

Château Mouton Rothschild 2002

CSPC#742351

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
General Info

77% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Pauillac

Château Mouton Rothschild, owned by Baroness Philippine de Rothschild and her children, is regarded as one of the world's greatest wines. The story of Mouton Rothschild is that of a magical combination of soil, climate and devotion of one man, Baron Philippe de Rothschild (1902-1988), Baroness Philippine's father. In 1853, Baron Nathaniel de Rothschild, from the English branch of the family, bought Château Brane-Mouton and immediately renamed it in Mouton Rothschild. Baron Philippe de Rothschild, when he took over the estate in 1922, decided to devote his life to it and to make Mouton unique, producing the very best wine. In 1924, he was the first to introduce entire chateau bottling. In 1926, he built the majestic 100-metre barrel hall. In 1945, to celebrate the liberation of France, he had the idea of crowning the label of that year's vintage with a V for Victory. Since then, a different label is created for each vintage by famous painters. In 1962, he opened the Museum of Wine in Art. In 1973, he obtained the revision of the 1855 classification so that Mouton would be officially recognized as a First Growth.

Vineyards

The Mouton vineyards incorporate 75 hectares of typical gravelly soil over a base of sand, clay, marl and limestone. They are situated on a mound or *motte* at an altitude of approximately 40 metres, dizzying heights for the flat and undulating land of the Medoc. It is widely thought that *motte* is the origin of the name Mouton, the local Bordeaux dialect providing us with as many words for mound, hill or hillock as there are perhaps fish in the *Gironde*. It does not derive, as some rather unkind individuals have postulated (I say unkind because the accusation brings rural, rustic tones), from the French for sheep, *mouton*, although this might be suggested by the grazing pasture that abuts the estate. The vines are 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 8% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, planted at a density of 8500 hectares, with an admirable average age of around 50 years.

**Vinification/
Maturation**

Once harvested, fermentation is in 225-hectolitre vats of wood, with a maceration of 15 to 25 days. 19 to 22 months in oak barrels (almost all new; the percentage varying according to the vintage)

Tasting Notes

The wine has a deep and very dense colour, violet shading almost to black. The nose opens on toast and roasted coffee, then with airing reveals floral aromas of violet and lilac, moving on to blackcurrant, blackberry and black cherry. Very harmonious on the palate, it strikes a perfect balance between well-structured tannins, succulent yet firm, and a rush of flavours in which vanilla, spice and a touch of pepper mingle with blackcurrant and fresh red fruit. The long finish, candid and generous, reveals a powerful, full-bodied and highly expressive Pauillac.

Production

20,000 cases made

Cellaring

Drink now-2040

Scores/Awards

- 91 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2005
- 95-100 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2003
- 93 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #158 - April 2005
- 94-96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #149 - October 2003
- 94-96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006
- 93 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2010
- 93 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2008
- 93-95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2005
- 94 points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2005
- 17.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2005



Scores/Awards **19 points/5 stars** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2006
Decanter Award - Decanter Magazine Award Winner - June 2003
Decanter's top-rated Wines of 2012 - Decanter Magazine Award Winner - July 2012

Reviews *"Complex aromas of tobacco, cedar, berry and currants. Full-bodied, with a solid core of fruit and ripe tannins. Not as good as a barrel sample tasted earlier, but still outstanding for the vintage. Best after 2009."*
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Black color, with intense aromas of lead pencil, currants and eucalyptus. Full-bodied, with chewy yet refined tannins and a long finish. Very impressive. Could be one of the best Moutons since 1995. Score range: 95-100."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Dense purple to the rim, this wine exhibits the classic cassis aroma that is so characteristic of Mouton. Medium to full-bodied, tannic, powerful, and cut somewhat from the 1988 mold, this is a backward, chewy, well-endowed Mouton-Rothschild that will require considerable patience from those who purchase it. A blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot, the wine needs a good decade of cellaring. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2030+."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A candidate for wine of the vintage, there are only 20,000 cases of the 2002 Mouton-Rothschild (there are 25,000 cases of the 2000). Made from low yields of 31 hectoliters per hectare, it is a blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot. The color may be the most saturated and opaque of any Medoc Cabernet-based 2002. It is a broad-flavored offering displaying tell-tale creme de cassis intermixed with smoke, cocoa, leather, and licorice. Still excruciatingly tannic, but incredibly dense, powerful, and rich, the phenolic measurements were nearly off the charts for this full-bodied, monster-sized Mouton. Given most Moutons' track records, I suspect the 2002 will shut down after bottling, and perhaps need a minimum of 10-15 years to re-emerge. This is unquestionably a vin de garde for long-term cellaring. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2040."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted blind at Farr's 2002 Bordeaux tasting. The nose on this wine is tightly coiled, holding something back for later, but you can coax out some attractive aromas of blackberry, tobacco, saddle-leather and pinecones. The palate is medium bodied with firm tannins, not quite as refined as Latour, but certainly coalescing in the glass beautifully with a wonderfully poised, almost feminine finish that caresses the palate. Lovely. Tasted October 2009."
- NM, Wine Journal

"This has a little more intensity on the nose than Latour with more smoky, cigar box aromas. Very classic in style. The palate has a tannic entry, very masculine with cedar-infused blackberry, tobacco and damson. It does not quite have the harmony of Latour '02 and there is a hardness on the finish that softens with time in the glass. This is a solid, worthy Mouton-Rothschild that should be considered a success for the vintage. Drink 2010-2025. Tasted November 2006."
- NM, Wine Journal

"I have always rated this Mouton highly since en primeur when I thought it showed much more breeding than recent years. Re-tasted back at the chateau in July 2003: the nose has closed down a little but there are still swathes of plum and blackberry here. The palate is very smooth, full-bodied, much more intense and multi-dimensional than other recent Grand Vins. Very long and pure - this is a total success for Mouton. Then in April 2005. A beautiful seamless nose of black cherry, vanilla and a little plum. Very good definition and intensity. Not as full-bodied as before, but wonderful balance and a silky texture. The tannins are surprisingly supple and lithe - perhaps this will not be as long lasting as I thought? Still, this is perhaps the best First Growth of 2002."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Good saturated ruby-red. Tight nose hints at currant and smoky oak. Highly concentrated, densely packed and built to age. As young as it is, it also shows a lovely velvety texture rare for this vintage. Finishes with terrific breadth, subtle minerality and noble tannins. I've been a fan of this wine since the outset."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

Reviews *“Huge colour, really wonderful smooth, velvety depth, a thoroughly hedonistic nose, voluptuous and seductive fruit, shows excellent ripeness and opulence, but with ripe tannins for balance. Decanter Award.”*
- Decanter.com

“Opulent yet restrained aromas which give the impression of ripeness. A sense of hedonism pervades here - and it's very welcome too. Long and elegant with good depth of fruit, well woven tannins and a long, sensuous finish.”
- Decanter.com

“Rated 95 in 2006-06 from bottle at the estate. Rated 94 in 2006-01 from bottle at the estate. MOUTON ROTHSCHILD 2002 94 A lovely dark colour. The nose is fine and very fruity. The entry is beautiful with a caressing touch, and then one realises that it could be more concentrated. The wine ends tannic, somewhat austere, with a lovely sappy length. I appreciated finding it at this level. It thus confirms that estate is making great strides in quality. It can be drunk or kept for 20 years.”
- J-MQ
