

Château D'Armailhac 2014

CSPC# 780150

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855
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.
Vintage	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. 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. 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. 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.
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	22 September to 9 October
Vinification/ 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 colour is deep and dense. The highly refined nose exudes wild blackberry liqueur and cherry aromas, rounded off by subtle notes of liquorice and spice. The attack shows fine balance and the tannins are well-structured, enfolded in a richly smooth body with jammy fruit flavours. The finish reveals a wine full of promise, associated with an initial impetus from the fruit which gives it excellent length.
Serve with	Chateau d'Armailhac is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau d'Armailhac is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta."
Cellaring	Drink 2018-2035



Scores/Awards **91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017
90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015
88-90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017
93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2015
92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2017
91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015
17.25 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2015
90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 1, 2017
89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 14, 2015
89-91+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 30, 2015
87-89+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2, 2015
91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015
15.5+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2015
86-89 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
92 points - Richard Jennings, rjonwine.com - January 2017
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
16.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"Fresh and pure, but not shy on depth, offering an ample core of cassis and blackberry purée flavors. There's a fine chalky minerality throughout, but overall the structure is polished. Anise and spice notes add range. Best from 2018 through 2028."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Bright, juicy and engaging, with a racy damson plum and red currant core striped with singed cedar and vanilla and backed by a good twinge of iron. This is brisk and pleasantly taut. Textbook Pauillac. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 90-93"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The Château d'Armailhac 2014 is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot (slightly more Merlot than usual.) It will be matured in around one-third new oak. The opulence and richness are immediately apparent on the nose with hints of black olive infusing the black fruit. The palate is medium bodied with slightly grainy tannin, quite dense black fruit with a spicy attack towards the saline finish. It feels a little abrasive at the moment, but the rough edges should be rounded by the time."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"This is very tannic yet polished and firm with currants, bark, and stones. Full-bodied and muscular and linear. Love the length. Beautiful. Try in 2020."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Very minerally, silky and refined with a full body, firm tannins and currants, stones and citrus. Racy and fine. This has a little more Merlot in the blend but is mostly Cabernet Sauvignon as always. One of the best Armailhacs in a long time."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Sometimes seen as the junior estate in the Mouton-Rothschild stable, this property is now showing its own fine character. The wine is juicy with crisp fruit and soft tannins. It is in a rounded generous style that will allow it to be drinkable relatively soon. Drink starting from 2020."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

- Reviews** *"91–93. Barrel Sample. A mild summer with cool nights kept the freshness in the Merlot grown on the gravel soil of this vineyard. As a result, this wine has delicious fruitiness and a crisp edge to go with the background of tannins."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Mid crimson. Clean, sweet and mild on the nose, a little toasty and some polish. Correct and not too drying, with some green notes - very un-luscious. A little demanding and austere but with good energy and sleekness. The finish is impressively long. An interesting wine that is so low key that at first I almost overlooked it. Drink 2021-2032"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "The aromatics of Cabernet Franc, Merlot's richness and Cabernet Sauvignon's firmness blend seamlessly into a beautifully made, polished wine."*
- SS, Decanter.com
- "Solid wine this year, with a spicy, dark, red berry nose, complicated by tobacco and earthy aromatics. Medium/full bodied with freshness, finesse and refined, ripe, sweet fruits in the finish."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "This deep, ruby colored wine offers black raspberries and licorice in the nose. The fruit is sweet and spicy with a lush, black cherry finish. Blending 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.8 alcohol. 89-91 Pts "*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "2014 Deep core; purple red at edge; attractive Cabernet purity; very pretty Cab; flattering at this stage; some wet rocks; blackcurrant and oak on the palate; chew and some density; balanced with decent sense of equilibrium; has flesh and good length. [50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. 13.8% alc]. Drink 2021-2028. Tasted Mouton 30 March 2015"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Deep and saturated look; creamy notes; some fruitcake elements; spices and cassis; little lift; wet rock notes; cool entry to the palate – blackcurrants and cassis and tannin and extract on the finish. Little pushed in feel at the back but textured in the mid palate with some chew to resolve in the tannins. Drink 2020 – 2030. Tasted UGC 2 April 2015. 87-89+"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Still a little unformed at present, but this is dense, rich and youthful with plummy fruit flavours, good oak integration and undertones of mint and cinnamon. The tannins are a little too drying on the finish but should integrate with time."*
- TA, timatkin.com
- "This good value classed growth Pauillac was formerly known as Mouton Baronne Philippe and is made by the same wine-making team as Mouton Rothschild. 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. 13.8% alcohol. Medium-deep ruby with a purple hue at the rim. An expressive nose of spring flowers, violets and cherries. There is a vibrant, crunchy palate that finishes with fresh acidity. The tannins are soft, supple and polished, adding a little spice and pepper."*
- Farr Vintners
- "The nose has red fruits the start of the palate bright and fresh. Firm in the middle with a little more depth and sweetness at the back but the finish is firm quite tight and very fresh. 2025-35"*
- Derek Smedley MW

Reviews *“The 2014 d'Armailhac is bright, precise and finely sculpted. Expressive red stone fruit, flowers, mint, chalk and citrus abound in this vibrant, beautifully delineated Pauillac. Open-knit and expressive, with good depth and silky tannins, the wine exudes class. The fresh, invigorating style is classic 2014. This is a lovely showing. Tasted two times.”*

- AG, Vinous

“The 2014 d'Armailhac is absolutely delicious. Dark red cherry, plum, pomegranate, spice and floral notes are bold and exuberant in the glass. This is an especially extroverted, silky d'Armailhac long on class, finesse and resonance. All the elements are in the right place. Ripe, silky tannins add to an overall impression of creaminess, but there is also a terrific element of pure energy here. The 2014 has a bit more Merlot in the blend than usual and also clocks in around 13.8% in alcohol, which is high for the estate. More importantly, though, d'Armailhac is a real overachiever in this vintage. The blend is 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot.”

“Saturated, very dark ruby color; cassis, cherry, vanilla, spice nose; tight, tasty, cassis, cherry palate with good balancing acidity; needs 5 years; medium-plus finish (50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot; 12 months in oak, 33% new)”

- RJ, rjonwine.com
