

Château Clerc Milon 2014

CSPC# 756593

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Carmenere
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.chateau-clerc-milon.com/
General Info	<p>Chateau Clerc Milon, classified a Fifth Growth in 1855, is located in an exceptionally favorable situation adjoining Lafite Rothschild and Mouton Rothschild, both First Growths. Now owned by Baroness Philippine de Rothschild and her children, Chateau Clerc Milon was bought in 1970 by her father, Baron Philippe de Rothschild, at a time when the estate had become very much run down. The property was entirely reorganized and renovated and, under the expert guidance of its new owners, Chateau Clerc Milon has become one of the most sought-after wines both in Bordeaux and throughout the world. The Chateau Clerc Milon label is illustrated with a pair of dancing clowns made of precious stones (the work of a 16th century German goldsmith) from the Museum of Wine in Art at Chateau Mouton Rothschild.</p> <p>When the Rothschilds purchased this Fifth Growth estate in 1970, they began pumping money into the property, and Clerc-Milon now consistently outperforms its rank. With its fairly substantial percentage of Merlot, the result of a recent gradual shift away from Cabernet, this Pauillac often displays an exotic aromatic character, with rich if sometimes rather medicinal-scented fruit and smooth tannins. These wines are ultimately closer in style to its big brother Mouton-Rothschild than to Armailhac, which is also owned by the Rothschild family. Baroness Philippine de Rothschild passed away in August 2014 at the age of 80 years, from the effects of a serious operation.</p>
Vintage	<p>2014 will be remembered as a year of contrasts. Spring arrived in due course after a typical Bordeaux winter, though April was much sunnier and drier than the average.</p> <p>A wet and cool May was followed by a spell of bright and sunny weather, despite some highly localised heavy rainfall, mainly due to storms on 22 and 23 June. The weather in summer was very changeable. July was generally fine and slightly warmer than the average, whereas August was quite a lot cooler and much less sunny, though drier, than normal.</p> <p>With the end of August came one of the longest and most exceptional Indian summers in winegrowing memory, bringing a succession of hot, sunny and dry days which lasted until the end of October.</p> <p>Warm weather in April encouraged early budbreak, especially for the Merlot, while the extraordinary late season enabled the grapes to reach perfect maturity, retaining all the fruit flavours and favouring phenolic compounds. The harvest took place in ideal conditions, leaving plenty of time to pick the grapes at optimum maturity.</p>
Soil	The soils are a mixture of two-thirds sandy gravel, with a deeper seam of clay-limestone. This clay comes to the surface towards the east, nearer the river, accounting for the remaining one-third. The slope of the land aids drainage, as well as improving the aspect of the vines.
Vineyards	43.6 hectares, with 8450 feet of vines per hectare. Average vine age 40 years.
Harvest	22 September to 17 October
Maturation	50% in new barrels during 16 month/s



Tasting Notes The colour is a deep garnet red with a purple tint. The refined and elegant nose displays perfectly ripe fruit, while hints of graphite and liquorice together with aromatic verbena notes leave an impression of sappy freshness. From a very full-bodied attack, the flavours build towards a rich and harmonious balance. The tannins are well-rounded, silky and creamy, underpinning the expression of spicy, judicious oak. The long and full finish is sustained by an attractive freshness on vanilla and forest floor notes.

Serve with Chateau Clerc Milon is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Clerc Milon is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta.

Cellaring Scores/Awards Drink 2019-2038

92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017
91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015
93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017
91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2015
94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2017
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015
17.5 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2015
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 1, 2017
91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 14, 2015
90-92+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 30, 2015
87-89 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2, 2015
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015
16+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2015
88-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
92 points - Richard Jennings, rjonwine.com - January 2017
93-95 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"This is defined by a large, rounded core of enticing cassis, cherry preserves and plum compote, while light anise and briar notes hang in the background. Offers an ample spine for balance, but this feels like it may be approachable sooner because of that ball of fruit. Best from 2018 through 2028."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Delightfully plump and juicy, with a core of fresh plum, blackberry and cherry fruit, lined with alder and dark tea notes. A long iron note is well-buried, and there's more flesh here than in the d'Armailhac, with the tannins feeling rounder and more supple. Should be delicious. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 91-94"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The Château Clerc-Milon 2014 contains less Merlot than usual as the old vines produced just 15 hectoliters per hectare. The blend consists of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère. Like the d'Armailhac '14, there is a sense of opulence on the nose, ripe blackberry intermingling with black olives. The palate is rich and quite tangy on the entry. This is a "full-on" Clerc-Milon, quite extravagant in the context of the vintage, not a shy Pauillac, perhaps due to that expressive old vine Merlot? There is a pinch of soy on the finish that continues onto the aftertaste. Feisty Clerc-Milon for those who want a bit of va-va-va-voom in their Pauillac."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"Extremely floral and fresh with currants, light chocolate and orange peel. Red clay, too. Full-bodied, firm, silky and long with a flavorful finish. Salty undertone. Stones. Really serious. Better in 2021."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews *"A linear and fine Clerc with iodine, red clay and blueberry character. Full body and fine tannins. Tight and refined. Very straight and racy."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This property continues its upward trend. It is a solid wine, packed with great ripe fruit. Old vines give extra concentration and depth of flavor. The wine has great potential, with both its tannins and rich fruit playing strongly. Drink from 2023."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"93–95. Barrel Sample. Continuing its progress to greater and greater quality, this estate has produced a concentrated wine with great structure. The old Merlot vines yield a darkly tannic background that lies over the brilliant black-currant fruits."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Very dark crimson. Mineral lift on the nose. Quite zesty and lifted and savoury - but the fruit is a little raw. Lots of freshness but not too stringy. Although, as for Armailhac, it's a bit demanding and astringent on the finish. And does not last as long. Astringent finish. Lots of effort and density here. For the moment it's a bit brawny and angular but it should come right in the end. Drink 2023-2035"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"More briary, robust and structured than its stable mate d'Armailhac. Impressive vineyard depth – a serious Pauillac on top form."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Freshness, ripe, sweet, dark red fruits, soft, elegant tannins and an attractive, spicy, fresh, red berry finish, what more can you ask for in a young Pauillac?"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Tobacco and forest floor infused with a spray of cedar, the wine is soft, polished, medium-bodied, fresh, complex, elegant and approachable. There is length and a suave charm in the zippy finish. Using 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% old vine Carmenere, the wine reached 13.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.5. 91-93 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Clerc Milon is often a comparative bargain among Pauillac's classed growths and this is particularly true in 2014. Deeply coloured, vibrant and aromatic, it's a scented, complex wine with an undertow of acidity, well integrated tannins and the oak and concentration to age. Very attractive."

- TA, timatkin.com

"Deep and concentrated; vibrant edge; blackcurrant and cassis; some wet rock; nice purity; attractive cool blackcurrant tones; some pretty perfume at edge; Cabernets feel dominant in the blend; spices and blackcurrants on the palate; extract and matter; some chew and more material evident than on d'Armailhac; still more closed but fraction more fruit on display on the day. [58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 29% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Carmenere]. Drink 2022-2030. Tasted at Mouton 30 March 2015. 90-92+

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

[Earlier note] Deep and saturated; some cake spices; wet rocks and minerality; tight; palate also a little tight and sappy; fraction hardness; blackcurrant fruit emerges but the wine is tight and shows elevated acidity leaving it finish chewy at present. Tighter and more closed than at Mouton earlier in the week. Drink 2020-2030. Tasted UGC 2 April 2015. 87-89"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

Reviews

"Like Armailhac, this is made by the Mouton Rothschild team. Always a serious Pauillac, it has been much improved in recent vintages and usually represents good value for money. 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Carmenere. Deep ruby colour. Espresso coffee, charcoal and black cherry on the nose. The palate has a forest fruit flavour, with wood spice, liquorice and smoke from new oak. The palate is crunchy with fine and rounded tannins. Nice weight and intensity, with opulent Cabernet fruit on the finish."

- Farr Vintners

"Both nose and palate have a strong black fruit character firm black cherry backed by fresher bramble. There is mid sweetness hints of black truffles the sweetness giving way to freshness firmness on the back palate yet the finish is sweet with fair depth. 2025-35"

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2014 Clerc Milon is another juicy, fruit-driven wine from the Mouton Rothschild team. A veritable explosion of aromas and flavors makes a strong first impression. Lavender, spice, violet, mint and a array of blue and black stone fruits build into the racy, exotic finish. In 2014, the Cabernet Sauvignon is up and the Merlot is down in the blend. Tasted two times. (AG)"

- AG, Vinous

"Dark red cherry, plum, smoke, tobacco, new leather and licorice flesh out in the 2014 Clerc Milon. Deep and pliant to the core, the 2014 boasts notable resonance from start to finish. Although not a huge wine, the 2014 is long on finesse and class, with silky tannins that balance some of the more overt elements. Hints of cedar, tobacco, earthiness and herbs add the final shades of dimension. Today, the 2014 is quite inward and not fully expressive, but it is nevertheless absolutely impeccable. The blend is 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère."

- AG, Vinous

"Saturated, very dark ruby color; aromatic, cassis, cedar, spice nose; ripe cassis, spice, cedar palate with good balancing acidity; needs 2-3 years; medium-plus finish (58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Carmenère) 92+ points"

- RJ, rjonwine.com
