

DOMAINES BARONS DE ROTHSCHILD LAFITE

# CHÂTEAU LAFITE ROTHSCHILD

CHÂTEAU LAFITE ROTHSCHILD 2009

## BACKGROUND

Château Lafite Rothschild is one of only four classified first growths and thus the designation as 1st er Cru. 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. The oldest plot, "La Gravière", was planted in 1886. In August 1868, Baron James de Rothschild purchased Château Lafite and it has remained in the family for five generations. The property is currently run by Baron Eric de Rothschild.

## APPELLATION

Pauillac (Bordeaux), France

## VARIETAL COMPOSITION

82.5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 17% Merlot 17 %, 0.5% Petit Verdot

## VINTAGE NOTES

The beginning of the growth cycle was a tricky period due to a rather warm, very wet spring. The team had to be particularly vigilant in order to protect the vines. Fine, stable weather returned in June and continued throughout the summer. In fact conditions became drought like, interspersed in July, August and September with welcome periods of light rain. Plenty of sunshine, with temperatures that were high without becoming scorching, and fairly cool nights enabled slow ripening that pushed the start of the harvests back to the end of September. Exceptionally favorable weather conditions, crowned by harvests in the sun, made for a vintage that is certain to be outstanding. The harvest's took place from September 23rd–30th for the Merlot, from October 1st–8th for the Cabernet Sauvignon, from October 5th–7th for the Cabernet Franc and on October 8th for the Petit Verdot.

## WINEMAKING

Pumping over and maceration times were adapted to each vat, according to the plot and the level of ripeness of the tannins. Alcohol and malolactic fermentation both took place in wooden and stainless steel vats with temperature control. Maceration lasted 15-20 days.

## AGEING

20 months in new barrels crafted at the Domaines Barons de Rothschild Lafite cooerage.

## TASTING NOTES

A deep bouquet of dark fruit and licorice. The palate is full-bodied and surprisingly expressive, but then becomes tighter, expressing power and exuberance.



## CURRENT WINEMAKER

Eric Kohler

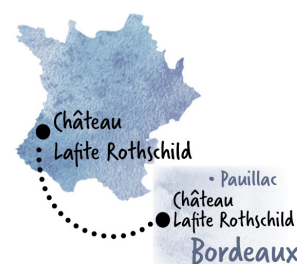
## TECHNICAL DATA

Acidity  
3.38 g/L  
Alcohol  
13.59%



**100** JAMES SUCKLING  
March 2012  
POINTS

99+ PTS WINE ADVOCATE 12/11  
99 PTS DECANTER 2/22  
98 PTS WINE SPECTATOR 3/12  
96 PTS WINE ENTHUSIAST 8/10



TAUB FAMILY  
SELECTIONS