

Château D'Armailhac 2005

CSPC# 756592

750mlx12

13.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Website	http://www.chateau-darmailhac.com/
General Info	Château d'Armailhac, previously named Château Mouton-d'Armailhacq (historical name from inception, 1750–1955), Château Mouton-Baron Philippe (1956–1973), Mouton Baronne (1974–1978) and Château Mouton-Baronne-Philippe (1979–1988), is a winery in the Pauillac appellation of the Bordeaux region of France. The wine produced here was classified as one of eighteen <i>Cinquièmes Crus</i> (Fifth Growths) in the Bordeaux Wine Official Classification of 1855. Since 1989 its original identity has been restored and it is now known as Château d'Armailhac. Baron Philippe de Rothschild bought the estate in 1933 and it remains in the hands of his daughter, Baroness Philippine de Rothschild.
Vineyards	Today the property comprises 50 ha of land under vine, with more being planted, so the expansion of the late 20th century continues. There are three principle vineyards, including the 26 hectare <i>Plateau des Levantines et de L'Obélisque</i> , an extension of the Carruades croupe, where gravel reigns supreme, the 19 hectare <i>Plateau de Petit Pibran</i> , which has soils of sand and chalk over a limestone base, and <i>Le Croupe de Béhéré</i> , 5 hectares of light gravel up to three metres deep in places. They are planted at a density of 8500 vines/ha, with 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, with an average age of 47 years, although some sections of the vineyard are easily a century old.
Harvest	Harvest 21 September to 27 September
Vintage	Weather conditions for the 2005 vintage were unusual, since the year was 0.3° C colder than the average for the last forty years, mainly due to cooler than normal nights. The period from April to September was particularly dry, with only 313 mm of rainfall being recorded between the start of the year and the harvest, compared with an average of 602 mm. However, these exceptional conditions did not affect the usual pace of the vegetation cycle. Flowering occurred for all three varieties around 5 June and veraison took place a few days earlier than the average, between 1 and 8 August. The grapes were harvested between 21 September and 6 October in conditions that may be described as ideal. Although the atypically dry weather meant that yields were relatively low, the wines show rich, powerful and stylish tannins. Overall, the profile of the 2005 vintage is rather reminiscent of 1976, 1982 and 1995.
Maturation	Fermentation temperatures are allowed to rise quite high, blending follows malolactic fermentation, and the wine spends 16 months <i>en barrique</i> , of which about 30% are new, the remainder being old Mouton barrels.
Tasting Notes	The wine has an attractive colour, dark and deep. The nose delicately combines floral aromas, berry fruit (blackberry and cherry), fresh fruit reminiscent of nectarine and a touch of roast coffee. Ample and sturdy on the palate, it reveals forward but already well-integrated tannins that give an impression of body and heft, pleasantly sustained by refined, toasty and slightly smoky oak. The finish, long and full, displays a perfect balance between solid structure, roundness, body and rich, satisfying flavours.
Cellaring	Drink 2014-2030
Scores/Awards	90 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008 89-91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2006 90+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008 90-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007 90-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006 90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012 93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2009



Scores/Awards **89-92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2005
89+ points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2008
18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2008
17 points - Decanter.com - April 2006
90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - December 11, 2011
92 points - Wine & Spirits Magazine - October 2008
16 points - John Berry, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2008
86 points - Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine (score only)
17.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)
16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
2 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2009

Reviews *"Exhibits blackberry, currant and licorice on the nose. Full and velvety, with plenty of good fruit. A balanced, fruity red. Best after 2012."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Aromas of blackberries and ripe fruit with hints of cigar box. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a rich and ripe finish. A balanced and rich wine. May be better than 2003 and 2000. Score range: 89-91"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"This powerful, tannic, structured effort from Mouton-Rothschild's stable is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Its dense ruby/purple color is followed by an earthy nose dominated by black currants and toasty, smoky oak. Medium to full-bodied with relatively high tannin, decent acidity, and a fine finish, it should be at its best between 2014-2030."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Abundant tannin in addition to a deep ruby/purple hue, superb purity, and a lovely texture are found in this delicious Pauillac. One of the finest d'Armailhacs I have ever tasted, it is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot that achieved an amazing 13.3% natural alcohol. Aromas of black currants, creamy oak, and earth emerge from this medium to full-bodied effort. It should be drinkable in 4-5 years and will last for two decades or more."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"I think the 2005 d'Armailhac may turn out even better than its stable mate, Clerc-Milon. This combination of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot achieved 13.3% alcohol. Revealing lovely creme de cassis-like notes, a beautiful texture, brightness, and sweet tannin, it is an impressively endowed, medium to full-bodied, relatively approachable 2005, although it will undoubtedly display more tannin after bottling. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2020+."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at BBR's 2005/2009 tasting in London. Here, the d'Armailhac is ripe and ebullient on the nose with glossy red-berried fruit, tobacco, graphite and just a touch of soy. Full 'o beans indeed! The palate is medium bodied with chunky tannins, a little rough round the edges with a tannic, saline finish with touches of boysenberry and Hoi Sin. Very fine. Tasted July 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted single blind at Southwold. This has a gorgeous, ripe nose with blackberry, bilberry and a touch of plum. Good definition and nice lift. The palate is ripe, chewy tannins, nice depth, clean on the finish. Fresh and lively, quite feminine and a nice grippy finish. Full 'o beans! Drink 2010-2030. Tasted January 2009."

- NM, Wine Journal

"A tight plummy nose, quite precocious and harmonious. Good definition. The palate is very pure, plummy with some cassis towards the finish. Very focused and lush, but those tannins are well disguised, because you can feel them in the mouth long after the wine is expelled. Excellent this year. Tasted April 2005."

- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews *“Bright ruby-red. Blueberry, chocolate and leather on the nose, which suggests a wider range of ripeness than the 2006. Unusually sweet and lush for this wine but in a youthfully sullen stage, hinting at sexy oak tones and some leafy high notes. Densely packed but tight and tannic today, with its structure dominating. This needs patience.”*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Very dark and toasty on the nose then lovely flesh and freshness. Great balance and real delicacy too. A subtle wine. Well done!”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“(tasted blind) A seductive nose, with charcoal, truffle and lead pencil in a forward expression. Not the same depth as the preceding wine (Mouton Rothschild 2006), but open and enjoyable today. (4 stars) “

“Finely concentrated fruit shows natural ripeness and lift and extremely attractive elegance among a range of much bigger wines, very pretty style. Drink 2009/20.”

- Decanter.com

“Located in the north of Pauillac, between Mouton and Pontet-Canet, this 123-acre estate is also part of G.F.A. Baronne Philippine de Rothschild. The aroma balances meaty fruit and mineral scents, and while the pungent red fruit is always there, the tannins seem to increase their intensity with air. They cover the pure black cherry flavor like a powerful skin, deep and plush with an iron-knuckle punch. The tannins don't go away, but their inner velvet eventually wins out. This has improved significantly since the en primeur tastings and will continue to evolve for ten to 15 years in the bottle”

- Wine & Spirits

“This is developing nicely. With a nose filled with cedar wood, cassis, oak, lead pencil and hints of tobacco, this is all about Pauillac. Soft and round in texture, while this lacks the density found in the top wines, it also lacks the high price tag. Produced from a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, this is a Left Bank Bordeaux wine that you can drink now and over the next 12-15 years.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The château formerly known as Mouton-Baronne-Philippe, but since 1989 called d'Armailhac, is the least known of Baroness Philippine's trio of estates but is arguably the best value. Rich, dark dried fruits and floral hints on the nose are followed by a delicious palate of surprising depth and intensity. Fresh acidity and excellent concentration

of wild berry fruits contributes to the energy of this wine, while the Pauillac earthiness just adds another element to the wine's sexy character”

- JB, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants
