

Château Mouton Rothschild 2009

CSPC# 749529

750mlx6

13.1% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot

Appellation

Pauillac

Classification

Premier Cru Classé

Website

<https://www.chateau-mouton-rothschild.com/>

General Info

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.

Vintage

Nature was particularly kind in 2009, providing conditions that favoured the vegetation cycle and helped the grapes to reach full maturity.

Winter was a little colder than usual, though in the period to March the region had 204 hours of sunshine more than the average for the last thirty years.

April was very wet and May often stormy. Flowering took place rapidly and evenly around 5 June.

Summer set in from mid-June, bringing remarkable levels of sunshine and little rainfall. The very fine weather and high level of hydric stress, barely alleviated by a few showers, enabled the grapes to ripen slowly to full maturity. Temperatures in August were 1.4° C higher than the average. The ideal weather continued into September as cool nights alternated with hot days.

The weather, encouraging the concentration of aromas and flavours and the accumulation of anthocyanins, brought the crop to harvest in perfect condition.

Picking began with the Merlot on 23 September and ended with the Cabernet Sauvignon on 6 October. The grapes were extremely healthy, containing plenty of sugar, colour and fruit and showing exceptional potential. 2009 will undoubtedly go down as a vintage to match the finest.

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 23, 2009 - Tuesday, October 06, 2009

Maturation

Once harvested, fermentation is in 225-hectolitre vats of wood, with a maceration of 15 to 25 days. Then comes up to 22 months in oak before bottling. 2009 spent 90% in new barrels for 20 months



Tasting Notes The wine has a very deep, almost black colour. The stylish and complex nose displays aromas of bilberry, blackcurrant and blond tobacco that mingle with subtle cedarwood and spice notes. The same refinement and density are to be found on the palate with patrician, well-rounded tannins, revealing remarkable structure and balance right through to the long and opulent finish. A great success for a Mouton Rothschild that will undoubtedly get the utmost out of the exceptional qualities for which the 2009 vintage has already been hailed.

Production cases made

Cellaring Drink 2020-2040

Scores/Awards **98 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012
97-100 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
99+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012
96-98+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010
97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012
94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010
94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - Web Only 2012
96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012
97-99 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010
95-98 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010
19-19.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010
19 points/5 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010
97-98 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2010
96 points/18.25 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010

Reviews *"This is pure, unadulterated Cabernet, with a gorgeously creamy mouth feel to the beam of cassis that's backed by extra layers of cherry eau de vie, red licorice and raspberry ganache. Obviously dense but amazingly supple, with terrific length supported by a classic, iron-fueled spine. This has power if it needs it, but it's all about length. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Best from 2020 through 2040."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"I am speechless over the nose in this wine. Mint, blackberry, currant and black licorice turn to flowers such as lilacs and roses. Wow. It fills your mouth with the same fruit, but with an intensity of super polished tannins. It finishes with complex yet reserved coffee, toasted oak and ripe fruit and then in two or three minutes it becomes milk chocolate. Just a joy to taste. Best Mouton since 1982 or 1986; in fact, it's like a bend of the two. A perfect Mouton? 88 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 12 percent Merlot. Score range: 97-100"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"The 2009 Mouton Rothschild has a striking label from Anish Kapoor. The wine is a blend of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Merlot that begs comparison as a young wine with what the 1982 tasted like in 1985 or, I suspect, what the 1959 may have tasted like in 1962. Representing 50% of their production, the wine has an inky purple color to the rim and not terribly high alcohol for a 2009 (13.2%), but that is reflected by the high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a remarkable nose of lead pencil shavings, violets, creme de cassis and subtle barrique smells. It is stunningly opulent, fat, and super-concentrated, but the luxurious fruit tends to conceal some rather formidable tannins in the finish. This is an amazing wine that will be slightly more drinkable at an earlier age than I thought from barrel, but capable of lasting 50 or more years. Kudos to the Baroness Philippine de Rothschild and the entire Mouton team, lead by Monsieur Dalhuin."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The pureness of fruit in this on the nose is phenomenal, with crushed currants and cassis. It's deep, so deep. Also, some foie gras. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and an insanely decadent finish, with meat, game and dark fruits. Goes on for minutes. Decadent and turns to dark fruits cassis and licorice. Warm and voluptuous wine. 88% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Merlot. Try in 2020."
- JS, James Suckling.com

"This is the most backward and unevolved of all the Left Bank (Medoc) first-growths. In 10-20 years, the 2009 Mouton Rothschild should rank alongside the greatest vintages of the last three decades (1986 and 1982). Yields were a small 30 hectoliters per hectare, the final blend is 88% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Merlot, and the

Reviews *finished alcohol is 13.2% (not particularly high in this vintage). The pH is 3.81, and the index of tannins, the highest ever measured, a whopping 20% higher than the next highest vintage. The tannins, while present, are silky and well-integrated, one of the hallmarks of the 2009 vintage. An inky/purple color is accompanied by classic aromas of creme de cassis, violets, and hints of graphite and background oak. The overwhelming impression is one of layer upon layer of fruit, full-bodied opulence, and good structure. It tastes as if it were 2-3 months old rather than a post-malolactic, fully assembled barrel sample ... it's that young, but so incredibly promising. A 50- to 100-year wine? Probably. (Tasted once.)"*

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Black red, concentrated black fruits, rich satiny/velvety yet firm texture, rich, plummy, spicy, an explosion of aromas and flavours, surrounded and controlled by superb tannins, a sensually expressive wine. Drink 2016-40."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Tasted at the chateau, the Mouton '09 is a blend of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Merlot, one of the highest Cabernet components (until 2010!) Coming straight after Latour 2009, the Mouton is a little more bashful on the nose and demands coaxing, but it is well worth biding your time and letting it blossom in the glass. Blackberry, raspberry, cold wet limestone and a faint touch of apricot blossom in the background. Very well defined, elegant and composed aromatic profile. The palate is dense and full-bodied with beautifully composed tannins, a touch more opulent and perhaps spicier than the Latour, fanning out beautifully to a very complex finish with blackberry, cassis, charcoal, graphite and sous-bois. Superb persistency – incredible length. Outstanding...and it comes with a spellbinding Anish Kapoor label. Tasted November 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the chateau. A blend of 88% Cabernet Sauvignon and 12% Merlot, the highest percentage of Cabernet since 1963. Delivering 13.1% alcohol and an IPT was close to 80. The nose is tight at first and demands so coaxing from the glass but unfurls to reveal a very pure aromatic profile: quite strict, more like Grand Puy Lacoste, a touch of smoke, very fine minerality. The palate is medium-bodied very precise, supple tannins, superb Cabernet Sauvignon, taking time to open up but it does towards the finish, touches of tobacco and sous-bois underlying the ripe but not decadent fruit. The tannins are not quite as fine as Latour, but there is a lovely sensuality on the finish. Tasted March 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"The purest Cabernet Sauvignon fruit, with dark chocolate and intense dark berry flavors. The tannins are so enveloped by the fruit and yet they promise great aging. At this stage, wood shows through the fruit, but the texture is so rich and opulent that it should easily become integrated."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"97-99 Barrel sample. A wonderfully structured wine, it combines impressive purity of fruit with delicious, mouth-watering acidity, the dry structure holds this elegant structure perfectly in place. A great success."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"((a blend of 88 % cabernet sauvignon and 12 % merlot; 13.1% alcohol; pH 3.8; IPT) 78): Deep ruby. Flamboyant, super ripe aromas of spicy blackcurrant, strawberry jam, smoky plum, vanilla, exotic wood and minerals scream Mouton (this would rate 100 points for its nose!). Rich, lush and powerful, with impressive fullness and volume to its ripe strawberry, raspberry, blackcurrant, sweet spice and cedar flavors. I picked up a hint of pomegranate on the end. The slightly chewy tannins are a bit less fine-grained tannins at this stage than I would have expected, but this is a monumental and extraordinarily long wine that must be among the four or five best ever made at this estate. (Le Petit Mouton de Mouton-Rothschild, which I rated 86-89, will give pleasure while your Mouton matures in the cellar. Its pretty nose is dominated by cabernet franc notes of violet, cocoa and white pepper, and its plum and blackberry flavors are complicated by an intriguing earthy note on the back. With moderate generosity of texture, it displays a slightly aggressive mouth feel.)"

- ID, International Wine Cellar

Reviews

"48% of the crop, picked 3 days earlier than usual because the grapes were so ripe. Average yield 45 hl/ha. 88% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot. Very dark indeed. Very Mouton. Very exotic, minerals, spice and old ladies' handbags. Lovely top notes. Real excitement on the nose here. Obviously great density but lots of grace notes. Lovely palate entry and glossy texture. Then again drier and a little more astringent than its peers on the finish. A difficult wine to mark because the nose is SO gorgeous! I think it may require just a bit more patience than some. Just seemed in a slightly low register when I tasted it. All the Mouton wines had ruder tannins than usual in 2009. 13.1%"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Some people have claimed that this is one of the wines of the vintage, but I don't see it myself. Tasting it blind, you could mistake it for a top Chilean Carmenere. It has lots of charr, sweet oak, dense, concentrated, chocolately fruit and lush tannins. Lots of bling, then, but not a whole lot of finesse or balance. It's flashy and impressive, but where's the soul? 15+ years."

- TA, timatkin.com

"Cabernet Sauvignon 88%, Merlot 12%. Alcohol a very understated 13.1%. Like its stablemates also a deeply coloured but certainly not opaque wine, far from it. Very light blue tinge. The nose is a little reticent despite this sample having been decanted - not for long I should stress. A very linear attack of fruit on the nose, well honed with deep spice. On the palate, it is the very svelte nature of the composition that impresses most, a tightly packed and silky layer of fruit coming first, before it slowly reveals a well-matched layer of ripe and delightfully grainy tannins beneath. Underneath it all a fine layer of acidity. Overall a very harmonious and yet richly composed wine, with all the necessary elements in place. It has more substance than Lafite, is more flashy and spicy, but with perhaps a less fine and direct definition, with a deeper layer of velvet hidden within its tannins. So broad and very pleasing on the palate, this is a superb and very typical Mouton that should please Mouton drinkers everywhere. The finish brings a surge of fruit, and it is very long indeed. I could hold this wine in my mouth forever if that were possible. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 19-19.5+/20 (March 2010)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"The main event, and right from the start this is restrained, well defined and accomplished. As with Lafite, there is gentleness to the nose that you rarely see in a first growth at this stage. Wonderful mix of minty freshness on the top palate, and velvety rich fruits underneath. This has depth and stature but has a softness that caresses the palate and is entirely seductive. 88% cabernet sauvignon, 12% merlot. Picking again Sept 23 to Oct 6. Average temperature here was 13.9, (0.5 higher than the 30-year average), and rainfall was 850.5mm (30mm less than the 30-year average)."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Showing an intense, dark, black and purple color, this wine offers a great nose of black fruits, fresh, deep and complex. Beautifully broad on entry. The 2009 Mouton then develops fat and juicy, with complex taste and an aromatic mid-palate. It delivers a lovely flesh along with a great length and the return of black fruit flavors. It boasts very well-coated tannins and no austerity whatsoever, even though set in Pauillac. This 2009 Mouton Rothschild ends on a superbly fat and vivid finish. Alcohol content: 13.1% - pH: 3.8 - IPT: 78 - A blend of 88 % cabernet sauvignon and 12 % merlot."

- J-MQ
