Maison Louis Latour

From its birthplace at the foot of the hill of Corton, Maison Louis Latour has over two centuries of Burgundian history. Founded in 1797, the house has become a natural custodian of an ancient tradition. Authentic to its roots, it has always been a point of honour to remain independent and family-owned. It is now run by the seventh Louis Latour, who represents the eleventh generation since his founding ancestor. Each generation has worked to preserve this unique heritage, whilst ensuring the future with a visionary and ambitious spirit.

With patience and determination through the centuries, our domaine of fifty hectares has been carefully established and the famous logo of Louis Latour graces several million bottles shipped worldwide each year. The family vineyard is made up of exceptional appellations, and every year offers wines known for their formidable quality. Our domaine wines, as well as our negociant wines, are deeply marked by their terroirs. They are carefully vinified and aged to create with elegance and finesse, the traditional style of the house. Our customers expect the best, and through our daily quest for perfection we aim to satisfy them.

Louis-Fabrice Latour, managing director of Maison Louis Latour

“...This historic house genuinely understands the world of today, and its recent development demonstrates this sense of strategy.”

Michel Bettane (Guide des Vins de France 2011).
Our wines

We vinify nearly 130 wines each year. Whatever the appellation may be, painstaking attention is given to each wine through a vinification which respects the quality of the fruit. We have a technical centre equipped with the most modern infrastructure but the winemaking techniques have remained very simple and traditional. We strive to have a distinct Louis Latour style that our customers, who expect an expression of typical characteristics, can rediscover year after year.

Our red wines are delicate, elegant and distinguished. Our relatively short but intense fermentation time allows for good extraction of fruit and tannins, while avoiding over-extraction. The wines produced are not heavy in colour but have good structure and balance, which guarantees a long life.

Our white wines are structured, rich and well balanced. We endeavour to evoke the power of Chardonnay so it can reveal its terroir. It is very important to retain some acidity so as not to produce wines that are too round or heavy. Striving for balance is our unrelenting quest during the vinification of the whites.

« Elegance and balance are the keywords that have always outlined the vinification practice of Maison Louis Latour. »

Louis-Fabrice Latour

Vineyards of the Côte de Beaune

The Domaine

Domaine Louis Latour comprises 48 hectares ranging from the red Grands Crus of the Côte de Nuits: Chambertin and Romanée-Saint-Vivant, to the white Grands Crus of the Côte de Beaune: Corton-Charlemagne and Chevalier-Montrachet. The Burgundy region offers a diverse terroir unique in the world, our reds are made from Pinot Noir and our whites from Chardonnay. These grapes are harvested entirely by hand, the Pinot Noir is then sorted and de-stemmed before fermentation while the Chardonnay is pressed directly.

The jewel in our crown remains in Aloxe-Corton where we have 33 hectares of vineyards which overlook the beautiful Corton Grancey winery. Built in 1834 this winery was revolutionary at the time and is a prime example of great ingenuity. Its five levels mean that today we can still carry out cuvage by gravity and its cellars, embedded in the rock of Corton ‘Perrières’, provide perfect ageing conditions. To honour our rich history we make our flagship Grand Cru wine, Château Corton Grancey, which is unique to the house and only produced in the best years.
Environmental commitment

Sustainable development and respect for the ecosystem are two of our fundamental values. In viticultural terms, preparing the future involves a careful review of our past. Our vineyards are certified ISO14001 by the Bureau Veritas and we have carried out sustainable farming for many years. Our technical team uses only necessary treatments in response to the environmental situation at the time. This implies that one must understand these conditions and their consequences. For this reason, Maison Louis Latour is a major player in agricultural research, climate and geology relating to the vine. This commitment to viticulture that respects the environment brings with it proven and natural practices, such as leaving the vineyards fallow, making compost and growing grass between vine-rows, which are all part of a struggle to avoid the use of chemicals.

We strongly believe in the protection of the wider environment beyond our own vineyards. This is why Louis Latour is a very active member of several associations which seek to tackle important and complex issues: the sustainability of soils, the expression of the cru and the quality of the wines.

Vineyards of the Côte de Nuits

Louis Latour cooperage

Our cooperage, unique in Burgundy, is an historic part of Maison Louis Latour. The oak is sourced from the forests of northern France, and is aged in the open-air for more than two years. The master coopers then shape the wood by hand using traditional techniques and know-how. Each barrel from the Louis Latour cooperage is a piece of craftsmanship. Our wines are aged in these barrels and we only produce one type, which undergoes a medium toast, and is then stamped with the year of manufacture. Thanks to such production our winemakers can choose the relative proportion of new or used oak needed for each wine, while knowing exactly how the materials used will interact. The Latour cooperage produces around 3,000 barrels per year, half of which are used to age our wines, and the rest are exported around the world. Some of the most prestigious producers of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.
Chablis, the most northern appellation in Burgundy, covers an area of about 5000 hectares which extends along the hillsides that flank a 20km stretch of the Serein river. The region is distinct because of its Kimmeridgian limestone soil. The cool climate and the distinctive slopes give the Chardonnay its famous minerality and lends good acidity. Chablis can be enjoyed young but can also be aged especially the Grands and Premiers Crus.

The Côtes Chalonnaise and Mâconnais extend south from the Côte de Beaune. Vines were planted here by the monks of Cluny over a thousand years ago, and benefit from calcareous soils and excellent exposure. The Côtes Chalonnaise produces lovely white wines, such as the fresh and mineral-driven Montagny, as well as some beautiful reds which are powerful and well-structured. The Côtes Mâconnaises are world famous for its white wines, Mâcon-Villages or most notably Pouilly-Fuissé, with its floral aromas counterbalancing citrus fruit hints.

The Beaujolais region is topographically and geologically very similar to Burgundy, however Gamay is the grape variety. Here it thrives and reveals perfectly the nuances of the granite rock of the region. Beaujolais-Villages are the perfect expression of the crisp Beaujolais fruit and are ideal for immediate enjoyment. The 10 Beaujolais crus (Brouilly, Côte de Brouilly, Régnié, Morgon, Chiroubles, Fleurie, Moulin-à-Vent, Chénas, Juliénas and Saint-Amour) can be kept in the cellar for a few years, where they will develop into more aromatic and complex wines.
Ardèche
In the late 1970s Maison Louis Latour invested in the Ardèche region with the aim of producing a high quality yet affordable Chardonnay. Outstanding work is carried out in the vineyards, and we now practice sustainable farming with low yields. In the 1990's a noticeable increase in quality led to the creation of the Grand Ardèche Chardonnay. Barrel-aged like a Louis Latour Grand Cru, this wine has impressive harmony and rich aromas. Finally Viognier, the historic varietal of the Rhône Valley, flourishes on the rocky terraces the area offers, and gives us a rich and fruity wine.

Domaine de Valmoissine
In the late 1980s in the same pioneering spirit, we decided to plant Pinot Noir in the Var region in Provence. Domaine de Valmoissine is located on the site of an ancient monastery 500 metres above sea level, and benefits from a Mediterranean climate with warm days and cool nights. These are perfect conditions for Pinot Noir to thrive. The southern exposure and altitude limits the risk of spring frosts. Here, Burgundian know-how helps reveal the elegance of a grape grown in the contrasting climate of the Verdon hills. The result is a harmonious wine which is fruit-forward and supple with pleasant tannins, combining the finesse of Pinot Noir with the opulence of the Mediterranean climate.
Owner of
Château Corton-Grancey

Domaine vineyards in the Grands Crus of
Chambertin,
Romanée-Saint-Vivant,
Corton-Charlemagne,
Corton Clos de la Vigne au Saint,
Chevalier-Montrachet

and in the Premier Crus of
Beaune,
Pommard,
Volnay,
Aloxe-Corton,
Pernand-Vergelesses

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