

Château Clerc Milon 2015

CSPC# 756593

750mlx12

13.4% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Carmenère.
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. 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>In terms of the weather, although 2015 was slightly warmer than average, it was above all very dry (706 mm of rain, compared with an annual average of 862 mm), especially between February and July, from budbreak to veraison. As a result the berries remained small, which explains why the yield was rather low even though we had hopes of a normal crop after flowering. Rainfall in August and September was higher than average, which helped to prevent the ripening process from coming to a halt in a vineyard already stressed by the lack of water. As a result, the grapes matured at rather different rates from one plot to another, according to the variety, the age of the vines and the terroir. In order to ensure that each grape variety and each plot was picked at optimum maturity, the harvest period was the longest in living memory. It lasted 23 days between our three estates, from the first Merlot clusters on 14 September to the last Cabernet Sauvignon grapes on 6 October. The grapes were magnificent, and fermentation took place quickly. The wines immediately showed plenty of colour and a complete array of very intense aromas ranging from red and black fruit to spice and incense. The tannins are generally very well-rounded, dense and seamlessly smooth. After blending, the wines still have the same aromatic intensity and complex, full-bodied structures which barrel-maturing should further enhance. Our 2015 vintage in Pauillac is very similar in its heft and opulence to the 2005 vintage.</p>
Soil	<p>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.</p>
Vineyards	43.6 hectares, with 8450 feet of vines per hectare. Average vine age 40 years.
Harvest	From 17 September to 6 October



Maturation	50% in new barrels during 16 month/s
Tasting Notes	The wine is a crystal-clear garnet red with violet highlights. The fresh and elegant nose exudes ripe morello cherry aromas, followed by subtle notes of liquorice and toast to complete a rich and complex yet light and airy bouquet. Initially refined and silky, the palate gathers power on finely chiseled tannins wrapped in crisp flavours of red fruit, dark chocolate and dried flowers. The rich & harmonious palate leads into a stylish and succulent finish with a slightly minty freshness.
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	Drink 2020-2029
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>93+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - May 2016</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>16 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>88-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>91-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>92-94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>17.7 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>17 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This offers up a perfumed profile of gently warmed cherry and plum fruit along with notes of black tea, vanilla and licorice. Shows a light sanguine twinge through the finish. Best from 2020 through 2029."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Offers a rounded, juicy feel, with cherry and black currant fruit moving along, backed by sweet tobacco notes and a flicker of anise. Pure and fresh. Score range: 89-92"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère, the medium garnet-purple colored 2015 Clerc Milon opens with expressive crushed blackberries, red and black plums and cigar boxes notions with suggestions of dried herbs, earth and violets plus a waft of dark chocolate. Medium-bodied, fine, fresh and elegant, it has a lovely core of very pure red and black fruits, supported by finely textured tannins and finishing on a lingering perfumed note. This is a very pretty, superbly poised Pauillac!"</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *“The 2015 Clerc Milon is a blend of 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, and 1% each of Petit Verdot and Carmenère, raised in 55% new oak. It has a highly perfumed bouquet with scents of small black cherries, graphite, touches of incense and wilted violets. This is a very extravagant bouquet for Clerc-Milon that wants to make an early impression. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin, more expressive and delineated than the 2015 d’Armailhac, the finish beautifully focused with that graphite seam coming through on the sustained finish. This is potentially an outstanding Clerc-Milon, though it will need a decade in bottle to show its true potential.”*

- NM, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 Clerc Milon seems to have tempered the flamboyant aromatics that it displayed out of barrel to manifest a more refined and yet still outgoing bouquet laden with black cherries, raspberry, cedar and freshly picked mint. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, slightly lactic on the entry and with a smooth, almost velvety texture. There is a seam of graphite that becomes more prominent toward the finish, black olive and allspice lingering on the long aftertaste. This is simply an excellent Clerc Milon replete with grace and finesse.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“Extremely floral with blackberry and blueberry character plus hints of violets. Full-bodied yet always in check and reserve with fine tannins and bright acidity that goes on for minutes. Limestone undertones. The finish is particularly long this vintage. Super Clerc. Try in 2021.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is super fine textured with ultra-polished tannins. Full body, blackberry, blueberry and dark chocolate. Long and refined.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Densely structured and firm, this wine has weight, rich black fruits and great concentration. The tannins are still considerable, with obvious potential. This estate is now on top form. Drink this impressive wine from 2026.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“93–95. Barrel Sample. This is a velvety wine with its beautiful tannins and generous fruit. Its acidity shows through in its bright character that is both approachable and structured.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Broad and sweet and easy but perhaps a little less clearly defined than the Ch d’Armailhac 2015. Inky, slightly astringent finish.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Picked 17 Sep - 6 Oct. Rather broader and riper than Armailhac, presumably thanks to the lower Cabernet quotient. But still very fresh, almost inky. Dry finish. 'New fashioned.' Super-appetising. Very long.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Fuller than its stablemate d’Armailhac, showing more black fruits and a broader palate, but the same silky richness is there – a hallmark of big brother Mouton. Has great depth for the future.”

- SS, Decanter.com

“The colour is rich and deep, and the entire experience elevated by a juicy, mouthwatering structure. Some austerity is evident in the tannins but there is a completeness and balance that works extremely well. More clay in the soils at Clerc than in the rest of the Mouton stable, and it comes through in the power of the fruit.

Brilliant - they have done a great job with this estate in recent years, and it is showing its true potential in a vintage where not all of Pauillac has shone. 50% new oak. Always a touch of old Carmenère in this wine. (JA)”

- JA, Decanter.com

- Reviews** *“Floral and tobacco nuances pop right up before moving on to the elegant textured, black cherry, licorice and crushed rock characteristics found here. The wine offers energy and purity in its fruits with soft tannins in the finish.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Elegance, purity and freshness are the hallmarks of this beauty. Medium/full bodied, with layers of alternating black cherry and cassis, you also find notes of spice box, tobacco and cedar. The smooth tannins and fresh dark red fruits in the finish resonate with crispness and length. This will age quite well.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “At the top of my score range, or even better is where this should end up. Rich in texture, silky tannins and ripe, pure, sweet, cassis with a crispness on the palate is the name of the game here.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “The essence of forest floor, freshly fallen leaves and the wrapper of a fine cigar mingle with sweet cherries and fennel to create the aromatics for this medium/full-bodied wine. Silky, elegant, charming and focused on perfectly ripened red fruits, there is a beguiling purity in the cherry finish, leaving a lasting memory on the palate. Blending 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% old vine Carmenère, this wine reached 13.4% alcohol with a pH of 3.63.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Glossy look; healthy; purple edge; ripe Cabernet aromatics; fuller and fatter than d’Armailhac on the day [and then at Mouton the previous day]; singular seam of blackcurrant fruit here; cassis and even some wine gum notes; fresh palate but also full with very good depth of fruit; plenty of flesh here this vintage; creamy fruit tones; again harmonious quality here. Excellent length. [51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Carmenère.] Drink 2024-2035. Tasted 5/4/16 UGCB. 92-94”*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “[Earlier note] Mid depth; fresh looking; nice cassis and blackcurrant tones; spices; some wine gum notes; layered; classical Clerc Milon on the palate; a little stern at this stage but should be good. Tasted 4/4/16 at Mouton. Drink 2024-2032. 90-92”*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “Smooth, rich and well upholstered, this is typical of the wines from the Mouton stable, especially now that the new cellar is in action. It’s a ripe, textured, sweetly oaked style that nods towards the New World as much as the Gironde and is skillfully done. Drink: 2020-2 “*
- TA, timatkin.com
- “Like Armailhac, this Pauillac is made by the Mouton Rothschild team. Always a serious wine, it has been much improved in recent vintages and usually represents good value for money. A fleshy Pauillac with less Cabernet Sauvignon than most. The 2015 is being aged in 50% new oak barrels and 50% one vintage old barrels. 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère. Deep ruby colour. Pure cassis on the nose here, such is the purity of the Cabernet fruit. The palate followed from this with blackcurrant supported by some exotic star anise and smoky, spice flavour to the toast from new oak. This is a vibrant and pure, forward style of Bordeaux with a slick and clean finish.”*
- Farr Vintners
- “Sweet fruit on the nose the palate has generosity at the start the mid palate a mix of cassis and black cherry. The tannins are firm and tend to hold back the fruit tight and structured, yet it does open up at the back with depth richer black fruits on the finish.”*
- Derek Smedley MW
- “A vibrant, well-made Clerc Milon with nice depth and layers of flavors. Wonderful detailed flavors in this vintage including cassis, violets and blackberries. Tannins are firm and well handled with a fairly long length.”*
- JCL, asianpalate.com

Reviews *"Inky blue/purplish fruit, lavender, spice and licorice, along with the natural generosity of the vintage, give the 2015 Clerc-Milon is plush, sumptuous personality. Although not especially complex or nuanced, the 2015 offers plenty of raciness in an accessible, fleshy style that can be enjoyed with minimal fuss. From barrel, the 2015 gave the impression of being quite structured, but the bottled wine is far more forthcoming at this early stage. The blend is 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère. (AG)"*

- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Clerc Milon is plush, round and inviting, with a gorgeous center of fruit, striking aromatics and balance. The tannins are especially silky, which gives the 2015 much of its succulence and inviting personality. Hints of mocha, dark spices and violets add further shades of nuance and gravitas in a Clerc Milon endowed with real depth, density and gravitas. Patience will be key, as the 2015 is likely to require at least a few years to fully come together. This is a very pretty, rewarding Clerc Milon. Tasted three times."

- AG, Vinous

"This is a very stylish Clerc Milon with rather attractive black cherry fruit, a fairly succulent, rich mid-palate and a long, slightly spicy finish. There is a wildness here which I like as this serves to break up the formality on the palate. With only 1% Carmenère in the mix I feel that I shouldn't be able to taste it so clearly, but I can. There is a faint roasted coffee bean note which intrigues and adds to the whole. This is a successful wine and my favourite of all time from this Châteaux. This success is put down to the new winery (finished in 2012) and some serious work in the vineyard. It is even a superior wine to the fêted (by some) 2010!"

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"A total gem is the 2015 Clerc Milon which checks in as 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Petit Verdot and Carmenère. This medium to full-bodied, ripe, polished 2015 shines for its purity and elegance just as much as its depth and richness and boast a beautiful nose of blackberries, black raspberries, and cassis intermixed with lots of spice and cedar pencil nuances. With perfect ripeness, medium to full-bodied richness, sweet tannin, and terrific mid-palate depth, it's going to improve with 4-5 years of bottle age and keep for two to three decades."

- Jeb Dunnuck