



Château Lafite Rothschild

Château Lafite Rothschild 2018 showcases the elegance of Pauillac with remarkable depth and structure, crafted during a vintage marked by climatic extremes yet concluding in triumph.



1er Cru Classé 2018

Bordeaux, France

Region and Vineyards

Château Lafite Rothschild lies at the northern edge of the Pauillac appellation on Bordeaux's Left Bank, adjacent to Saint-Estèphe. Its most revered vineyards crown the Plateau des Carruades, the highest point in Pauillac. These well-drained gravelly-clay soils, bathed in sunlight and tempered by the Gironde estuary, provide a haven for Cabernet Sauvignon, enabling perfect ripening and stress regulation even in unpredictable vintages.

Some of Lafite's oldest vines are situated in parcels technically within Saint-Estèphe, adding complexity and depth to the grand vin. In 2018, the season began with heavy rainfall and mildew pressure, posing immense viticultural challenges. From mid-July, however, dry, hot weather restored vine health, allowing for an outstanding late season. By harvest, fruit was healthy, concentrated, and impeccably ripe.

Winemaking

The 2018 vintage is composed of **91% Cabernet Sauvignon**, **8.5% Merlot**, and **0.5% Petit Verdot**, reflecting a classic Médoc profile anchored in Cabernet's strength and purity. Grapes from each plot were vinified separately in a mix of wooden, stainless steel, and concrete vats, depending on the fruit's maturity and origin. Fermentation occurred under precise temperature control with gentle extraction via regular pump-overs.

The wines were macerated for approximately 22 days, then underwent malolactic fermentation before being transferred to new French oak barrels for **15 months** of aging. Barrels were crafted at Lafite's own cooperage, Tonnellerie des Domaines, ensuring exacting standards and stylistic continuity. Only the most refined lots were selected for the final blend, epitomizing the estate's signature elegance and aging potential.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 91% Cabernet
Sauvignon, 0% Merlot, 0% Petit
Verdot



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep garnet with vivid purple hues, revealing youth and vibrancy.
- **Aroma:** Initially reserved, the bouquet gradually reveals layered notes of blackcurrant, wild raspberry, cedarwood, and graphite—hallmarks of Lafite's noble style.
- **Palate:** A strikingly harmonious attack leads to a palate of precision and depth. Silken tannins and refined fruit glide to a lingering, fresh, and mineral-laced finish, underscoring its finesse and longevity.

Did you know?

The 2018 vintage coincided with preparations for **Lafite's 150th anniversary under the Rothschild family**, who acquired the estate in 1868. Despite a year fraught with weather challenges, the estate demonstrated its capacity to achieve greatness through vineyard vigilance and cellar precision. This is a testament to Lafite's unique terroir and the estate's quiet mastery of its elements.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roasted venison with blackberry jus:** The wine's depth and forest-fruit character resonate beautifully with game and dark berries.
- **Beef filet with truffle purée:** Silky tannins and earthy notes complement luxurious, umami-rich dishes.
- **Seared duck breast with five-spice glaze:** Aromatic complexity pairs harmoniously with spiced richness and tender meat.
- **Aged Manchego or Ossau-Iraty:** Firm, nutty cheeses accentuate the wine's structured tannins and minerality.



Robert Parker (RP) : 100 Points (2018)

The 2018 Lafite Rothschild is blended of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8.5% Merlot and 0.5% Petit Verdot and has 13.3% alcohol. Deep purple-black in color, it needs a fair bit of swirling to unlock intoxicating scents of blackcurrant cordial, baked plums and black cherry compote with an undercurrent of dark chocolate, licorice, cast-iron pan, cedar chest and fertile loam, plus a waft of pencil lead. The delicately crafted, medium-bodied palate is dripping with class, featuring layers of mineral-laced black fruits and exquisitely ripe, singularly Lafite tannins, finishing with epic length and depth. This simply stunning, delicately crafted expression of 2018 with its singularly evocative imprint of Lafite will require a good 7-8 years in bottle, then should continue to inspire awe over the following 40+ years.



Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 100 Points (2018)

An immensely structured wine, this is complex, concentrated and yet so contained. The wine impresses with its balance, layers of succulent black-currant fruits and effortless style. A wine for the long term, it should not be touched before 2029.



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James Suckling (JS) : 99 Points (2018)

Wow. The aromas are so intense and refined at the same time, offering gorgeous blackcurrant, lead-pencil and orchid character. Such purity of fruit. Sleek and finely polished with a fine cut to the tannins that provide such grace and glamor. Yet, it's got the power and structure to age for decades. On and on. Try after 2029.



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