

Château Mouton Rothschild 2013

CSPC# 749529

750mlx6

13.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc
Pauillac

First Growth. Premier Grand Cru Classe in 1855 & in 1973
<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

2013 will be remembered for its changeable and capricious weather. A cold and damp winter followed by a cool and wet spring held back the vegetation cycle and affected flowering. In striking contrast, July and August were particularly hot and sunny, with considerably less rainfall than the average. Peak temperatures of 38° C caused violent storms in late July.

The water shortage continued in September, encouraging the grapes to ripen evenly. The Cabernets were promising and overall the grapes achieved satisfactory sugar levels with good potential acidity.

The harvest at Mouton Rothschild was completed in record time between 30 September and 9 October with exceptional help from employees of the family company Baron Philippe de Rothschild SA, who were invited to come and swell the ranks of the regular pickers. Over 130 staff members responded to the appeal, and on 9 October 695 meals were served in the harvesters' refectory, an all-time record! Sorted with painstaking care, the grapes were transported from the picking crates to the gravity-fed vats in the magnificent Mouton Rothschild vat room. In a major innovation, transparent staves in the vats enabled technical staff to observe the vinification process in minute detail.

Although yields were among the lowest of the last 40 years, draconian selection ensured high quality. The 2013 vintage has been tended, fashioned and fine-tuned so as to get the very best out of the grapes.

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

September 30- October 9



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	The colour is an intense, deep red with a crimson tint. Initially displaying black cherry, raspberry and blackberry aromas, the complex nose opens up with airing to develop spicy and delicately roasted notes. From a clean, fresh and rich attack, the palate expands on suggestions of vanilla and chocolate, underpinned by tannins of great refinement. The firm and well-rounded structure reveals a long finish of profound aromatic intensity.
Cellaring	Drink 2014-2034
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2016</p> <p>91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014</p> <p>91-93 points - Robert M. Parker Jr., Wine Advocate #214 - August 2014</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2014</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2014</p> <p>96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 4, 2014</p> <p>90-93 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - Aug 2014</p> <p>16.5 points – Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2014</p> <p>17+ points - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - April 2014</p> <p>18.25 (93) points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2014</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com – April 2014</p> <p>93-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2014</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2, 2014</p> <p>93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>91-94 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2014</p> <p>17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2014</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2014</p> <p>88-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2014</p> <p>90+ points - Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants - April 2013</p> <p>91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p>17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p> <p>94-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p> <p>17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This delivers a pure, focused beam of cassis right from the start, driving through the finish while light iron, violet, singed apple wood and sweet tobacco notes form the backdrop. Has grip but delivers more acidity than tannins overall. Though there's ample depth and power, this remains more sleek in feel. Best from 2018 through 2028."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Shows solid flesh from the start, with plum paste notes that belie the vintage, bolstered by dark currant, crushed cherry and raspberry coulis flavors. Offers lots of anise and juniper hints through the finish, accented by an echo of licorice snap. Delivers impressive range and depth. Pure. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 91-94"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2013 Mouton Rothschild is the best of the Medoc first-growths in this vintage. It was the smallest crop at Mouton since 1969, even smaller than their 1991. Only 45% of the crop made it into the final blend of 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. One of the few 2013s to reveal serious depth, it displays a dense saturated ruby/purple color along with spicy creme de cassis, licorice and forest floor characteristics. Elegant, medium-bodied and more concentrated than most of its peers, it even reveals some tannins, suggesting 2-5 years of bottle age may be needed. It should last for 15-20 years. Kudos to administrator Philippe Dhalluin. 2014-2034 91-93"</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The Grand Vin is a blend of 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, the latter close to exceptional according to Philippe Dhalluin. It has less new oak (85%) because the new wooden vats impart their own raw woody character. It has a well-defined, classic bouquet that you might describe as "no frills". It does not have the usual Mouton flamboyance although that is not necessarily a bad thing. The palate is well balanced with clean and mineral-rich black fruit and a pleasant salty character towards the finish. Classic in style, this is a very fine Mouton with real panache 92-94"

- NM, Wine Journal

"Very aromatic and fresh with flowers, currants and cherries. Full to medium body with fine tannins and a bright, fruity finish. I like the way it builds on the palate at the end. Salty, too. 89% cabernet sauvignon, 7% merlot and 4% cabernet franc. 92 - 93/100"

- JS, James Suckling.com

"This generous, almost opulent wine has both concentration and rounded fruits. It's open already, hinting at wood-aging while concentrating much more on the ripe fruits. Packed with fruit and tannins, it's densely textured. It will age of course, don't start to drink before 2025."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"96-98. Barrel Sample. This is a powerful and dense wine, with ripe and rich berry fruit notes. It's balanced, showing strong tannins in harmony with concentrated fruit. It is rich, generous in texture and sure to age well."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Superb depth of colour, black fruits nose with spicy notes, slightly roasted coffee and bitter chocolate on the palate, Mouton's exotic hints, velvety texture, quite beautifully made. Drink: 2018-2035. 18.25"

- SS, Decanter.com

"(89% cabernet sauvignon, 7% merlot and 4% cabernet franc): Dark red-ruby. Raspberry and blackberry aromas are complicated by floral red cherry and cocoa on the nose. Compellingly sweet and vibrant in the mouth, with a chewy underlying mineral character giving shape to the ripe red cherry flavors. Finishes pure and very long, with unusual depth of fruit and ripeness of tannins for the year. One of the very few 2013s that I think has the structure and the balance to age gracefully beyond 15 years. A beautifully made wine, Mouton is my choice for best Left Bank first growth of the year. 90-93 "

- ID, International Wine Cellar

"Just being bottled - bottling ends tomorrow, 5 June, when it's usually in July or September. He usually plays more with time of élevage rather than % of new oak. 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, tiny Cabernet Franc. 'Very interesting, haven't tasted this vintage for months', he shakes his head from side and side and widens his eyes. Mid crimson. Broad and ripe on the nose. Sweet and fresh but without real depth and density. Just slightly sweet oak on the end. A bit awkward. He admits the sulphur level was a tad high pre bottling. Relatively soft. Just falls away a little on the end. (04-Jul-2015)"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc. Sweet, ripe fruit. Finely tuned balance with very gentle tannins. Surprisingly gentle. They match the light body, however, and make it approachable in youth. Straightforward, fruity and digestible – though there is a length and concentration that suggests grander development awaits. 2018-2028 17+"

- RH, JancisRobinson.com

"Some people have identified Mouton as one of the wines of the vintage, but it didn't taste that way to me. It's certainly a rich wine for the vintage, with plenty of oak and stuffing (thanks to 89% Cabernet), with sweet cassis and bramble fruit, but the finish seemed a little dry and over wooded to me. Maybe it needs time. 2020-30 92"

- TA, timatkin.com

Reviews

"Hints of vanilla bean, tobacco, cassis, blackberry and truffle lead to a medium/full bodied-wine with cassis, blackberry and soft, polished tannins. The wine should improve and add more depth with a few years of aging. From 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, the yields were 30.1 hectoliters per hectare. Less than 50% of the harvest was placed in the Grand Vin. 2013 represents the smallest amount of cases produced at Mouton Rothschild since 1969. Interestingly, the Merlot at Mouton Rothschild went through veraison after the Cabernet Sauvignon for the first time in Philippe Dhalluin's memory. 93-94 Pts."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep at core; vibrant purple at edge; stalky blackcurrant fruits; some depth; some stones and wet pebble notes; palate has weight and some generosity; quite a serious finish; trifle hard on the end perhaps; this has weight and solidity but lacks a little charm at this stage. Hopefully will put on more gloss during élevage. [89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc]. Drink 2020-2030. 90-92"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Rich on the nose the palate has sweet ripe black fruits with depth at the start. The mid palate is leaner red fruited some bramble some bilberry the fruit backed by firm tannins. There is a richer feel on the back palate more depth of fruit with a nice length of flavour. 2018-30 91-94"

- Derek Smedley MW

"Elegant Mouton with a light touch. Not a rich, heavy style but one that is elegant, harping back to the 1980s when the shape of the wine was slimmer. This is the smallest production of Mouton over the past 40 years, less than in 1991. Blend is 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc. Mouton is slowly increasing the Cabernet Franc in the blend. A medium weight Mouton with vibrancy and freshness. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (01-Apr-2014)"

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"I tasted Mouton as usual once only, at the Château, and was left rather perplexed. 'A deep sustained colour, it is round and plump and rich on the palate, slowly drying as the oak takes hold. Feels very dry, with no real lift or distinction, as though it was being ironed out.' Now clearly this is more likely to be me or the sample as most other tasters seem to have found it to be one of the wines of the vintage? Read the others!"

- Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants

"(89 Cabernet Sauvignon, 7 Merlot, 4 Cabernet Franc) Very attractive nose with some density and a hint of richness on the palate. Smart oak detail and it's controlled, too. The overall package on the palate is quite tense and focused but there is some power hidden here. Not exclusively black fruited, there are lighter red notes, too – all rather suave. The nose is superb, and it rather masks the lack of action on the palate at the moment. I trust it will develop further on the palate. 17.5+"

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"Firm yet nicely integrated tannins form the backbone of the 2013 Mouton-Rothschild, giving the wine much of its energy and focus. Violets, lavender and menthol add nuance to the dark blue/purplish fruit. Mouton is one of the few Left Bank 2013s with dark tonalities of fruit, but the mid-weight structure is very much that of the vintage. The 2013 is 89% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, harvested between September 30 and October 9. 88-90"

- AG, Vinous

"This powerful Mouton Rothschild has remarkable balance and is definitely in the top tier of the best wines of its vintage. Originally "First, I cannot be. Second, I do not deign to be. Mouton I am." the estate motto became "First I am, second I was, Mouton never changes." It was the only chateau in the history of the 1885 classification to go from a Deuxième to a Premier Grand Cru Classé. The man responsible for its elevation was Baron Philippe de Rothschild, who, in 1922, became its owner and introduced innovations to shake up the established ideas at the time. Mouton has been managed by the Baron's daughter, Philippine, since 1988"

- SAQ (Quebec Liquor Stores)
