

# Aile d'Argent 2021

CSPC# 102710

750mlx3

13.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	45% Sauvignon Blanc, 19% Sauvignon Gris, 36% Sémillon
<b>Appellation</b>	Margaux
<b>Classification</b>	Bordeaux Blanc
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.chateau-mouton-rothschild.com/aile-dargent/aile-dargent-2021">https://www.chateau-mouton-rothschild.com/aile-dargent/aile-dargent-2021</a>
<b>Analysis</b>	pH: 3.25
<b>Sustainability</b>	Unknown
<b>General Info</b>	

“When I was a little girl, my father made up a fairy tale for me, the hero of which was a magic teapot. Its incredible adventures enchanted me and beguiled my childhood. The teapot was called Aile d’Argent – Silver Wing.” Philippine de Rothschild of the legendary First Growth property Château Mouton Rothschild recalls her inspiration for the leading white wine of this estate. Aile d’Argent is considered one of the gold standard expressions of white Bordeaux, and this limited production, ethereal white wine is as enchanting as the story behind it. For those unfamiliar with the history of Château Mouton Rothschild, this legendary First Growth estate did not receive its accolades without decades of tireless struggle. The property was initially snubbed during the 1855 Classification, and when Baron Philippe de Rothschild acquired the property in 1922, he decried the decision as, “A monstrous injustice.” The Baron was a grand prix racecar driver, a screenwriter, a playwright, a theatrical producer, a poet and one of the most successful winegrowers in Bordeaux. His belief in the Château Mouton Rothschild was so strong that he lobbied relentlessly for the French Government to reclassify Château Mouton Rothschild as a First Growth estate. Eventually, his wish was granted, and the property now has the title of a First Growth estate. Philippine de Rothschild, his daughter, carried on the tradition of expecting nothing short of excellence while managing the property. In addition to improving the *grand vin* and second wines, Philippine planted a small parcel of the vineyard with white grape varieties. It seems like a strange choice for a Pauillac producer to plant white varietals in a region so often associated with varietals like Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot, but Philippine believed in the potential and versatility of this *terroir*. Sure enough, her plantings of Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Sauvignon Gris, and Muscadelle thrived and ultimately produced a stunning, crystalline expression of White Bordeaux.

**About** Aile d’Argent was introduced in the early 1980s, and the idea of planting white varietals at Château Mouton Rothschild was birthed from Philippine’s desire to reconnect with an old Medocain tradition. The wine is very much an homage to her father, the Baron, as he would tell her the tale of Aile d’Argent to comfort her during the frightening and tumultuous time of World War II. During the war, the Baron was imprisoned, and he wrote the story of the magical flying teapot that captivated Philippine’s childhood. The creation of this wine immortalizes both the story and Philippine’s memory of her father.

**Winemakers** Jean-Emmanuel Danjoy – technical director

**Vintage** After a mild and wetter-than-average winter, budbreak took place early and evenly in late March. This was followed by a very dry April, including a significant cold spell, fortunately without incidence on our vineyards thanks to the influence of the nearby Gironde estuary. May brought cool and damp weather which slowed vine growth. Flowering consequently took place within the average dates and in excellent conditions resulting from a marked rise in temperature. Unsettled and stormy conditions from mid-June to mid-July activated mildew, which remained virulent until the end of veraison. Fortunately, drought in August and early September halted the disease, while the resulting water stress improved the quality potential of the grapes grown on our gravel soils. This period was crucial for the maturity of the pips, the development of the tannic structure and the appearance of fruit aromas and flavours. Despite a severe threat of disease at the approach of harvest, the quality of our *terroir* combined with an alert, responsive and cohesive team of pickers working at a sustained pace enabled us to bring in a healthy crop at optimum maturity.



<b>Vintage</b>	The 2021 vintage, having matured in conditions more typical of northerly latitudes, shows a return to the classic equilibrium of vintages from a generation ago, yielding fresh, well-balanced, and well-structured wines that will reveal their full complexity with time.
<b>Vineyards</b>	Renewing an ancestral tradition in the Médoc, in the early 1980s Philippine de Rothschild decided to plant a few acres of the vineyard with white grape varieties. The sandy, gravelly soil is planted with Sauvignon Blanc (53%), Semillon (35%), Sauvignon Gris (11%) and Muscadelle (1%), with a density of 9,000 vines per hectare. 50% of the wine is matured in new oak barrels. Rich, complex and elegant, Aile d'Argent, despite being produced in very limited quantity, has quickly become a standard-setter for lovers of fine Bordeaux white wines.
<b>Harvest</b>	September 6-20, 2021
<b>Winemaking</b>	45% new oak and 15% malolactic fermentation
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The wine is an attractive, crystalline pale yellow with a slightly greenish tinge. The nose expresses great freshness, with succulent aromas of white peach, tropical and citrus fruit and acacia blossom sustained by intense mineral notes. The attack reveals a harmonious combination of fullness and tension on notes of chlorophyll, apricot, and flint. The beautifully vibrant mid-palate builds with great uplift towards a lemon-tinged finish.
<b>Serve with</b>	Aperitif, Seafood, fish, Bream, salmon, artichokes. Serve between 10°C and 12°C
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2025-2033
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>89-91 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p><b>97-98 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com (score only) - May 2022</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - April 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2023</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Vert de Vin - April 2022</p> <p><b>91-92 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - April 2023</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Bursting with aromas of confit citrus, nectarine, grapefruit, and pastry cream, the 2021 Aile d'Argent is a medium to full-bodied, rich, and fleshy wine that's ample and textural, and indeed a touch fat, despite the cooler vintage. It's a blend of 45% Sauvignon Blanc, 19% Sauvignon Gris and the balance Sémillon."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Aile d'Argent is made from 64% Sauvignons and 36% Semillon, harvested from 6 to 20 September, and aging in 45% new oak. 15% of the blend went through malolactic. It slowly unfurls to offers glimpses at wonderfully pure grapefruit oil and lime leaves scents, followed by suggestions of yuzu, coriander seed, peach blossoms, and chalk dust. Light to medium-bodied, the palate delivers fantastic tension with tight-knit citrus and stone fruit flavors and a long, mineral-tinged finish. pH 3.25. 2025-2033."</i> - LPB, Wine Independent</p> <p><i>"Spicy and complex with cardamom, green apple, pineapple, and dried lime. Hints of white chocolate and mango, too. Medium-to full-bodied, layered, and phenolic. Focused and structured, yet very generous and caressing at the same time. Long, driven, and exciting. 64% sauvignon (blanc and gris) and 36% semillon."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Sharp lemon and lime, grapefruit and apricot and peach - exotic yellow fruits and fresh white stone fruits. Lovely clarity and weight on the palate, it has the density and the texture, juicy but not too much, lively but not too much. Just a wonderful crystalline aspect - absolute purity but with the depth coming from the slightly exotic fruit - pineapple with peach and zest citrus fruits that add sweetness and bitterness while a lick of slate gives a salty tang. Rich but also light and playful - excellent balance and overall delectability. So many details on show."</i> - GH, Decanter.com</p>

**Reviews**

*“Beautiful intensity and grip through the palate, this shows white pear, juicy citrus, and slate-filled salinity on the finish. Great stuff, with teasingly drawn-out flavours, lift and tension, and hidden depths. Some frost meant the yields were lower than normal at 32hl/h. 15% malolactic fermentation to soften the acidities, with Sauvignon Gris vines included within the Sauvignon Blanc count, and no Muscadelle in the blend as the vines have now been uprooted, giving a slight break in style (for the better in my opinion). 3.25ph, 45% new barrels for ageing. First year with Jean-Emmanuel Danjoy as director from beginning to end of the growing season, after Philippe Dhalluin’s retirement.”*

- JA, [janeanson.com](http://janeanson.com)

*“Notes of white peach, ginger, flowers, and lemon curd are all over the place. The wine is sweet, fresh, and filled with even more of those ripe, sweet, white peaches and pomelo in the zesty finish. You can enjoy this on release. The wine was made from a blend of 45% Sauvignon Blanc, 36% Semillon and 19% Sauvignon Gris. Drink from 2023-2030.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“The 2021 comprises 64% Sauvignon Blanc and 36% Sémillon. Production is less than 1,000 cases this year. The nose here is full of citrus zest, ripe pear, and a light smokiness. The palate has an almost a piquant freshness to it, with an attack of citrus, greengage, and apple skins. Waves of vibrant acidity add real cut, but this is as intense as it is energetic. The finish is smoky and spicy, with woody tones latching on to the fruit.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The 2021 Aile d’Argent has a more Sauvignon-driven bouquet with lime flower, orange pith, a hint of grapefruit and gooseberry. The palate is well-balanced with a spicy entry, just a hint of ginger, well-balanced with a saline finish. This is absolutely delicious.”*

- NM, *Vinous*

*“Another beautiful white in the vintage, the 2021 Aile D’Argent Blanc is 64% Sauvignon and 36% Semillon brought up in 45% new barrels. Ripe melon, honeyed almond, chalky, and bright grapefruit notes all emerge on the nose, and it’s medium-bodied, with wonderful purity, a great mid-palate, and one heck of a finish. I’d buy it.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Pineapple, lime, and grapefruit joust in this exquisite Aile d’Argent, and there is no trace of anything rich, exotic, or honeyed (thank goodness those days are behind us). This is the most focussed and tense white Moutons I have ever tasted, and I feel that we are finally reaching the finish line of perfecting the white wine project at this illustrious estate.”*

- Matthew Jukes

*“The nose is fruity, fresh and shows a nice precision, a discreet saline character and energy. There are notes of fresh/crunchy mirabelle plum, fresh apple and more slightly fresh/juicy peach combined with fine hints of fresh/ripe lemon/citrus as well as fine hints of white flowers, racy minerality and a subtle touch of orange blossom. The palate is fruity and demonstrates juiciness, freshness, minerality, a nice definition, an acidic backbone, energy, purity, a nice pulpiness, a very nice minerality, fine roundness. On the palate, this wine expresses notes of juicy yellow peach, fresh green apple and, more slightly, lemon, combined with touches of fresh/crisp berries and a subtle hint of citrus, fresh, with discreet hints of quince, yellow flowers, almond, gunflint, and honey (in the background).”*

- Vert de Vin

*“Very beautiful intensity of the bouquet where the wine announces the color, respectively gives clues relating to its style. Inviting nuances of biscuits, quince then lime and linden flowers. On the palate the wine reveals the charm that we know from Aile d’Argent but, and this is where the situation changes, also the salinity and the temperament. Nature may have shown the way to follow, or the way we actually want, a little more pep and less scale. Fruity, delicious, and saline finish. An elegant and salivating wine. (2023 - 2033).”*

- Yves Beck