

Château Mouton Rothschild 2005

CSPC#742351

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety Appellation General Info

85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc
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.

Harvest

Wednesday, September 21, 2005 to Thursday, October 06, 2005

Vinification/ Maturation

Once harvested, fermentation is in 225-hectolitre vats of wood, with a maceration of 15 to 25 days. Then 20 months in new oak before bottling.

Tasting Notes

A superb Mouton, the 2005 is composed of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, and a dollop of Cabernet Franc. Under the new administrator, Philippe Dalhuin, the strictest selection of any recent vintage was instituted (64% of the production was used), and the 2005's 13.5% natural alcohol is one of the highest ever achieved at this estate.

Production

300000 bottles made

Cellaring

Drink now-2040

Scores/Awards

- 95 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008
- 92-94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2006
- 96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008
- 93-95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007
- 94-96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006
- 98 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2009
- 91-93 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2006
- 94-96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 20, 2006
- 95 points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2008
- 18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2009
- 18.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2006
- 19+ points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2009
- 19.5+ points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - February 2008



Scores/Awards **19 points/5 stars** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2006
5/5 stars - Medoc 2005 Decanter Magazine Award Winner - July 2008
96 points/18.5 points - Jean Marc Quarin - September 2010
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 4, 2012
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 24, 2009
91 points - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - June 2009

"Dark purple black in color. Complex aromas of mineral, licorice, lead pencil and blackberry follow through to a full body, with ultrafine tannins and a caressing, pretty finish. Has a lovely texture. Shows elegance and refinement. Best after 2012."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Lots of currants, berries and minerals and light toasted oak on the nose. Full-bodied and very refined, with lots of silky tannins and a long finish. Elegant and fine. But should be up with the rest of the first-growths. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. Score range: 92-94."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"The 2005 Mouton Rothschild will have to take a back seat to the prodigious 2006, but administrator Philippe Dalhuin deserves considerable credit for pushing Mouton to higher quality levels over recent years. A blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest mostly Merlot, the dark purple-hued 2005 exhibits a restrained but promising nose of cedar, tobacco leaf, creme de cassis, and toasty oak. Full-bodied, tannic, and extremely backward, with the vintage's tell-tale acidity, it appears to be even more closed in the bottle than it was from barrel. It does possess a long finish and multilayered mouthfeel. This is an undeniably outstanding, yet restrained, shy wine for a Mouton Rothschild. Anticipated maturity: 2018-2040+."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"A superb Mouton, the 2005 is composed of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, and a dollop of Cabernet Franc. Under the new administrator, Philippe Dalhuin, the strictest selection of any recent vintage was instituted (64% of the production was used), and the 2005's 13.5% natural alcohol is one of the highest ever achieved at this estate. While not as good as the 1986 or 1982, the 2005 is a brilliant wine offering a classic inky/blue/purple color along with notions of creme de cassis, licorice, and sweet oak. Full-bodied, powerful, and exceptionally pure with good underlying acidity as well as a boatload of tannin, it will approach full maturity between 2015-2020, and should keep for 40 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2005 Mouton-Rothschild (a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14% Merlot, and 1% Cabernet Franc) tips the scales at 13.2% alcohol, one of the highest percentages ever achieved at this estate. It does not possess the power or awesome depth of the 1986 or 1982, but it may represent a modern-day clone of the 1955. A tannic, backward, concentrated, powerful Mouton built for the ages, it will require 10-15 years to reach its full potential. An inky/blue/purple color is accompanied by classic notes of creme de cassis and smoke, but no trace of new oak. That in itself is a good indication of how rich and concentrated this wine must be to have absorbed all its oak at this stage of its evolution. One might also term it 1996-like in style given its fresh acidity and bright personality. Medium to full-bodied, impeccably elegant, powerful yet subtle and reticent at present, it will be extremely long-lived. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2050+."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted blind against its peers, this brilliant Mouton-Rothschild trumped both Latour and Lafite! If it lacked the same level of breeding out of barrel, then it sure as hell is making up for its now. The nose is incredibly ripe and is perhaps more accessible than those aforementioned Pauillacs. Dark cherries, kirsch, cedar and some lovely vanillary new oak – sleek and sophisticated. Great definition. The palate has a viscous entry, fat round tannins, voluptuous, generous and sensuous. Great depth with blackberry, raspberry, a touch of black olive tapenade. Sensuous, feminine finish. Sublime. Drink 2017-2040+ Tasted January 2009."

- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews

"Quite a sweet ripe liquoricey nose. Ripe black fruits, touch of cassis. Not dissimilar to Latour, quite sweet, firm tannins, toasty black fruits. Good acidity. Blueberry, cedar, touch of mint. Supple, velvety finish. Showy as usual, 60 percent for Grand Vin. What it lacks is the extra dimension of say Lafite or Margaux, that explosive finish or even that sublime balance of Grand Puy Lacoste. Yet Mouton is always awkward at en primeur, hence the "plus" sign. Tasted April 2006."

- NM, Wine Journal

"If 2005 was a rich year, Mouton reaches the heights of richness. Almost too rich, too New World, but you have to be impressed by the aromatic intensity of the black fruits, the dense, firm tannins, and the super ripe black juice and licorice flavors. The wood is still too overpowering and needs time to settle in."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"94-96 Barrel sample. With its packed, spicy wood and very ripe fruit, this is almost sweet. There are certainly fruit and tannins there, but now they are dominated by new wood, leaving a coated mouthfeel that hides this wine's true potential."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Full ruby-red. Explosive, super ripe aromas of black raspberry, currant, graphite and tobacco leaf. Outsized, opulent and generous; this big boy saturates the entire mouth. There's an almost exotic character to the plum and cedar flavors. Spreads out impressively on the back end, coating the palate with ripe tannins. The 2006 is at once finer and more powerful, with more noble tannins, but this is more opulent."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Quite a bit of development at the rim. More evolved aromatically than most. Fleshy and sweet with very nice perfume. Pretty and well balanced. Not a blockbuster - the tannins in particular are quite fine. A little lighter than most 04."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"13.1 per cent alcohol compared with the more usual 12.3-12.8 per cent. Extremely deep crimson. Blackish tinge. Very dense and an interesting edge to it but, unusually, intensely sweet for a Pauillac first growth. Even hints of tar and game. Not as dense as some. Very raw at the moment - lots and lots fruit. The tannins are much less marked than on most - perhaps because the fruit is so ripe. Silky texture - but the overriding impression is one of sweetness. Bigger than the 2004 served immediately after but Mouton 2004 looks awfully good, if quite forward, now. Just 64 per cent of the crop went into the grand vin, so this is the smallest production of the grand vin for 25 years (not counting 1991 and 1977 which suffered such extreme weather conditions). Drink 2018-32"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Another supremely elegant style on the nose, although here we have a darker character than Lafite which was more perfumed and feminine. There is a more honeyed edge to the oak, also a slightly richer style to the fruit. It has that typical Mouton spice, hard to describe but perhaps a blend of smoldering embers with cinnamon, but I am sure there are better descriptions available! Great style on the palate, broad and rich, defined, very well structured, fleshy and more flattering than Lafite. Brilliantly composed, slightly loose knit at present but this is just the wine's youthful character I think, as there is a great core of smoky tannins and fine acidity at the bottom of it all. Very impressive and a great wine for fans of Mouton. From a 2005 Bordeaux tasting at four years of age. 19+/20 (November 2009)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Cabernet Sauvignon 85%, Cabernet Franc 1%, Merlot 14%. Unsurprisingly this has an intense, youthful, crimson appearance, with a densely coloured rim. Pure cassis, raspberry and cranberry fruit on the nose, creamy and intense, still showing toasty and toffee oak but this is well covered by the wealth of fruit. The palate is creamy, with a firm seam of tannins, but they are ripe and well protected. Piles of fruit, lovely depth and complexity, with spiced bramble and summer fruits, but with well balanced acidity. This is exotic and very fine indeed. Great potential. 19.5+/20 (February 2008)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

Reviews *“Black-red colour, exotic spicy aromas, black chocolate and coffee bean, explosive fruit, lush and very seductive but packs power as well, very sophisticated and exciting wine, classic Mouton. Drink 2015-45.”*

- SS, Decanter.com

“Monster nose. Black, powerful and ultra serious. Sensational. A touch of exotic coconut, then wow! Stacked with dense, ripe fruit. Perfect.”

- Decanter.com

“Magnificent wine – and I must say that I am really proud to have noted its amazing leap forward with this 2005 vintage as early as the en primeur campaign. With the 2005s came new tactile feelings and a higher quality of touch - and yet the traditional aromatic pattern and the complexity of the estate were unaltered. Superb and subtle finish. Wait till at least 2020 and before 2050.”

- J-MQ

“Cassis, blackberry, tobacco, earth and cedar wood, with a hint of lead pencil, full bodied with layers of fresh cassis and blackberry, round tannins and a plush, opulent character. Give it until 2020 before popping a bottle.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Sweet oak, currant, fennel and spice were easy to find. Very rich, sexy, mouth feel. Opulent fruit and polished, silky tannins. Full bodied and concentrated with ripe fruit. The wine ends with a long finish.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Very chocolatey, coffee-ish, oaky nose. The oak dominates also on the palate, with ripe dense berry and blackcurrant fruit and firm tannins. Tannic and quite rich, this is hard to assess at the moment. It’s not a very enjoyable drink but you have to hope there is a great wine waiting to emerge from this oak-dominated, tightly wound monster. 22 months in new oak.”

- JG, Wineanorak.com
