

# Château Clerc Milon 2017

CSPC# 890675

6x750ml

13.5% alc./vol.

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|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Grape Variety</b>  | 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Carménère   |
| <b>Appellation</b>    | Pauillac  |
| <b>Classification</b> | Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.   |
| <b>Website</b>        | <a href="http://www.chateau-clerc-milon.com/">http://www.chateau-clerc-milon.com/</a>   |
| <b>General Info</b>   | <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> |
| <b>Winemaker</b>      | Jean Emmanuel Danjoy  |
| <b>Vintage</b>        | <p>After a relatively mild winter and lower than average rainfall, the year 2017 saw an episode of frost on April 27 across the entire Bordeaux region. This year will remain marked by a particularly long period of drought which did not really end until December. Driven by above-average temperatures, the vine's vegetative cycle started slightly in advance at the end of March. The exceptional conditions of April and May led to a 10-day advance in vegetation at the time of flowering, regardless of the grape variety. After a very wet month of June, the summer was moderately sunny, but dry, thus accentuating the water deficit which has persisted since 2016. As a result, the grape berries remained small, concentrating sugars and color. Taking into account the advance of the vegetative cycle and the drought of the summer, the harvests were particularly precocious this year. However, they were spread over four weeks between the three properties, which is exceptionally long.</p>  |
| <b>Soil</b>           | 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.   |
| <b>Vineyards</b>      | 43.6 hectares, with 8450 feet of vines per hectare. Average vine age 40 years.  |
| <b>Harvest</b>        | At Château Clerc Milon, the harvest started with Merlot on September 13 and ended with Petit Verdot and Carmenère on September 29. finalized in December. The wines produced are rich, very colorful and have beautiful tannic structures. They are fleshy and of a good freshness, in spite of the solar character of the vintage. Due to the drought, the quantities produced are down compared to the average.   |
| <b>Maturation</b>     | 50% in new barrels during 16 month/s  |



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| <b>Tasting Notes</b> | The wine has a rich colour with a garnet hue. The nose opens on blackberry notes mingled with refined hints of roasted coffee beans. With airing, noble, and delicate notes of graphite, flint, and cocoa round off this very attractive array of aromas. A fresh and full-bodied attack leaves an impression of generosity and superb balance, leading into a mid-palate on cherry-stone and dark chocolate flavours underpinned by chiselled tannins. The slightly chalky finish is mineral and very long.   |
| <b>Serve with</b>    | 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.  |
| <b>Cellaring</b>     | Drink 2022-2038  |
| <b>Scores/Awards</b> | <p><b>94 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2020</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018</p> <p><b>94+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - December 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2020</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2020</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2018</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - November 2019</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>88-91 points</b> - Derek Smedley MW - May 2018</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2020</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2018</p> <p><b>17.5+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes - April 2018</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Wilfred Wong, Wine.com - January 2020</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Vert de Vin - January 2020</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - July 2018</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p> |
| <b>Reviews</b>       | <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><br/>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Crunchy plum and black currant notes are fresh and focused, while chalk, iron and savory details line the finish. Shows nice purity and mineral drive."</i><br/>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2017 Clerc Milon is medium to deep garnet-purple colored and offers up a gorgeous nose of potpourri, cinnamon stick, candied violets, and kirsch over a core of warm cassis, plum preserves, and boysenberries with a waft of garrigue. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers loads of muscular fruit with a firm, fine-grained texture, and tons of freshness, finishing long and perfumed."</i><br/>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carménère, the 2017 Clerc Milon is deep garnet-purple in color and scented of crushed red and black currants, wild blueberries, and black pepper with touches of cigar box, violets, underbrush, and menthol. Medium-bodied and with a very firm structure of wonderfully ripe, pixelated tannins and exhilarating freshness, it finishes long with notes of pebbles and floral perfume."</i><br/>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>  |

- Reviews** *"A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, and 1% Carménère, the 2017 Clerc Milon has a deep garnet-purple color. It slowly unfurls to reveal notes of baked blackcurrants, blackberry pie, and aniseed, plus wafts of dried herbs and smoked meats. Light to medium-bodied, the palate is lively and elegantly styled with crunchy black fruits and loads of savory sparks, finishing earthy."*  
- LPB, Wine Independent
- "This is a rich and profound red with blackberries, blackcurrants, pine needles and graphite. Black licorice, too. Full-bodied, crisp, and creamy with fantastic tannin backbone and length. Deep. A blend of 60% cabernet sauvignon, 23% merlot, 14% cabernet franc, 2% petit verdot and 1% Carménère. Try after 2022."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Tight and compacted with chewy tannins and showing hot-stone, blackberry, and blueberry character. Full body and a driven finish."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "With its elegant structure and a layer of firm tannins, this wine has density, a dry core and the black-currant freshness that comes with the vintage. The tannins will allow this wine to age well. Drink from 2023."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Finely structured, there is an excellent balance between fruit and tannins on this ripe and juicy wine. It is elegant, harmonious, and poised. It will develop easily and over time will be an impressive wine."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Deep crimson. Rather opulent, yet very Pauillac-spicy nose. Rounder than stablemate Armailhac but still with that appetising dryness on the end. Well-managed tannins but within a very classic structure. Bone-dry finish with a perceptible stoniness."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Lovely fragrance of small dark berries. A light herbaceous note lifting it out of the glass. Smooth, polished though not particularly deep or long. Fresh and singing from the glass in a lighter and delicious style. Drink 2024-2037."*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Creamy weight through the body, although as with the 2001 this is a vintage that stays on the lighter side of its Pauillac tannins. As it opens, you get subtle layers of blackberry, flint, graphite, cassis, touches of smoked coffee beans. A separate vineyard and cellar team had been in charge here since 2009, headed up by ex-Opus One winemaker Jean-Emmanuel Danjoy. The 300 plots of the vineyard had been reworked down to 70 or so plots through careful land purchases, and the vineyard worked carefully to ensure the roots could travel deeper. Blend completed with 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carménère, because at this point a new wine cellar with smaller tanks made it possible to vinify them apart. Drinking Window 2025 – 2044."*  
- GH, Decanter.com
- "It's immediately obvious from both colour and first nose that this has a wonderful richness to it, offering powerful cherry pit, graphite, and dark chocolate notes but without being overly sweet. A serious wine that is delivering on its potential, vintage after vintage. The Cab Franc vines are on limestone and clay here and reached perfect ripeness. Overall, there is a higher percentage of both Cabernets than usual in the blend. 9% press wine. 50% new oak."*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Minerality and salty tannins heighten the natural sweetness of the deep, red fruits. The wine has vitality, gentleness, and the structure to age. The finish delivers ripe cassis, blackberry, licorice and even more rock and stone. Certainly, this is one of the best vintages for Clerc Milon. An arrangement of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% old vine Carmenère, the wine reached 13.2% ABV with a pH of 3.64. The harvest took place September 13 to September 29."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

**Reviews** *"Bramble and bilberry the nose is bright and fresh the palate richer depth of flavour with sweeter ripe fruits. The tannins are fine discreet the rich mix of black fruits fills out the back-palate depth on the finish. Drink 2024-2038."*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2017 Clerc Milon, which contains a tiny lot of Carmenère, has a delightful bouquet that offers blackberry, briary flecks of cocoa nibs and freshly rolled tobacco. It is tightly wound at the moment and simply requires bottle age. The palate is medium-bodied with a fresh, vibrant entry. It is a strict and quite linear Clerc Milon, "correct" to the point of being strait-laced with a well-defined, classically styled off-dry finish. Fine, classy, if medium rather than long-term. What you might call a "cool" customer."*  
- NM, Vinous

*"The 2017 Clerc Milon was picked from 13 to 29 September and matured in 50% new oak (which was represented in the blend tasted.) It has a more closed, backward bouquet compared to the sample of d'Armailhac. It actually reminds me of that other "Milon", Duhart-Milon in style. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, a fine bead of acidity, quite austere and conservative with a precise, pencil-lead, Valrhona chocolate and smoke infused finish that just pulls up a little short at the moment. Tasted three times with consistent notes."*  
- NM, Vinous

*"A real sleeper in this vintage, the 2017 Clerc Milon packs a serious punch. Inky dark fruit, new leather, mint and lavender infuse the 2017 with striking layers of dimension. In 2017, Clerc Milon is shockingly intense, the result of a year with quite a bid of dehydration on the vine. There is no shortage of depth or structure, at least in the early going. I can't wait to see how the 2017 ages."*  
- AG, Vinous

*"The 2017 Clerc Milon is painfully backward and austere. In a vintage in which so many wines are forward and fruity, Clerc Milon is the exact opposite. There is not much pleasure or immediacy here, that much is evident. Inky dark fruit, chocolate, leather, and licorice add to the wine's dark personality. The blend is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère, aged in 50% new oak. After the frost, which did not really affect us, the major challenge in 2017 was heat stress," Mouton Technical Director Philippe Dhalluin told me. "We had no rain until the end of June. Then, in September, when we needed a bit of rain again, we got more than double what would have been optimal. The September rain affected the Merlot and Cabernet Franc, while the Cabernet Sauvignon was able to take advantage of the last 15 days of the growing season, which were much more favorable. In the cellar, we opted for longer macerations at lower temperatures, as we wanted to avoid extracting the type of hard tannins that mark other vintages with very dry summers, such as 2011."*  
- AG, Vinous

*"The 2017 Chateau Clerc Milon checks in as 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Petit Verdot and Carmenère brought up in 50% new French oak. It's a much straighter, more focused, serious wine than the Pastourelle and has classic red and black currant fruits as well as medium to full body, a ripe, spicy, textured mid-palate, building tannins, and a great finish. It's another classic, balanced, nicely textured 2017 that's going to evolve well for 3-5 years and keep for two decades."*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*"The 2017 Clerc Milon checks in as a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot (the estate has Merlot planted on clay soils), 14% Cabernet Franc and the rest Petit Verdot and Carmenère. It offers a beautiful yet tight, promising style as well as classic cassis and black cherry fruits, plenty of graphite and lead pencil, a solid, rich mid-palate, and ripe, present tannin. It should be accessible in its youth, yet better with short-term cellaring."*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*"There is more opulence on the nose here than found on d'Armailhac and this carries onto the palate, too, with more exotic fruit notes and some spice and coffee tones here, too. This is a lovely and ever so slightly flamboyant wine, given its size, and I like the fruit and also the length."*  
- Matthew Jukes

**Reviews** *“Deep dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate lightening of the edges, fine touch of nougat, a hint of dark wild berry confit, delicately of orange zest. Juicy, round, and elegant, delicate tannins, freshly structured, balanced, pleasant spiciness, a multifaceted food accompaniment.”*  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“The 2017 Château Clerc Milon is generous and substantive on the palate. TASTING NOTES: This wine exhibits attractive black aromas and flavors with a hint of dust and earth. Enjoy it with slowly-braised meat dishes. (Tasted: January 24, 2020, San Francisco, CA)”*  
- WW, Wine.com

*“The nose is fruity and offers power, a fine grain and concentration. It reveals notes of Boysen berry, wild strawberry and small notes of lily, lilac and small notes of blackcurrant, wild strawberry and small notes of lily, lilac and small notes of blackcurrant, liquorice associated with very fine hints of sweet spices, vanilla pod, cornflower, and very discreet hints of sugared mild tobacco. The mouth is fruity, well-balanced and offers a beautiful definition, gourmandize, an acidulous frame and tension. On the mouth this wine expresses notes of fleshy cherry, fleshy/juicy strawberry and small notes of crunchy/juicy blackcurrant associated with small touches of violet, lily/cornflower as well as fine hints of liquorice, chocolate, caramelization, and very discreet hints of vanilla (in the background). Good length. A beautiful persistence.”*  
- Vert de Vin

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