

# Château Duhart-Milon 2021

CSPC# 890687

750mlx6

12.9% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot
<b>Appellation</b>	Pauillac
<b>Classification</b>	Fourth Growth. Quatrieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.lafite.com/en/the-chateaus/chateau-duhart-milon/">http://www.lafite.com/en/the-chateaus/chateau-duhart-milon/</a>
<b>Analysis</b>	Total Acidity: 3.34 g/L      pH: 3.79
<b>Sustainability</b>	They are in organic conversion since 2021. Lafite Rothschild and Duhart-Milon will be certified in 2024. Even if this is not perfect, it is the best step to reduce residue in the wine too and to create biodiversity. We need to bring back the vegetation and life to our vineyards. In addition, we are also implementing agroforestry.
<b>General Info</b>	<p>Classified 4th growth in 1855.</p> <p>Château Duhart-Milon sits immediately west/inland of Château Lafite-Rothschild, facing Château Lafon-Rochet across the Jalle du Breuil in Saint Estèphe. Château Duhart Milon is owned by its very illustrious neighbour Château Lafite-Rothschild, with whom it shares a vineyard management and wine making team.</p> <p>Duhart is said to have been a pirate in the service of Louis XV who settled in the Médoc in his retirement. Indeed, the "pirate's house" stood by the Gironde until the 1950's and is pictured on the label. His vineyard was united with Mandavy-Milon in the 1830's by the Castéja family. Earning 4th Growth status was a high point for Duhart-Milon with the next 100+ years being a period of some decline. Vineyards were sold off (notably to the Batailley's) and the wines declined considerably in quality. By the time Baron Eric de Rothschild bought Duhart-Milon in 1962 it was in a very sorry state with barely 17ha under vine.</p> <p>Rothschild ownership saw the vineyards completely re-planted and the chais (and a chais is all there is, there never has been an actual château) renovated. Today the wines are made with the same meticulous care as Lafite, but sell at a fraction of the price, making Duhart-Milon a bit of a bargain.</p> <p>Since the harvest of the 2003 vintage, the domaine has its own team of vintners. The vat room and cellars were extended and totally renovated in 2003. The current owner is Baron Eric de Rothschild, and the winemaker is Charles Chevalier.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Oenologist and Winemaker: Christophe Conge. Alexandre Canciani, cellar master. Vineyard Manager: Régis Porfilet.
<b>Vintage</b>	In 2021 Duhart-Milon appears cheerful yet direct, having taken advantage of the best of both worlds. With a less sunny vintage, it was interesting to see the differences amongst the terroirs emerging between the areas with more clay, where a large part of our Merlot is planted, and our dry gravel terroirs better suited to stress-free years. This year, the Cabernets did well and almost all of them went into the blend, even our young 5-year-old vines that have benefited from the major restructuring work carried out by the team. In the end, there is a historically low percentage of Merlot and the pleasure of rediscovering the identity of Duhart which we had been missing: its historically direct character softened by the beautiful ripeness it has shown in recent years.
<b>Vineyards</b>	Château Duhart-Milon's vineyard consists of a single block of vines adjacent to Château Lafite Rothschild, on the hillside to the west of the Carruades plateau. The property has 76 hectares of vines. The soil consists of fine gravel mixed with aeolian sand on a tertiary limestone.
<b>Harvest</b>	Bud break took place on March 31 with mid-flowering on June 6 and mid-veraison on August 9. The manual harvest began on September 22 until October 8.
<b>Winemaking</b>	Château Duhart-Milon is made according to traditional Bordeaux methods. The grapes are carefully sorted and placed in concrete or stainless-steel vats depending on their provenance for alcoholic fermentation. Gentle pumping over is carried out during fermentation to optimize extraction. Total maceration time is about 20 days before racking. Once the wines have undergone malolactic fermentation, they are transferred to French oak barrels made by the Tonnellerie des Domaines in Pauillac. Each barrel is tasted individually in December in order to determine which ones will be selected for the grand vin. Following this rigorous selection, the wine is blended and transferred to oak barrels (50% new).



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Purple robe with hints of violets. The nose is still discreet, but already deep and warm, with hints of raspberry and cinnamon. The attack is straightforward and full, in the purest Duhart Milon style. The wine opens up gradually, rising crescendo in power. The finish is harmonious, finishing brightly on red fruits, accompanied by discreet vanilla notes.
<b>Serve with</b>	Decant 2+ hours prior to serving. Serve at 16-18 degrees Celsius. Chateau Duhart Milon is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Duhart Milon is also good with Asian dishes, and hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta.
<b>Production</b>	Approx. 22,000 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2025-2040
<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>94-95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>91-93 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>89-91 points</b> - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"The 2021 Duhart-Milon has turned out beautifully, offering up incipiently complex aromas of dark berries and cassis mingled with notions of orange zest, burning embers, pencil lead and iris. Medium to full-bodied, suave, and polished, with a layered core of fruit, supple tannins and a long, sapid finish, it will offer a broad drinking window."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Incorporating fully 81% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2021 Duhart-Milon unwinds in the glass with aromas of sweet berries, cigar wrapper and pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, lively, and persuasively concentrated, with beautifully refined tannins and a long, penetrating finish, it's a classy, serious wine that reflects all the progress this estate has been making over the last decade. Duhart-Milon's vineyards are later-maturing than Lafite's, and the soils are less inherently balanced: the clay-rich parts of the vineyard are richer in clay than at Lafite, and the gravel-rich parts of the vineyard are richer in gravel—whereas Lafite's predominantly gravel soils sometimes contain more than 10% clay. That explains why Duhart-Milon historically often produced leaner wines than Lafite, with less mid-palate amplitude; but a warming climate and more attention to viticultural detail (sowing cover crops, for example, in clay-rich parts of the vineyard) are mitigating these disadvantages, and recent vintages have seen this estate attain new qualitative heights. As at all the Domaines Barons de Rothschild properties, winemaking and élevage are very classical, with regular rackings and the majority of the barriques derived from the in-house cooperage (emphasizing lightly toasted Allier and Nevers oak seasoned for 24 months), and as at Lafite, Cabernet is very much in the ascendant here, something that the 2021 vintage has only amplified."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Duhart-Milon is medium to deep garnet-purple in color. Fresh blackberries and mulberries jump from the nose followed by notions of pencil shavings, dried lavender, sage, and crushed rocks. Light-bodied, the palate is soft and lively with just enough uncomplicated black fruits and an earth and dried herbs laced finish. The blend is 81% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Merlot, possessing less Merlot than usual. 2025-2040."</i> - LPB, Wine Independent</p> <p><i>"This is a really pretty Duhart and fans out nicely on the palate with medium soft tannins that are polished. Gorgeous young wine. 81% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Merlot."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

## Reviews

*"81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot. Cask sample. Last time there was this much Cabernet was 2000 (but that was another vintage altogether...). Crimson hue but lighter at the rim. Pencil shavings and cassis notes. Upright and linear with a certain amount of drive but a little light in heft and structure. Could improve if it fills out in the bottle. Drink 2026 – 2036."*

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

*"Tobacco, green pepper, eucalyptus, subtle violet perfume too - black pepper and the crushed stone aspect. Smooth and super silky, this is round with a lovely definition to the fruit, so clean and pure, with an appealing creaminess that comes across as flavour but also texture. The tannins are well integrated, just cushioning the fruit but providing the silky carpet on which they travel from start to finish. This does have a darker core also with a liquorice, sweet tobacco and coffee granule aspect from the Cabernet coming through and settling on the tongue giving a piquancy but there's excellent harmony here. Supple and succulent with excellent clarity - really very characterful, I love it. A high percentage of Cabernet in the blend this year, usually between 60-70%."*

- GH, Decanter.com

*"Precise and finessed black fruits here right from the first moments, this is high Cabernet Sauvignon, lovely black savoury fruits that suit the slightly serious feel of Duhart. Expect precision, strict tannins, straight lines, plenty of freshness but without the rusticity that you could find in older Duhart's. About 15% press wine after careful extraction and a short maceration. A little more old school Duhart than we have seen over the past few years, but thoroughly enjoyable. 1st year organic conversion, 30hl/h yields. Drink 2025 – 2040."*

- JA, janeanson.com

*"Flowers, black cherries, earth, and a hint of coffee bean for the nose. On the medium-bodied palate, the wine is soft, fresh, gentle, and elegant, with a focus on the purity in the fruit, and the refinement in the tannins in the mid-palate and in the finish. The wine is a blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Merlot. This is the second vintage produced in the new cellars which helped a lot this year, due to the ability to vinify on a parcel-by-parcel basis. Drink from 2024-2042."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The Merlot is lower than normal here at 19%, with 81% Cabernet Sauvignon. Mid ruby colour. Fresh currant fruit and a little plum offers an elegant, classically Médocain nose. There are notes of black pepper and green peppers, together with a hint of iris. The palate shows both fruit and leaf of blackcurrant, together with pithy, quite grippy tannins. Tones of cedar and hedgerow make for a savoury, lightly herbal character. The oak adds a little exoticism, but this is largely a cool, elegant style. Fine and balanced on the finish.:*

- TP, Farr Vintners

*"The 2021 Duhart-Milon, which is aged in 50% new oak, has a clean, precise bouquet of mineral-driven black fruit and touches of pencil lead and cedar. The palate is medium-bodied, fresh, and focused, with sappy black fruit and fine depth. This is a typically classically styled Duhart-Milon, though it does not quite have the persistence to rank as a top-rank vintage. But it will appeal to those who appreciate old-school Pauillac. Drink 2026 – 2045."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2021 Duhart-Milon is a potent, brooding wine. Dark fruit, herbs, licorice, and incense fill out the layers nicely. The oak still needs time to come together, but that is what élevage is for. The 2021 is a serious Duhart. Whether or not it will acquire a bit more charm remains an open question."*

- AG, Vinous

*"A solid step up, the 2021 Château Duhart-Milon has terrific cassis, graphite, and tobacco notes in a medium-bodied, elegant style. I like its tannins, and it has good mid-palate depth as well as the fresher, almost crunchy style of the vintage."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

**Reviews** *"In contrast to the second wine, Moulin de Duhart, there has been an effort made to make Duhart a much more structured and intense style, and with the high levels of Cabernet, this is a stricter, more rigid red with a more pure and focused cassis theme and more obvious oak, too. But the lighter frame makes it easy to identify, and the result is a refined wine with an immovable Pauillac identity. There is a historically low percentage of Merlot in this vintage, and some of the Cabernet from only five-year-old vines was deemed of sufficient quality to make the grade."*

- Matthew Jukes

*"Deep ruby core with narrow purple rim. Delicate black cherry, hints of precious wood and nougat, nuances of cloves. Medium-bodied, ripe plum fruit, round, integrated, elegant tannins, good structure, cocoa on the finish; offers uncomplicated drinking pleasure."*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*"The nose is fruity, fresh and reveals a certain pulpiness/crunchiness of fruit, a nice purity of fruit and flesh. Fleshy/juicy bigarreau cherry, violet and slightly blackcurrant notes are combined with hints of lily, crushed raspberry as well as subtle hints of sweet blond tobacco, lily and sweet spices. The palate is fresh, mineral, balanced and shows a juicy backbone, freshness, good definition, a certain gourmandize, a nice purity of fruit/freshness, a fine crunch. On the palate this wine expresses bright/juicy cherry, raspberry and slightly fresh/acidic plum notes combined with hints of fresh/juicy blackberry as well as fine notes of racy/racy minerality, vanilla and a subtle hint of tonka bean. Good length. Good work on the bitter taste, especially on the finish."*

- Vert de Vin

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