

Château Mouton Rothschild 2012

CSPC# 749529

750mlx6

13.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc
Pauillac

First Growth. Premier Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<http://www.chateau-mouton-rothschild.com/>

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

2012 was a year of contrasts. The winter was cold and very dry. The average temperature in February was the lowest for fifty years. April brought cool weather and abundant rainfall, while the weather in May and June was in-between. The flowering and veraison dates for Château Mouton Rothschild Cabernet Sauvignon were the same to the day as the average dates for all the vintages since 1962. Exceptionally dry conditions prevailed from 20 July to 20 September, concentrating sugar and tannins in the grapes. The month of August was the fifth driest in the last fifty years. By the end of September, the aggregate amount of rainfall was 26% lower than the average since 1962 (435 mm compared with 589 mm). Picking at Château Mouton Rothschild began on 1 October and ended on 15 October. 2012 will be a landmark year, since after almost three years of work the new vat room welcomed its first harvest. Rich, deeply coloured, well-structured and very full-bodied, the 2012 vintage promises to be a great success.

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*. 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

October 1-15, 2012

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.

Tasting Notes

A dense and opaque, almost black colour with a very attractive glint. The nose, patrician, refined, complex and expressive, mingles black fruit with aromas of blackcurrant and crushed blackberry, opening with airing to display more complex notes of cigar box and spice. The attack is sumptuously full and substantial. The tannins are mature and crisp, enveloped in a beautiful body, dense and firm, that reveals chocolate and vanilla flavours. On the palate, the wine displays an irrepressible panache that leads into an utterly lovely, fresh, intense and mineral finish.

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Cellaring

Drink 2018-2048



Scores/Awards **95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015
93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013
94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015
95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #216 - December 2014
95-97 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013
97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013
97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2015
96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 11, 2013
92-94 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2012
18- points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013
18.5 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013
95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2013
94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
96-97 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013
94-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 23, 2013
95-97+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013
18 points - Farr Vintner - April 2013
92-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2013
95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - January 2014
96-98 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 16, 2013
17.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
93-95 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)

Reviews *"This has a stunningly pure core of plum, black currant and black cherry fruit, with supple yet long structure that has melded wonderfully already. Anise, violet and cassis notes pour in on the finish. The fruit makes it seem almost too easy, but this will cellar well thanks to outstanding balance. A huge but very stylish wine. Best from 2018 through 2030."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Shows lovely purity, with a bolt of cassis coming to prominence right from the get-go, accented by flashes of plum, briar and blackberry paste. A flicker of anise, sweet spice and singed wood hangs on the finish for now but should be absorbed soon enough. A more graceful Mouton than the battleships of '09 and '10, but this wine still displays breed and terroir in a tricky year. A faint chalky thread chimes in on the finish. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 93-96"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"As for the 2012 Mouton Rothschild, one can't help but love the artist's label, in this case done by Miquel Barceló, of two rams fighting for superiority. Representing only 49% of the crop, this blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc has an inky bluish/purple color, which is far darker than its nearby neighbor, Lafite Rothschild, or even Pontet-Canet. Multi-layered, with rich, concentrated, crème de cassis fruit, a medium to full-bodied mouthfeel, and stunning purity, this is a major success in 2012. Definitely a bigger, richer wine than rival Lafite Rothschild, Mouton's 2012 seems to have more density as well. The tannins, however, remain soft and well-integrated. This wine should drink well for 25-30 years and is somewhat of a sleeper for a 2012 first-growth Médoc"

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2012 Mouton-Rothschild has turned out well. Primarily all Cabernet Sauvignon, it exhibits a dense blue/purple color as well as lots of crème de cassis, incense and forest floor. Full-bodied and dense with sweet tannin, it is a surprisingly successful wine for this vintage. Give it another 5-8 years of cellaring and drink it over the following three decades."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The intensely ripe Cabernet Sauvignon grown on the plateau at Mouton has produced an inky/purple-colored wine with the famous Mouton creme de cassis and floral characteristics vividly displayed. For the first time in a number of years they appear to have outdistanced their cross-street rival, the biodynamically farmed Chateau Pontet Canet of Alfred Tesseron. Wonderfully sweet tannins envelop the enormous fruit and extravagant

Reviews *richness of this full-bodied Mouton Rothschild. With profound density as well as surprisingly sweet tannin, this terrific effort will probably shut down slightly and require 5-8 years of cellaring after bottling. It appears to have 30 or more years of aging potential, making it potentially one of the 3 or 4 longest-lived wines of the vintage. Mouton Rothschild has produced one of the vintage's most profound wines in 2012, and possibly the -wine of the Medoc. - About 49% of the production made it into the 2012 Mouton, which is a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. The harvest took place during the middle two weeks of October. This may be one of the few 2012s that comes close to equaling what was achieved in both 2009 and 2010, two far superior vintages.*
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted twice en primeur at Mouton-Rothschild. A blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc and 8% Merlot harvested from 1st October and finished on 15th October, with the best Cabernet Sauvignon picked between 8th and 12th October. This is the first vintage in the new facility – now there are 56 instead of 28 vats to make the selection. We can vinify plots that have never been vinified in isolation before. It has a very "classic" Mouton bouquet with small black cherries, blackberry, graphite and hints of vanilla lending it sweetness. The palate is medium bodied with very fine, quite supple tannins. It is a very "correct" Mouton, without the flamboyance of the 2009 or 2010, but showing a little more delineation on the finish compared to the 2011. The aftertaste is long in the mouth with fine minerality – here we find the class and sophistication. This is an impressive, "stately" Mouton. Tasted April 2013."
- NM, Wine Journal

"What a nose of blackberries, blackcurrants, minerals and graphite. Full-bodied, extremely fine and polished. Sexy and ethereal. Harmony. A little salty. Fabulous 2012. Pure silk. Better after 2020 but so wonderful now."
- JS, James Suckling.com

"Wonderful beauty to this wine with currants, blackberries and flowers. Full body, with ultra-fine tannins and a long, long finish. Creamy texture with a mineral, almost salty undertone to the wine. 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, and 2% Cabernet Franc."
- JS, James Suckling.com

"This is a beautifully opulent wine, great Mouton in its richness and succulent fruits. It's combines structure and obvious new-wood aging with hugely ripe black plum and currant flavors. While it is a pleasure to taste now, there is a great tannic structure in the background to give the sense of power and aging potential. Drink from 2024."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"96–98. Barrel sample. This powerful, impressive wine is comprised of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon. It's seriously structured, with loads of black currants and dark tannin, and revels on the finish with the juicy, fresh acidity of this vintage. A fine Mouton, this is the first vintage produced in the chateau's new cellar."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Wonderful expression of "patrician" black fruits, the expected exotic seduction of Mouton, perfect blend of power and elegance. "
- SS, Decanter.com

"(90% cabernet sauvignon, 8% merlot and 2% cabernet franc): Deep ruby. Perfumed nose of red berries, cassis, flint, vanilla and peppery spices. Then fresh, juicy and suave in the mouth, with flavors of cassis, sweet cocoa and vanilla and a surprisingly fleshy, almost opulent texture for the vintage. Finishes very long, with smooth tannins and lingering ripe black cherry, vanilla and mocha nuances. One of the top ten wines of the vintage. Given the quality of Armailhac and Clerc Milon--and a good Le Petit Mouton too--I believe that general director Philippe Dhalluin has come up with THE best overall performance of the 2012 vintage."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

Reviews

"Very dark crimson. Restrained nose. Grown-up and very much a first growth. Rich, sweet and well balanced though without real pizzazz. Correct and sensitive. Fine and refined. Measured, I'd say, is the keyword. Acidity lightly in evidence. A palate scrub. Correct rather than mind-blowing."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"The blend here is 90% cabernet sauvignon, 8% merlot and 2% cabernet franc. This makes just 1% more merlot than last year. A bigger difference comes with the oak barrels, which see 70% new oak, compared to 100% in many years. No de-leafing this year, except in young vines. Touch of reduction, Dhalluin thinks probably because of the new oak vats used to make the wine, and just overall, he found the tannins this year are sucking in the oxygen. This is very suave, rich fruit on the nose. Wonderful persistency, this is utterly gorgeous. It dances on the palate, elegant, still that aromatic coffee toast, big difference between first and second wine this year, really wonderful length. Use selected yeasts, already in wooden vats, want to ensure no acetic bacteria and selected yeasts help ensure that, beautifully rich, excellent fruit 3,86pH (get that lovely mouthwatering aspect from this high pH), IPT 72. Total Acidity 3,50, Alcohol 13.2%. 20% less yield than last year, but just 10% less grand vin – again this is ascribed to the new vat room. This is well structured but will still be approachable earlier than the 2010. One of the best of the five this year, for me it's between Mouton and Lafite."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"As it often is, this is the richest and showiest of the first growths at this early stage. Made in the château's new chai for the first time, giving Mouton the ability to vinify "microplots", this is a rich, plush Pauillac that's built to last, with lots of aromatic blackberry fruit, sweet oak and a powerful, satisfying finish. Much more concentrated than Lafite and Latour, with riper fruit flavours. Drink: 2022-45"

"2012 marks the debut vintage utilizing the new facilities at Mouton Rothschild. Blending 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 13.2% alcohol. Stone, cedar, tobacco, cassis, orange liqueur, slate and fresh herbs create the perfume. The wine is structured, refined, masculine and tannic. The tannins are ripe, powerful and strong, giving the structure to age for patient consumers. "

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and very dark in the glass; fresh and vibrant at the edge; little dumb at first; pure Cabernet aromas; blackcurrant, cassis, lots of depth; less showy on the day than Petit-Mouton; little perfume at the edge; palate ripe and with impressive density but tannins very round and a real lightness of touch in the cellar. Fine tannin and very well balanced. Exceptional length. For me Mouton is the most immediately impressive of the Pauillac first growths in 2012. 95-97+ [90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot & 2% Cabernet Franc]"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Since the arrival of Philippe Dallhuin in 2003, Mouton has stepped up a level. Grapes are now selected only from the core original vineyard site. The blend this year is 90% Cabernet Sauvignon with 8% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. Philippe is proud that this is the first vintage to be produced in the new winery and it reminds him of the excellent 2006 produced here. There is a classic Mouton nose with intense cherry, mocha, cassis and sweet vanilla. The palate is full of plump black fruit with Asian spices, charcoal, graphite and a multi-layered creamy texture. Harmonious, slick and beautifully balanced. A great effort in this vintage. Proper Mouton."

- Farr Vintners

"The nose is rich with a lovely depth of fruit. Blackcurrant and plum fill out the palate a mass of powerful flavours supple, fleshy power packed. It feels fresher towards the back with bilberry and bramble the mix underpinned by vanilla and spice. 2020-40."

- Derek Smedley MW

"Intensely focused Mouton with lively fresh dark berry flavours and velvety tannins. Balanced, well made 2012 with elegance and finesse. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (04-Jan-2014)"

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"Roasted coffee and toast on the nose with subtle black fruit. Full mouthfeel still under oak influence with huge elegance. The roasted oak notes are predominant as yet but transient as the wine is unquestionably there. (16-Apr-2013)"

- en.gilbertgaillard.com
