

Château Lafite Rothschild 2011

BACKGROUND

Château Lafite Rothschild is one of only five classified first growths and thus the designation as 1er Cru Classé. The vintage rankings of the Universal Paris Exposition in 1855 officially gave Lafite the rating as "Leader among fine wines." The vineyard covers 264 acres and is divided into three separate areas: the hilly ground close to the Château, the plateau of the Carruades and a plot in the commune of Saint Estèphe (special permission was granted to incorporate these wines into the Pauillac appellation). The soil is composed of fine gravel mixed with aeolian sand and planted with four classic Médoc grape varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon (70%), Merlot (25%), Cabernet Franc (3%) and Petit Verdot (2%). The average age of the vines is 35 years but those that produce the Grand Vin selection are 45 years or older. In August 1868, Baron James de Rothschild purchased Château Lafite and it has remained in the family for six generations. The property is currently run by Baron Eric de Rothschild.

TERROIR & VINTAGE NOTES

The weather conditions for the 2011 vintage were unusual and required all of the technical teams' vigilance and expertise. It was a very early vintage, with an exceptionally hot spring, low rainfall at the beginning of the year and then more in the summer. A huge hail storm in the north of Pauillac and Saint Estèphe on September 1st obliged an early harvest for some grapes but fortunately, as a result of the season's conditions, the grapes had ripened early, and quality was uncompromised.

WINEMAKING & AGING

Depending of their provenance and level of ripeness, grapes are transferred into either wooden, stainless steel or concrete vats. The maceration period varies for each tank but is around 22 days in total. After malolactic fermentation wines are transferred into French oak barrels from la Tonnellerie des Domaines (the Lafite cooperage in Pauillac), which contributes to its unique style. The grand vin selection is made in March, once the wines have settled and start revealing their full potential. Once blended, the wine is aged for a further 20 months in barrels, primarily of new oak.

TASTING NOTES

Intense, deep crimson color. Dense nose, aromas of red and black fruit, boxwood and spicy notes. Very concentrated on the palate with fine intensity and a complex finish



ORIGIN

Pauillac, Bordeaux, France

GRAPE VARIETIES

87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot

SIZES

750ml

TECHNICAL DETAILS

ABV: 12.5%, TA: 3.63, Ph: 3.94,
Closure: Cork

WINEMAKER

Eric Kohler

