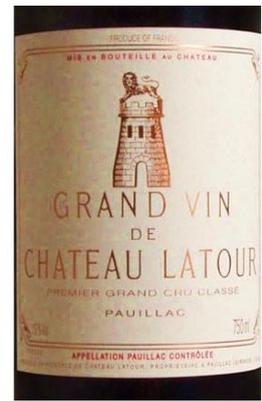




PIERRE RAOUX  
WINE SELECTION

## CHATEAU LATOUR AOC Pauillac 1st Classified Growth



### Area of Production

Region:	Bordeaux, France
Grape Varieties:	80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, and 2% of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot
Vineyard Area:	78 hectare
Soil/Terroir:	Gravel
Second Label:	Les Forts de Latour.
Average Production:	18,000 cases (1656hL) Château Latour; 11,000 cases (1012hL) Les Forts de Latour.

### History

Château Latour is situated on the commune of Pauillac in the Médoc region, north-west of Bordeaux, only a few hundred metres from the banks of the Gironde estuary.

The estate dates to at least 1378. A garrison fort was built 300 metres from the estuary to guard against attack during the Hundred Years' War. The tower, the name mutating with time to La Tour, gave its name to the estate around the fortress and was in English hands until the Battle of Castillon in 1453. The original tower no longer exists, but in the 1620s a circular tower (La Tour de Saint-Lambert) was built on the estate and it is actually designed as a pigeon roost.

From 1670 began a lineage of connected family ownership not broken until 1963. At one stage, the estate was acquired by the Ségur family. Latour became a part of their vast properties, to which they also added Château Lafite in 1716 and Château Mouton and Château Calon-Ségur in 1718.

Latour improved in the later half of the 18th century, and later became a favourite of Thomas Jefferson, then Minister to France, when he categorised La Tour de Ségur as a vineyard of first quality in 1787.

With the onset of the French Revolution, the property became divided. The estate was not reunited until 1841 and 20% shares were owned by the Bordeaux wine trading company Barton, Guestier and Johnston.

In 1963 the estate finally left the Ségur family and three-quarters of the Château Latour shares to the British interests of the Pearson Group under control of Lord Cowdray, with shares owned by Harvey's of Bristol.

In 1989 Latour was purchased by Allied Lyons, but in 1993 returned to French ownership when bought by businessman François Pinault, LVMH Company.

### Winemaking

The estate produces three red wines in total. In addition to its Grand vin, Latour has also produced the second wine Les Forts de Latour since 1966, and a third wine, simply named Pauillac, has been released every year since 1990.

Latour has used stainless steel fermentation vats since 1964. They were the first in Médoc to employ stainless steel with Haut Brion being the first in the Bordeaux region. Wine is kept 18 months in barrel, 6 months at ground level and 12 months in the underground cellar.

