LATE RELEASE

LOUIS ROEDERER
CHAMPAGNE

CRISTAL LATE RELEASE
2008



To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Cristal and the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Champagne House, Champagne Louis Roederer is unveiling a new, emblematic expression of its iconic cuvée: Cristal Late Release. For the occasion, this rare *cuvée*, drawn from Champagne Louis Roederer's private collection, bears the signature of the exceptional 2008 vintage.

Magnificent in its depth and radiance, this icon of the Champagne region, highly prized by the most discerning connoisseurs, has now reached its full expression - a moment suspended in time, where perfect balance is achieved, and every element resonates in harmony.

"It is the choice of pleasure - an intoxicating feeling of fulfilment and surrender..."

Jean-Baptiste Lécaillon,
Cellar Master

IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS CRISTAL...

The crown jewel of the Louis Roederer Champagne House, Cristal is the child of the chalk. Shaped by time, this exceptional champagne reveals the purity of a white soil beneath an eternal, luminous sky.

Created in 1876 at the behest of Alexander II of Russia, with the rosé version appearing in 1974, this champagne is produced only in years when the grapes reach perfect ripeness.

Originally, it was Champagne Louis Roederer's finest *cuvée*, reserved for the Tsar, who commissioned his own "wine master" to oversee its creation. It was a blend of rare distinction for the time, drawn from seven grand cru vineyards across the *Montagne de Reims*, the *Vallée de la Marne* and the *Côte des Blancs*. Legend has it that the Tsar, having survived numerous assassination attempts, insisted that the bottle be made of crystal - a noble, translucent material - to guard against poisoning, its flat base designed to ensure that even the slightest concealed explosive could be detected.





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In the early 20th century, Cristal enjoyed a resurgence in popularity under the leadership of Louis Roederer's grandson, Léon Olry-Roederer. It is his initials, "LO-R", that appear on the bottles today, alongside the imperial coat of arms. Camille Olry-Roederer, his widow, who went on to run the Champagne House for 43 years, played a key role in the cuvée's international success.

Today, Cristal is synonymous with haute cuisine, discerning connoisseurs and the most prestigious gastronomic occasions.

FROM CRISTAL TO CRISTAL LATE RELEASE

An attitude, a style, a champagne - Cristal is all of these things. This legendary wine, which has stood the test of time, is now reinventing itself after 150 years, ever more refined and revealing an infinite spectrum of nuances.

Powdery, chalky and bright, this champagne is a masterpiece of artisanal, haute-couture viticulture. In its Late Release version, Cristal reveals another facet of its character, having reached the height of maturity after 20 years of ageing.

What could be more fitting or bold than celebrating the 150th anniversary of this *cuvée* and the 250th anniversary of the Champagne House with a wine that pays tribute to its history?

Cristal Late Release is a natural extension of our iconic *cuvée*. Born in an exceptional year, this vintage champagne reveals greater textural depth and a delectable maturity, delivering an elevated drinking experience.





CRISTAL LATE RELEASE: A NEW EXPRESSION OF TIME

An expression of Louis Roederer's "Laboratory of Time," Cristal Late Release explores new facets of its personality. Preserving the purity, tension and salinity of its chalk terroir, it offers a new interpretation of these defining qualities. The identity of the vintage - always an exceptional year - is faithfully preserved, with all its characteristics revealed with grace and precision.



Carefully preserved for nearly two decades in the cool darkness of Louis Roederer's cellars, under perfect temperature and humidity conditions, this vintage champagne is a wine of remarkable maturity, nourished by prolonged ageing sur lattes. The 2008 vintage rested for 13 years before its disgorgement and dosage. Cristal Late Release is then aged under cork for a further four years in the Louis Roederer cellars, allowing its texture to refine and its flavours to harmonise.

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A rare alchemy of nature and savoir-faire, brought to its apotheosis.

The prolonged ageing concentrates the wine's textures and aromas, adding a tactile dimension: a radiant depth that extends and beautifully refines the signature of the original Cristal.

There is then a fleeting moment of grace - that moment of perfect balance when "perfumes and colours and sounds correspond"; a profound harmony, a multifaceted sensory experience that echoes Baudelaire's ideal, where the wine reveals itself in its most perfect expression.





CRISTAL
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Beautifully enhanced by an exceptional vintage, the Cristal Late Release 2008 captures all the virtuosity of a great year, combined with the perfect expression of a great terroir wine coaxed out by extended ageing. True to the style of the original Cristal, it possesses that same incredible freshness and timeless saline signature.

On the nose, a blend of ripe, candied citrus-like notes mingles with almond, wheat and lightly roasted cocoa beans. Lightness and precision are the hallmarks of this champagne, whose aromas are fresh, clean cut, and almost floral, as if the wine had just blossomed. It has matured gracefully; its aromas and texture have concentrated over the years, preserving the saline character and the drying freshness of the chalk that underpins its initial finesse, all accompanied by a wonderful tactile sensation. The bubbles have also benefited from the long ageing process, becoming softer and smoother, melting into the texture, and thus reinforcing the salinity to the point of forming “salt bubbles.” The palate, now deeper and denser, also appears more composed and appetising, with a hint of white chocolate. A sensation of great depth and remarkably fine balance pervades the whole. This is a seamless, instantly appealing wine, with a saline character and a finish punctuated by refined, noble bitters and lingering notes of Havana cigar, cedar, and undergrowth.

Disgorged on 16/03/2022,
lattes 13 years, 8 g/l, foudres 20%
- 60 PN, 40 CH





CRISTAL ROSÉ LATE RELEASE 2008

A different expression of the original Cristal Rosé, the Cristal Rosé Late Release 2008 combines greater textural depth with a hint of salinity that enhances its chalky, precise and fragrant persistence, giving rise to a delicious umami character. This fine wine boasts a delicate, bright, powdery pink hue and intense aromas: the nose opens with a concentration of fresh citrus and tangy red fruits (especially raspberry) combined with floral nuances. It unleashes a powerful wave of energy and freshness, with a lively acidity that remains full of promise. The delicate notes of ageing then come to the fore: cocoa and toasted hazelnuts, typical of Cristal Rosé. The bubbles are magical - fine, tactile and saline. Longer ageing sur lattes has given the wine a juicier character and body, balancing the immense chalky and saline freshness of the vintage. Delicate smoky notes and a smooth texture give this champagne true gastronomic appeal, magnified by a grand finale that is intense, mineral and zesty.

Longer ageing sur lattes has given the wine a juicier character and body, balancing the immense chalky and saline freshness of the vintage.

Disgorged on 16/03/2022,
lattes 13 years, 8 g/l, foudres 17%
- 56 PN, 44 CH



CRISTAL OVER TIME:

A VISION IN MOTION

Cristal Late Release marks a new milestone in the quest for the ultimate fine wine, opening unexpected horizons and ushering in a new expression of drinking pleasure. Born from an iconic *cuvée*, refined by 150 years of history and perfected by the cellar master's virtuosity, this timeless champagne is now at its fullest expression.

“Like long echoes that afar off mingle
In an undivided unity, profound and dark,
Vast as the night and as the light,
Perfumes and colours and sounds correspond.”

Correspondances, Les Fleurs du Mal,
CHARLES BAUDELAIRE

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LOUIS ROEDERER

CHAMPAGNE