

Les Forts de Latour 2018

CSPC# 153886

1x1500ml

14% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

65.6% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 0.4% Cabernet Franc.

Appellation

Pauillac

Website

<http://www.chateau-latour.com/en/a-time-for-sharing/les-forts-de-latour>

Sustainability

Certified Organic (2018) & Biodynamic.

General Info

If Lafite is renowned for elegance, Latour is prized for power. Vines were first planted on the site in the fourteenth century, but Latour's reputation stems from the late part of the seventeenth century, when the estate was inherited by Alexandre de Ségur. In recent years, no finer wine has been made in Bordeaux, for Latour displays an uncanny combination of deep color; Cabernet-dominated flavors of dark berries, licorice, and minerals; the finest oak that money can buy; and great length on the aftertaste.

Winemaker

Frédéric Ardouin

Vintage

2018 was our final year of conversion to organic viticulture. A challenging vintage, it will be remembered for its record-breaking winter rainfall with a total of 330mm from December through to January. Even early spring remained unprecedentedly wet and cool. Budburst was late and took place on 3rd April for the Merlot and 10th April for the Cabernet Sauvignon. A hot and dry April encouraged uniform vegetative growth, whereas May was particularly unstable, wet and stormy, with significant flooding and even violent hailstorms. Despite this, the warmer days ensured that a good growth rate was maintained and that the bunches set well. During the first five days of July, 46mm of rainfall led to a big infestation of downy mildew putting significant pressure on our teams. The rest of the summer was exceptionally hot and dry, with both heat- and water-stress noticeable in August. Fortunately, a series of storms at the end of the month brought 21mm of rain, revitalising the suffering vines and kickstarting the ripening process. Despite a few showers early on, September was beautiful and dry, with picking starting on 17th. We harvested grapes of exceptional quality and concentration. However, due to constant cryptogamic disease pressure throughout the year, meticulous sorting was required and yields were low.

Vineyards

Many have called this the best vineyard in the world and the dynamic Director of Chateau Latour, Frédéric Engerer, is determined to make the greatest wine possible. He has the confidence of owner, François Pinault, to do all that it takes to achieve this aim. Production levels have been slashed in recent vintages with only the best parcels of vines now producing grapes for the Grand Vin. Latour has always had a fantastic terroir and now has a wine-making team working with state-of-the-art modern equipment under inspired leadership.

Harvest

Harvest started September 17, 2018, and finished early October 2018.

Winemaking

There is a second wine, Les Forts de Latour, which comes from the young vines of the Grand Enclos. The vines used to produce Les Forts de Latour are most often at least 12 years of age. Les Forts de Latour made its debut in 1966. Les Forts de Latour is aged in 50% new, French oak barrels.

Winemaker's

Notes

Heady aromas of dark fruits, violet petals and pencil lead bestrewed with sweet spices and liquorice. This is an exhilarating wine, powerfully structured with present but fine-grained tannins, concentrated flavours and an acidity bringing a full and elegant finish to the mouth.

Serve with

Chateau Latour is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Latour is also good when matched with Asian dishes, rich fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.

Production

unknown

Cellaring

Drink 2024-2045.



Scores/Awards **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021
92+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2024
94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021
93-95+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019
95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2024
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019
17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2022
17 points - Julia Harding JancisRobinson.com - April 2019
93 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2024
93 points - Jane Anson, JaneAnson.com - March 2024
92 points - Jane Anson, JaneAnson.com - April 2019
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2024
93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019
94+ points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintner - February 2022
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019
94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024
95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024
94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019
17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes - April 2019
