. Both modern and classic, the 2000 vintage perfectly represents the essence of Lafon-Rochet. Our most recent 2014 vintage displays similar features to the 2000.

Serve with Chateau Lafon Rochet is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Young vintages can be decanted for 1-2 hours. This allows the wine to soften and open its perfume. Older vintages might need very little decanting, just enough to remove the sediment. Lafon Rochet is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Lafon Rochet is also quite good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta.

Production 11,165 cases made

Cellaring Drink 2005-2020

Scores/Awards **91 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003
90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 22, 2003
90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 27, 2002
90-91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 22, 2001
92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - October 2007
91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2002
90 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - June 2003
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2002
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 19, 2013
17.5 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2003
89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
90 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)
17.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
15.5points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
2 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins – 2004

- Reviews** *“Concentrated wine. Intense aromas of grilled meat, spice and plum skin. Full-bodied, with big silky tannins and lots of fruit. Long and chewy. Best after 2007. 11,165 cases made.”*
- JS, Wine Spectator
- “One of the better wines (and also reasonably priced) to emerge from this property over recent years, this dense ruby/purple-colored wine shows a complex nose of earth, underbrush, creosote, creme de cassis, and dried herbs. Sporting a new yellow/orange label that matches the dramatic paint job on the chateau itself, the wine has a deep ruby/purple color, medium to full body, fine ripeness as well as purity, and moderate tannin in the finish. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2016”*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- “This is a low acid, black/purple-colored effort displaying a perfumed bouquet of smoke, herbs, leather, incense, and black fruits. Full-bodied, opulent, and viscous, it exhibits plenty of power as well as moderate tannin. Anticipated maturity: 2003-2016. A sleeper of the vintage.”*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- “A saturated black/purple color is followed by broodingly backward yet intense aromas of jammy blackberries, earth, vitamins, licorice, and new oak. There is good fat, a concentrated, full-bodied, multilayered palate, and a sweet mid-palate as well as finish ... always a good sign. This should be a long-lived 2000, despite what appears to be considerable accessibility. Moreover, this estate always sells its wines at a fair price. It is a sleeper of the vintage. Anticipated maturity: 2004-2020.”*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- “A very dense, quite opulent plum-scented nose with briary, blueberry, a touch of hoi sin and macerated cherries. Good lift and definition. Full-bodied, rich, dense black fruits with thick chewy tannins. Dense structure, great weight and persistency with a succulent blackberry finish. Still very primal with a long future ahead. Superb. Drink 2012-2025. Tasted October 2007.”*
- NM, Wine Journal
- “A plummy, earthy nose. Muted now. Very concentrated mocha and chocolate notes. Quite spicy. Impressive complexity - this is a stunning Lafon Rochet. Very long and succulent on the finish. Superb. Tasted twice and blossoming nicely. A wonderful 2000 at good value too. Tasted November 2002.”*
- NM, Wine Journal
- “Dark red. Assertive, oaky nose features smoked meat and leather. Sweet, dense and packed with fruit. Really spreads out on the back end, finishing with broad, powerful tannins. (ST)”*
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- “Arresting meaty nose with hints of foxgloves and yeast extract. Tannins just a bit too pronounced and tough for this wine to show the lovely balance of the most successful wines of the commune. Relatively simple palate.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “A bargain when it was first offered, the wine attracts your attention with its earthy, tobacco, plum, forest and spicy black cherry nose. Good concentration and a long, fresh, blackberry finish are the hallmarks of this wine. It's just starting to open, soften and come together. This should drink well for at least another 12 to 15 years.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “A new label and matching capsule for the 2000 vintage. This is a dense, glossy, youthful looking wine, with a very expressive nose, throwing out aromas of coffee, chocolate, exotic spices and sweet fruit pastilles. This all says 2000 to me. The palate is full, sweet and rich. There is a good structure although the tannins do not dominate, and only make a strong showing on the finish. It is big, dense, and packed with fruit and creamy texture, although still with a St Estèphe hardness. Balanced.”*
- CK, The Wine Doctor
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