

Château Clerc Milon 2019

CSPC# 866062

6x750ml

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% 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.</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>
Winemaker	Jean Emmanuel Danjoy
Vintage	<p>The year started with a warmer- and drier-than-usual winter, with the temperature reaching a record 24.7° C on 27 February. The mild weather triggered an early start to the vine cycle, which gradually slowed with the arrival of a cooler spring and lower-than-average temperatures. As a result, flowering finally took place around the normal time.</p> <p>After sharply contrasting conditions in June, when a late cold spell and heavy rainfall were followed by an early heatwave, very fine weather prevailed in July. The summer was particularly sunny and hot, leaving the vines in perfect condition on the eve of the harvest. A few welcome showers in July and August greatly helped to dispel any fears of dehydration.</p> <p>Picking at Château Clerc Milon took place between 19 September and 9 October. Although a few drops of rain fell during the harvest, the conditions remained generally very good, guaranteeing grapes of outstanding quality.</p> <p>Mirroring nature's generosity in 2019, the wines are very rich, deeply coloured and with good alcohol content. Close-knit, satin-smooth tannins make this a very promising vintage.</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	From 19 September to 9 October
Maturation	50% in new barrels during 16 month/s
Tasting Notes	The wine is a crimson-hued garnet red. Elegant and refined, the nose exudes floral aromas, going on with airing to develop notes of blackcurrant and licorice root. The full and smooth attack reveals an alluring and



Tasting Notes	complex array of flavors in which ripe fruit is magnificently set off by notes of toasted cereals and violet. The mid-palate is underpinned by high-quality close-knit and creamy tannins, leading into a saline and slightly minty finish which lingers on hints of chocolates.
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 2022-2038
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>92-94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2022</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p>17+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - December 2021</p> <p>95 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p>95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Presents a very fresh core of cassis, red cherry and damson plum fruit flavors that meld nicely with a racy iron streak, while light savory and floral details run along the edges. A very pure and bright version that should age well. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Carmenère. Best from 2023 through 2038."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2019 Clerc Milon is a real success. At more than 70%, this blend contains one of the highest proportions of Cabernet Sauvignon in the property's recent history, and the result is a wine of real nobility. Offering up aromas of violets, wild berries, licorice, loamy soil, and cigar wrapper, it's full-bodied, layered, and multidimensional, with notable depth at the core, lively acids and ripe, powdery tannins that assert themselves on the finish. From clay-limestone soils rather than the sandy gravels that characterize d'Armailhac, this is by some margin the more structured and serious of Mouton-Rothschild's two Pauillac stablemates. Drink Date 2029 – 2055."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The blend this year is 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, harvested from the 19th of September to the 9th of October. Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2019 Clerc Milon starts out a little closed and broody, offering notes of tar, chargrill, tapenade and Marmite toast over an emerging core of stewed plums, black cherries, and kirsch with a touch of garrigue. The medium-bodied palate delivers loads of freshness with crunchy black fruits and a lively line, backed up by grainy tannins, finishing long and savory."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, it bursts with black cherry pie, wild blueberries, and cassis with hints of cinnamon stick, cracked pepper, and tilled soil. Medium-bodied, it is very elegant and fresh with firm, fine-grained tannins and lovely freshness supporting the tightly wound fruit, finishing long and perfumed."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Independent</p>

Reviews *“Aromas of crushed stone, blackcurrants, and blackberries. Full-bodied with extremely well-crafted tannins that are chewy and layered, yet polished and fantastic. Love the finish. Drink after 2026.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“A very tight, precise red with super fine tannins that are tight and focused. Medium-to full-bodied with linear tannins and a bright, vivid finish. It’s leaner and refined. Precise and driven. This is a very cabernet sauvignon-driven Clerc with 76% cabernet sauvignon.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Dense and rich, with a high proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon, this is another great vintage from the estate. Its black fruits ooze concentration alongside firm tannins that promise a potential for long aging. The aftertaste has opulent black currant richness.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Dense, reserved, even broody. Broader across the palate but with real length and drive. Good fruit weight. Firm but very fine tannins. Chalky freshness through and through. Almost but not quite on the right bank.”
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

“Black core with black-cherry rim. Charry, smoky nose entangled with pure cassis fruit. Fragrant and elegant. Dry and elegant in tannin texture too, even if it is all rather withheld at the moment. Firm, savoury, so dark, with a rocky mineral finish. 13.5%. Drink 2030 – 2045.”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“Great Cabernet nose, generous and quite expressive filled with blackcurrants and black plums. Rich and densely concentrated but with a cooling freshness from the limestone. Profound on the palate, this makes a real impact and impression with layers of flavour that are nicely framed and direct. Soft yet muscular with a fresh, menthol, liquorice and softly sweet ending that really leaves a delightful lasting note. Just a brilliantly concentrated glass of wine with power and sophistication. Persistent ending will age very well. I love the texture and overall feel of this. Drinking window: 2027 – 2044.”
- GH, Decanter.com

“The wine has the highest levels of Cabernet Sauvignon since the 1980s, and even on the nose you can feel its impact in terms of the depth of tight black fruit. Extremely good quality with fine tannins that build, build, build over the palate, and grip on, forcing you to slow down and pay attention. Beautiful spice with menthol, slate, pencil lead, blackberry, and blackcurrant. An exciting wine with real energy and forward motion, helped to withstand the summer heat by its position by the river, and the fact that the average age of the vines at Clerc Milon is almost 50 years. 2% Petit Verdot completes the blend. Jean Emmanuel Danjoy's last outing doing the full vintage at Clerc Milon before he heads over to Mouton as technical director. Drinking Window 2028 – 2044”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Beautifully judged extraction of fruit, and a tender quality to the tannins. A touch of gunsmoke on the finish, with a tightrope walk of acidity and concentrated blackcurrant and black cherry fruit. This is confident, precise, not overly generous, but gives the most lovely Pauillac kick. 65% new oak. The last full vintage of Jean-Emmanuel Danjoy at Clerc Milon before he headed over to Mouton Rothschild (with the 2020 working across both Clerc Milon and Mouton). Harvest September 19 to October 9.”
- JA, Inside Bordeaux

“The large percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon, 72%, (The highest percentage since 1986) seems to have added a lot of complexity here, as it was so ripe. Now, you find a complex array of flowers, spice, tobacco leaf, blackberries, and currants in the nose. Fresh, crisp, soft, sweet, and vibrant on the palate, the wine offers length, purity, freshness, and a finish loaded with sweet red fruits, a touch of peppery spice, and just a hint of savory, leafy herbs on the backend. This is in contention as the best vintage of Clerc Milon ever produced. Drink from 2027-2047.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *"Flowers, chocolate, tobacco, blackberry, and cassis are just some of the nuances you experience before reaching the silky, polished, refined core of fruit on the palate and in the finish. It is interesting to note that 1986 was the last time Clerc Milon had this much Cabernet in the blend."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep ruby in colour, with a pure cassis note layered with sweet and savoury spices - there is a restrained, mineral quality to the fruit this year. The palate has a vibrant balance with fresh acidity but fleshy, ripe black fruit at the core. The fruit is creamy and broad, but there is good restraint and chalky tannins that leave a savoury, moreish impression. Long, deep, and smoky on the finish. Tasted at Waddesdon Manor."
- Farr Vintners

"It is quite intense on the nose, a mixture of red and black fruit, sous-bois and traces of tobacco. There is a fullness to the aromatics that I appreciate, hints of brown spice emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins. This is not a bold, structured Clerc Milon. This feels elegant and refined, gently building to a lightly spiced finish with judicious cracked black pepper and clove notes. Understated and classy. Tasted twice with consistent notes."
- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Clerc Milon is seriously impressive. Dense, plush, and explosive, Clerc Milon delivers a captivating mix of inky, dense fruit intermingled with savory accents from the 72% Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend (the highest since 1986). Dried herbs, tobacco, menthol, and licorice weave into the deep, resonant finish."
- AG, Vinous

"Clerc Milon is especially fine in 2019. Dark and mysterious in the glass, with superb resonance, the 2019 reveals myriad dimensions of its personality with a bit of aeration. Sage, mint, lavender, licorice, and spice add complexity to the dark fruit in a Pauillac that delivers the goods."
- AG, Vinous

"Brought up in a mix of new and used barrels, it has a healthy ruby/plum color to go with a great nose of ripe red and black fruits supported by some classic Pauillac lead pencil, tobacco, and spice box notes. I love its overall balance, it's medium-bodied, has silky tannins, and the fresher, elegant style of the vintage. I wouldn't call it mid-weight, but I compared this to the 2014 on release, and I still think that comparison holds, although there's a touch more length and intensity in the 2019. This will drink well today with a decant (I followed this bottle for two days) and will shine for a good two decades."
- Jeb Dunnuck

"More intensity and dark fruit emerge from the glass, and it has an elegant, medium to full-bodied style as well as classy Pauillac spice, cedar pencil, tobacco, and assorted darker fruits. It reminds me of the 2014 with its more elegant, charming style."
- Jeb Dunnuck

"Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate rim lightening. Fresh black fruit of liquorice and cassis, fine blackberry confit underlaid, fine nuances of candied orange zest. Juicy, extract-sweet, notes of cherries, fresh structure, fine tannins, salty minerality on the finish, very balanced, shows good length and aging potential, a hint of nougat in the finish."
- Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is elegant, racy and offers a small concentration / power (but well mastered), a good finesse of the grain as well as a small intensity. It reveals notes of pulpy cassis, pulpy strawberry and small notes of pulpy small black fruits associated with small touches of violet, lily as well as hints of zan, Cuban pepper, nutmeg as well as very discreet hints of spices and a subtle hint of vanilla. The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers a juicy / slightly acidulous frame, tension, finesse, a very fine unctuousness, a beautiful juiciness / freshness, a good definition, gourmandise, a fine (and racy) grain as well as precision. In the mouth this wine expresses notes of pulpy / juicy cassis, juicy / fresh blackberry and small notes of juicy / fresh strawberry associated with fine touches of violet, lily, chocolate, caramelization as well as very slight hints of zan, Cuban pepper, a very discreet hint of star anise and toasted hazelnut. Tannins are elegant, racy, and very slightly mellow"
- Vert de Vin
