

# Château D'Armailhac 2021

CSPC# 102896

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

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| <b>Grape Variety</b>  | 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot  |
| <b>Appellation</b>    | Pauillac   |
| <b>Classification</b> | Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855   |
| <b>Website</b>        | <a href="http://www.chateau-darmailhac.com/">http://www.chateau-darmailhac.com/</a>  |
| <b>Sustainability</b> | The estate is an ancestral storehouse of plant material. In order to preserve this inestimable heritage, selections of the most interesting vines of each variety are kept as the vineyard is renewed, for propagation in Baron Philippe de Rothschild SA's own nursery. As a result of these massal selections, some replanted vines are direct descendants of those found historically in the parcels of the Château d'Armailhac vineyard, helping to secure its long-term sustainability by preserving the genetic diversity that is a key factor for ensuring high-quality wines.  |
| <b>General Info</b>   | 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.  |
| <b>Winemaker</b>      | Cellar Master: Cedric Marc.<br>Head winemaker: Jean-Emmanuel Danjoy.   |
| <b>Vintage</b>        | After a mild and wetter-than-average winter, budbreak took place early and evenly in late March. This was followed by a very dry April, including a significant cold spell, fortunately without incidence on our vineyards thanks to the influence of the nearby Gironde estuary.<br>May brought cool and damp weather which slowed vine growth. Flowering consequently took place within the average dates and in excellent conditions resulting from a marked rise in temperature.<br>Unsettled and stormy conditions from mid-June to mid-July activated mildew, which remained virulent until the end of veraison. Fortunately, drought in August and early September halted the disease, while the resulting water stress improved the quality potential of the grapes grown on our gravel soils. This period was crucial for the maturity of the pips, the development of the tannic structure and the appearance of fruit aromas and flavours.<br>Despite a severe threat of disease at the approach of harvest, the quality of our terroir combined with an alert, responsive and cohesive team of pickers working at a sustained pace enabled us to bring in a healthy crop at optimum maturity.<br>The 2021 vintage, having matured in conditions more typical of northerly latitudes, shows a return to the classic equilibrium of vintages from a generation ago, yielding fresh, well-balanced, and well-structured wines that will reveal their full complexity with time. |
| <b>Vineyards</b>      | 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.   |
| <b>Harvest</b>        | It was a compact harvest of 10 days picking starting 28 September and finishing 8 October.   |



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| <b>Vinification/<br/>Maturation</b> | 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.  |
| <b>Tasting Notes</b>                | The wine is a glittering ruby red. The refined and elegant nose displays redcurrant and raspberry aromas combined with brioche and violet notes. On the attack, juicy, succulent fruit emerges from beneath rounded, well-integrated tannins. The palate, nicely balanced by a fresh, mineral structure, reveals delicate chocolatey flavours enfolded in a smooth, silky texture.<br>The harmonious finish lingers on crisp, slightly sappy fruit.   |
| <b>Serve with</b>                   | 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.   |
| <b>Production</b>                   | unknown   |
| <b>Cellaring</b>                    | Drink 2026-2044   |
| <b>Scores/Awards</b>                | <p><b>92 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>86-88 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - May 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>88-90 points</b> - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p><b>88-90 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p>  |
| <b>Reviews</b>                      | <p><i>"The 2021 d'Armailhac has turned out beautifully, bursting with attractive aromas of minty cassis and blackberries mingled with notions of pencil shavings and sweet pipe tobacco. Medium to full-bodied, ample, and polished, it's supple and seamless, with a fleshy core of fruit and a licorice-inflected finish. En primeur, I compared this to a modern-day version of the estate's immensely charming 1999, and anyone who remembers the 1999 will find that the 2021 delivers just as wide a drinking window."</i><br/>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Reminiscent of a modern-day version of this estate's delicious 1999, the 2021 d'Armailhac is a terrific wine bursting with aromas of wild berries, cherries, exotic spices and rose petals. Medium to full-bodied, supple, and seamless, it's fleshy and enveloping, with melting tannins and an ample core of sweet, succulent fruit. This is a pleasure-bent wine that will offer a broad drinking window."</i><br/>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 d'Armailhac is the first vintage made in the newly refurbished winery. A blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Petit Verdot, harvested from 28 September to 8 October, it is aging in 50% new oak. Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, it slips out of the glass with up-front scents of baked blackberries, black raspberries, and kirsch, followed by hints of cinnamon toast and sauteed herbs. Light to medium-bodied, the palate delivers plenty of vibrant red and black fruits with soft tannins and a spicy kick to the finish. pH 3.72. IPT 60."</i><br/>- LPB, Wine Independent</p> <p><i>"A firm and linear young red with currant and graphite character. Medium body. Fresh finish. Crunchy acidity. 63% cabernet sauvignon, 22% merlot, 13% cabernet franc and 2% petit verdot."</i><br/>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> |

## Reviews

*"Fragrant nose with brambly fruit and floral notes. Fresh, fruity and sapid on the palate with grainy tannin in behind. Lacks intensity but zest and energy to compensate. More for the medium than long term. Drink 2026 – 2035."*

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

*"Succulent and softly supple, this has lots of energy and pace with bright red fruits, raspberries and cherries, alongside sweet spices, and perfumed nuances. The acidity is so well judged it lifts the palate and delivers the individual elements with precision and poise, so you get a playful, friendly, and upfront wine offering so much pleasure. I love the clarity here too, the sheer chalky and saline texture on the tongue; it feels clean and clear with a pristine quality. This will be a fabulous wine! 2% Petit Verdot completes the blend. 3.72pH. The first vintage to be vinified in the new winery which was completed just in time for the harvest."*

- GH, Decanter.com

*"First year with the new cellar at Armailhac, and a new technical director, as Lucie Lauilhé has replaced Jean-Paul Paultert, with Paultert retiring after 29 years in the post (Lauilhé was only present for harvest and blending, 2022 will be her first full year). There are big plans for this property, but in 2021 it is playing things a little safe, with juicy balance, delicate tannins, plenty of grip and precision to the raspberry and blackberry fruits, but a little soft on the finish. There is due to be a 2nd wine in the future, which will help with concentration, but the signature of 2021 is evident here. A little more Cabernet Franc, after poor fruit set with the Merlot. 3.73ph. 50% new oak, 60IPT. Tasted twice."*

- JA, janeanson.com

*"Black currants, espresso, flowers, chocolate, and cigar wrapper nuances pop in the nose. The palate carries on with the theme in the nose with its layers of soft, elegant, black, and red currants, mint, and cocoa. There is a touch of chalky dust that lingers in the fresh finish. The wine blends 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Drink from 2025-2045."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Dark ruby in color, the wine is floral in nature, with black raspberries, cherries, and spice on the nose. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied, soft, approachable and focused on its freshness, sweetness and easy going charm. The wine blends 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, 13% ABV. The wine represents 50% of the harvest. Drink from 2024-2044."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"In 2021 Armailhac is made up of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, only 22% Merlot (normally a third of the blend), 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. Only half the crop was selected for the grand vin, which is 13% abv with a little chaptalisation. This is the first vintage to be made in the new winery. Mid ruby colour. The nose is cool with red fruit, dried herbs, and a touch of cedar. The palate follows in the same fruit tones, with a fresh and easy, compact fruit core. Red berries and cherries have a sappy, hedgerow character with a lightly savoury spice bolstering the fruit. The finish is cool and lightly saline."*

- TP, Farr Vintners

*"The 2021 d'Armailhac, which was bottled mid-May, has an attractive nose with perfumed blackberry and blueberry fruit, the oak here seamlessly integrated—quite "Mouton" in style. A mini-Mouton perhaps? It becomes much plusher than the Clerc Milon after 10 minutes in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied, taut, and linear, with grainy tannins, a pronounced graphite element and a pliant, Merlot-driven finish, making it quite approachable in style."*

- NM, Vinous

**Reviews** *“The 2021 d’Armailhac, aged in 50% new oak, is the first vintage to be vinified in the new winery, which was completed a month before the harvest. It has quite a strict bouquet, tight and focused, with broody dark berry fruit, pencil box and tar, quite classic in style. The palate is harmonious and smooth with fine tannins, just the right amount of acidity and a sapid finish that lingers in the mouth. Residual graphite notes linger after the wine has exited. Very fine. (13.0% alcohol).”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2021 d’Armailhac is very pretty, expressive wine driven by strong Cabernet Sauvignon inflections. Crushed flowers, herbs, mint, blood orange and earthy notes abound. It’s a wine from a cold year, to be sure, but all the elements are very nicely balanced. There’s terrific purity here.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2021 'Armailhac is elegant and lithe in feel. Bright floral and savory notes lend freshness throughout a core of red berry fruit. In this tasting, Armailhac comes across as a bit vegetal, with slightly angular contours that hopefully will resolve with élevage. This is the first vintage made in the château's new cellar.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“A blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Petit Verdot, the 2021 Château D’Armailhac is a ripe, supple, very pure expression of the château, offering pretty cassis and black raspberry fruit as well as medium-bodied richness, wonderfully integrated oak, ripe tannins, hints of violets and spice, terrific balance, and just a seamless, pure, elegant style that shines in the vintage.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Intense dark ruby, narrow purple rim. Savoury herbal notes and tobacco lie under, plum fruit, blackberries and cassis, there's a touch of nougat in the background. Medium complexity, red berry fruit, fine tannins, fresh, well-structured, salty finish, subtle leafiness on the back palate.”*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

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