

CHÂTEAU LAFITE ROTHSCHILD

Grand Vin

The vintage seemed so early that throughout the year, we were preparing for a harvest at the end of August! We planned everything with that in mind, from grape reception to the lunch menus, with an almost military precision: Blue, red, green and yellow teams for our harvesters, whose paths must never cross. The harvest was the last trial in a challenging year, spent with our eyes fixed on the weather station and on our rows of vines on the lookout for mildew.

The heavens took their final bow with the thunderstorm on 15 August and its 100mm : we watched the downpour with concern, not knowing that we would bless it a few weeks later. At the end of August, the analysis of ripeness and alcohol degrees came out reasonable. And yet, when tasting the berries, the aromatics were extremely expressive, almost out of sync. The water in mid-August had taken effect on the ripening!

We harvested on 9 September, starting with our young Merlots and finishing on 29 September with the late Anseillan terroirs and a steak grilled on vine shoots. The harvest was superb, the fermentations raced ahead. The musts revealed a young monster in the making, restrained, incredibly classy, but disciplined : the alcohol degrees remain classic, with a final blend at 12.8%, reminding us of the fine balance of the 1990s.

Carruades de Lafite

Carruades being produced mostly from our youngest vines, promised one day for Lafite, the storms after véraison were a blessing. They allowed us to not see any of the usual signs of hydric stress we had witnessed in previous years. In 2020, our blend has benefited from the presence of our large plots of Merlot such as Grande Horte, Barat, Gandeau. These plots are our hopes for the future, which we prepare each year to reach the level of Lafite... and which flourish in Carruades while awaiting their turn. With 42% Merlot, this vintage marks a return to a high percentage of Merlot in Carruades.



.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Bud burst: 25 March	Mid-Flowering: 26 May	Mid-Véraison: 1 August
Harvest: from 9 September to 29 September		
Blend: Grand Vin : 92% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot Carruades de Lafite : 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot		