

Decanter

BURGUNDY

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO CORTON

Burgundy expert Charles Curtis MW takes you on a tour of Corton in this in-depth report, and picks out 27 top-rated wines from this 'outlier' of the Côte d'Or.

The largest landowner on the hill of Corton is Maison Louis Latour, with nearly 24 hectares in total, including almost 10 hectares of Chardonnay. The firm began to amass holdings in Corton in 1890 when it acquired the château and vineyards of the Count de Mandat-Grancey upon his death. As Latour's director, Christophe Deola, explains, the vineyards near the top are steep with a 25% slope that faces south-south-west in moderately deep, lime-rich Oxfordian marl soils. They also own plots further downslope in Corton Pougets and Languettes, exposed to the south with a lesser slope. "These give a broader wine, and the regular access to the water slows the maturation and brings more flesh to the wines," says Deola. "The steep upper portion of Le Charlemagne gives more minerality and tension, and Languettes is often picked first because of the poor soils and the exposition, but the acidity is always good."

91
pts



CORTON GRAND CRU
« Clos du Roi »
2016

Aromas of candied plums accented with a suggestion of wild herbs and a savoury note give the nose of Latour's Clos du Roi a pleasant complexity, yet there is also good purity of fruit here. The wine is fermented on native yeasts in open-top fermenters and aged 18 months in cask, half of them new. The texture on the palate is supple and approachable now. *Drinking Window 2021 - 2034*

93
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CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE
GRAND CRU 2016

Latour owns 9.6 hectares in Corton Charlemagne, mostly in Le Charlemagne and En Charlemagne, but also in Languettes and Renardes. The Latour style of Corton Charlemagne is rich and sensual, with no shortness of creamy malo notes or oak spice. The 2016 vintage was no exception. Harvest began on September 24th and continued for a week to deliver this dense, buttery wine. Despite the richness, however, there is enough freshness here to balance, and the result is concentrated and long. *Drinking Window 2021 - 2034*

91
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CORTON GRAND CRU
« Clos de la Vigne au Saint »
2018

Latour owns the majority of Corton La Vigne au Saint in Aloxe, located down the slope from Chaumes just as the hill begins to shift from facing due south to south-west. The ripeness of the plum and blackberry fruit here reflects the heat of the year, and aromas include earthy, vegetal, and savoury aromas as well. The texture on the palate is velvety and dense, and the tannins seem very silky. *Drinking Window 2021 - 2034*

93
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CORTON-CHARLEMAGNE
GRAND CRU 2018

Despite the heat of the vintage and serious ripeness (14.5% alcohol), this is surprisingly elegant and nuanced. There is a pleasant lemony accent to the ripe tropical flavours coloured with hints of cream, butter, and spice. On the palate, the wine dense but not lacking in freshness. Pleasant now, this will age well. *Drinking Window 2021 - 2034*