

Château D'Armailhac 2016

CSPC# 880794

750mlx12

13.4% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 8% 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.
Winemaker	Philippe Dhalluin
Vintage	<p>In 2016, there were two main trends in the weather as we experienced it in Pauillac:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– a very wet winter and spring: more than half of the annual rainfall came in the first four months of the year, including a record 240 mm in January;– an extremely dry summer and autumn without any significant rainfall, resulting in a water deficit at the end of the year. <p>As a consequence of the summer drought, the grapes were numerous but remained rather small, making for density and concentration.</p> <p>High temperatures in August and September allowed for slow ripening and excellent maturity, so that the harvest started with the Merlot on 26 September and continued in perfect conditions until 14 October.</p> <p>In the vat house, each grape variety and each plot were, as usual, vinified separately in order to let their intrinsic character shine through.</p> <p>The wines, which have now been blended, offer remarkable colour, intense fruit and spice aromas and a dense texture of very rich and well-rounded tannins.</p>
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 principal 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	From 12 September to 3 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 wine is dark and deep with purple tints. The intense and complex nose exhales perfectly ripe fruit aromas followed with airing by succulent roast coffee and blackberry notes. From a full and dense attack, the mid-palate reveals elegant and well-rounded tannins which underpin liquorice flavours with hints of refined and elegant oak. The long and flavourful finish lingers on red fruit flavours and chocolate notes.
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
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2022-2035

- 93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019
- 92-95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - May 2017
- 93 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - November 2018
- 92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017
- 95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019
- 95-96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017
- 90 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019
- 16 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2020
- 17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018
- 17- points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017
- 93 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018
- 93 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017
- 93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019
- 93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019
- 93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018
- 93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017
- 91 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017
- 92+ points** - Farr Vintners - April 2017
- 89-92 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017
- 93 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019
- 92 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019
- 89-91 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017
- 94 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019
- 93 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2018
- 93 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - April 2017
- 94 points** - Falstaff Magazine - May 2017
- 16 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - May 2017
- 17 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

Reviews

"This juicy red sports dark plum, fig and boysenberry fruit backed by an equally strong wave of bramble and sweet tobacco notes. The cast-iron spine pins down the finish, so give this a little time to integrate fully. Best from 2023 through 2038."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Inviting, with notes of currant preserves and cherry sauce giving way to taut charcoal and singed alder accents. The chalky finish is a bit tight, but the stuffing is there. This has really good energy. Score Range: 92-95"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2016 D'Armailhac opens with gregarious crème de cassis, blackberry pie and mulberries scents with hints of chocolate box, roses and charcoal with a waft of dried sage. Medium-bodied, the palate has a rock-solid frame of firm, grainy tannins, and wonderful freshness, finishing long and earthy. 2021 – 2040."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 D'Armailhac is a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that was picked between 27 September and 14 October. The bouquet is very impressive, typical d'Armailhac in terms of the opulence and flamboyance with lush black cherry and boysenberry fruit, a subtle floral note developing with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with a crisp and tensile entry; there is immense purity here with some lovely blue fruit appearing on the finish. This is a d'Armailhac that is emboldened by unprecedented tannic structure that gives it real backbone and a sense of authority. Quite simply, this is one of the best wines of Château D'Armailhac that I have tasted, somehow not a million miles away from Grand Puy Lacoste in style. Drink 2021 - 2045."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"This is a really driven d'Armailhac showing blackcurrants and fruit tea with hints of bark on the nose and palate. Full-bodied, very firm and structured with a long and powerful finish. Direct and linear. Try after 2023."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews *“This is really tannic and muscular for d’Armailhac. Perhaps the most powerful ever. Full and chewy yet balanced and polished. Very, very impressive. Greatest ever?”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is a ripe wine, full of black fruits with attractive tannins. It has depth but the wine is more about fruitiness and relatively quick development. Drink this already delicious, lightly spicy wine from 2022.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Tasted blind. First bottle: Spicy purple fruit on the nose. Quite pure and bone dry. With well-managed tannins. Uncompromising but pure in its intent. Second bottle had much more fruit in the middle. Drink 2023 – 2032.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Bright mid crimson. Some real interest and depth on the nose of this wine. Still quite a way to go with tannins still quite separate from the (interesting) fruit. Bone dry finish but there is energy and persistence and character here. 17/20 points”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Very dark, blackish purple. Perfumed and rather seductive. Pretty chunky and solid. Tannins more in evidence than in some (though admittedly this is my first Pauillac in a long run of wines). A long-distance runner. Very juicy. Drink 2027-2045.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“There's fairly high acidity on the attack here, and yet it's well balanced by a body that's richer and deeper than in many years of Armailhac. You can definitely feel the texture and the powerful depth of brambly fruit, and there are also some of the signature lilting floral notes, given extra charge through graphite, liquorice, cassis, and that pulsating acidity. Great quality. 2% Petit Verdot completes the blend.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Such richness through the palate, with deep crushed blackberry notes alongside soft coffee bean. I get hints of Petit Mouton here. The Mouton stable measure their tannins in weight, not IPT, and this year comes in even higher than 2010, 4.5g compared to 4g. You don't feel it because the grain of the tannins is so fine, but it is clearly going to age well, without any dryness. Incredible balance, with a pH of 3.55 giving freshness to the alcohol and making these wines really not very difficult to taste. 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, to be aged in 30% new oak.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Juicy, earthy and with a touch of fine dust to the tannins, the wine has lift, the fruit is ripe, sweet and soft. Medium bodied, refined and energetic, give this 7-8 years in the cellar and enjoy it over the next 2 decades of life.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Black cherries are all over the place. The fruit is fresh, juicy, and long with cocoa and spicy plum scents. The wine has lift, the fruit is sweet and soft, this is the best wine ever made at the property.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Medium/full bodied, soft, polished, sweet, dark red fruits, with freshness, ripe tannins and a tobacco, cedary edge to the nose.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"Black cherry, cocoa, flowers and spicy plum aromas create the nose. On the palate, the wine is fresh, sweet, and silky. The tannins are soft, and the fruit feels good as it sticks on your palate. Medium/full bodied, long, and harmonious, this is easily the best wine ever made at the property. Produced by blending 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 0.8% Cabernet Franc and 0.2% Petit Verdot, this wine reached 13.4% alcohol. The harvest took place September 27 to October 14."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"A wine that always delivers on the value for money front, this is a serious, well-made red that doesn't lack ambition. The oak is a little prominent, but there's more than enough leafy fruit sweetness and fine-grained tannins to soak it up. 2020-28."

- Tim Atkin MW

"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. 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot this year. Quite a deep colour, with a cool, fine nose of black fruit, sage, and cloves. The palate shows exotic anise and clove with black cherry and blackcurrant fruit framed by fine-textured tannins that are well-integrated but will provide the structure to age. Really harmonious fruit and spice linger through to an impressively long finish. A very good showing for this Chateau in 2016."

- Farr Vintners

"The black fruits on the nose are sweet the start of the palate has depth of fruit. Lighter and firmer in the middle there is underlying freshness bright at the back with sweet fruit richness on the finish. 2026-42."

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2016 d'Armailhac, which was bottled in May 2018, has an elegant bouquet that unfolds in the glass, offering blackberries, briar and a touch of cedar and mint. The palate is medium-bodied with dense tannin, grippy in the mouth, and quite voluminous, with perhaps more density on the solid, almost broad-shouldered finish compared to the Clerc-Milon. This fulfills all my expectations from my barrel tasting and is quite simply one of the best d'Armailhac wines ever made."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2016 d'Armailhac is powerful and dense, just as it was from barrel. Readers will have to give the 2016 at least a few years in bottle, as the tannins are imposing. Dark red plum, licorice, spice, iron, game, and scorched earth all give d'Armailhac its distinctive savory flavor profile that is quite appealing. Time in the glass brings out additional layers of nuance that complete the wine nicely."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2016 d'Armailhac is surprisingly dense and powerful, almost shockingly so. A burst of sweet red cherry, tobacco, smoke, earth, and grilled herbs gives the wine a smoky, savory dimension that is quite attractive and nicely complements the intense fruit. Far from an easygoing wine, the 2016 is massively tannic, even if that is not always evident because of the wine's raciness and pure fruit density. The Cabernet Sauvignon is especially dominant today. D'Armailhac often develops into a fairly rustic Pauillac, so it will be interesting to see what happens here. Tasted three times."

- AG, Vinous

"A thrilling bottle of wine that readers should snatch up is the 2016 Château d'Armailhac. This deeply colored, medium to full-bodied, powerful Armailhac gives up a lovely perfume of blackberry and plums fruits, violets, graphite, cedar pencil, and earthy, herbal nuances. Classic, ripe, layered, and just a beautiful Pauillac any way you look at it, it has plenty of upfront sex appeal but is going to keep for 20-25 years as well. Bravo! The 2016 is a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Dark ruby garnet, opaque core, subtle lightening of the edges, inviting sweetness, dark berry fruit, pleasant nuances of spices, some cassis, tobacco-like. Juicy, ripe cherries, fine, integrated tannins, extract-sweet finish, good freshness and balance, an elegant food accompaniment with aging potential for many years."

- Falstaff Magazine
