

Château Mouton Rothschild 2015

CSPC# 749529

750mlx6

13.2% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

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750mlx6

13.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pauillac

Classification

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

Website

<http://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

Although 2015 was slightly warmer than average, it was above all very dry (706 mm of rain, compared with an annual average of 862 mm), especially between February and July, from budbreak to veraison. As a result, the berries remained small, which explains why the yield was rather low even though we had hopes of a normal crop after flowering.

Higher-than-average rainfall in August and September helped to prevent the ripening process from coming to a halt in a vineyard already stressed by the lack of water.

Consequently, the grapes matured at rather different rates from one parcel to another, according to the terroir, the grape variety and the age of the vines.

In order to ensure that each variety and each parcel was picked at optimum maturity, the harvest period was the longest in living memory.

The grapes were magnificent, and fermentation took place quickly. The wines immediately showed plenty of colour and a complete array of very intense aromas ranging from red and black fruit to spice and incense.

The tannins are generally very well-rounded, dense and seamlessly smooth. After blending, the wines still have the same aromatic intensity and complex, full-bodied structures which barrel-maturing should further enhance.

Our 2015 vintage in Pauillac is very similar in its heft and opulence to the 2005 vintage.

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 14 September to 2 October 2015

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 wine has an attractive, deep, and dark colour with a purple tint. The refined and elegant nose reveals fruity wild blackberry and bilberry aromas. Notes of toast, liquorice and blond tobacco then emerge to fill out a rich and complex range of aromas. The fresh, full-bodied, and slightly saline attack shows great intensity, opening on smooth and creamy tannins which enfold a silky texture lifted by a touch of minerality. The impression on the palate is very full, rich in ripe fruit and peppery spice flavours. An exceptionally long finish concludes a remarkably balanced wine.

Cellaring Drink 2025-2045
Scores/Awards

96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018
95-98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016
98 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018
97-99 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
98 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018
99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016
98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2018
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2016
19 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
98 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016
98 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017
96-98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
96-98+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
19+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2016
93-94 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
96 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016
97+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
95-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
99 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018
18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016
95-97 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016
19 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016
19 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016
19 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016

Reviews *"Offers a prodigious core of steeped fig, black currant, and blackberry compote flavors, enmeshed with notes of smoldering tobacco, charcoal and licorice. Broad, deep, and long, with a deep foundation of graphite through the finish. Despite the heft, this manages to show off some purity too. Best from 2025 through 2045."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Dark, with a lightly mulled edge to the plum and blackberry fruit. Notes of tobacco, menthol and warm paving stone lurk as well. This has quite a bit of bass today, without the overt purity that the 2016 or other young vintages show. But the fruit is certainly there, lingering persistently on the finish. Just needs to freshen up after the recent fining. --Non-blind Mouton-Rothschild vertical (March 2017). Score range: 95-98."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2015 Mouton Rothschild is a blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc aged in 100% new oak with a mid-July 2017 bottling. Deep garnet-purple colored, this Mouton pulls off an incredibly impactful entrance, emerging from the glass with profound notes of blackberry preserves, plum pudding, crème de cassis and grilled meats, featuring perfectly accessorized accents of sandalwood, cinnamon stick, and fenugreek with wafts of dried roses, unsmoked cigars and tilled soil. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is completely packed with rich, ripe black fruits sparked with blue and red fruit undertones and an incredible structure of very firm, very ripe tannins, with seamless freshness and an epicly long, earth-laced finish. Possessing striking natural beauty framed by impeccable crafting, this 2015 is a total diva and well worth attention. Give it a good 7-8 years in bottle, at least, and drink it over the next 30+ years."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Mouton-Rothschild is a blend of 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc matured entirely in new oak, as usual. This represents a relatively high percentage of Merlot simply because, as winemaker Philippe Dhalluin told me, that quality was so good. I afforded my sample four to five minutes to

Reviews *open as it was a little reduced at first, but eventually it reveals a gorgeous, extraordinarily intense bouquet of blackberry, cassis, incense, and cold slate aromas. In some ways it reminds me of Latour as much as Mouton Rothschild. The palate is medium-bodied with svelte tannin, perfectly pitched acidity, wonderful tension, and impressive length. There is a strong graphite theme running through from start to finish that is little grainy and so it will require preferably a decade in cellar. But what freshness and panache here, a classic Mouton-Rothschild that will live for 50 or 60 years, not a million miles away from say, the 1986 or 2010. Expect this to settle at the top of my banded score once in bottle.”*

- NM, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 Mouton Rothschild has a deep, almost opaque color. The nose is very intense and extraordinarily backward: blackberry, graphite (in fact, more like a big box of pencil shavings), hints of blueberry, violet and a splash of Indian ink. It must surely constitute one of the most penetrating aromatics this vintage. The palate is medium-bodied with saturated tannin that forms the arching structure of this Mouton, with layers of rich black fruit reined in by the killer line of acidity. This is ineffably pure and delineated toward the finish with an effervescent finish that leaves a stupid grin on your face. Together with that brilliant label by Gerhard Richter, this is a must-have in your cellar.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“Decadent and rich aromas of black cherries and plums with wet earth and sandalwood. Turns to dried mushrooms. Full-bodied, tight, and closed with big, polished tannins, yet this is very closed and shy right now. Despite this, underneath it shows such depth and beauty. Tangy acidity. This is a combination of 2005 and 2009. Try it in 2024.”

- JS, James Suckling.com

“Very racy and refined with super polished tannins and focused dark fruits. Blackberry, orange peel, and black currants. Full. Very long and thought-provoking. A wine that delivers power and finesse. Juicy and fresh.”

- JS, James Suckling.com

“This is a hugely opulent wine, packed with black fruits, rich tannins, and great concentration. It is a gorgeous wine that’s full of potential, with the dense, dark core showing how well this wine will age. Drink this complex wine from 2027.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“95–97. Barrel Sample. This wine is generous without being opulent. It has a straight line of bright acidity that shoots through the wine giving it a fresh character. At the same time, the Cabernet that dominates the blend offers some serious firm tannins. It is a wine that starts with fruit and will give fine fruit for many years to come.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“My joint top wine (with Ch Margaux) of the vintage. A real firework display but still controlled. Very rich on the palate: broad yet silky, earthy yet so refined. This is Mouton at a new peak and it’s hard to imagine a better balance of elegance and power.”

- SS, Decanter.com

“Gorgeously confident and rich in colour, you can see the silkiness in the glass from the first look. This has 11% press wine, which tells you how good the skins were and how gently they extract at first. Winemaker Philippe Dhalluin and team have really succeeded in this vintage. It is beautifully integrated, and full of verve and sexiness, just stopping short of swagger. It approaches the heights of 2015 in the most successful appellations and will age well. Bottled in June, with zero oxygen added at bottling and just 25 ppm of SO₂. (JA)”

-JA, Decanter.com

“57% of the crop. Very majestic nose. Obviously first-growth quality. Savoury and plush in terms of texture. Restrained without being a wimp. Lovely scent. Dry finish but with some of Mouton's opulence before then. Very fine. Very exciting. Some saline sap as well as all the ripe fruit.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

"Is this one of the wines of the vintage? It all depends on whether you like the Napa-esque. Mouton style, which is every bit as recognisable as that of Lafite (at the other extreme in 2015). This is a big, bold, concentrated wine, with toasty, 100% new oak and plush, compact tannins and succulent fruit flavours. Impressive, but how will it age? We shall see. Drink: 2025-35."

- TA, timatkin.com

"Dark in color with a complex nose of licorice, spice box, tobacco and ripe, dark red fruits, this wine is concentrated, long and fresh with true depth of flavor and purity in the mouth. Red, black, and even blue fruit are showcased with a hint of spice. The finish packs a silky but slightly reserved punch with smooth, creamy tannins that linger on the palate. The blend comes from 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc, reaching 13.2% alcohol with a pH of 3.76. The harvest took place between September 14 and October 2."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep looking; legs; ripe and attractive Cabernet aromatics; blackcurrants and cassis tones; lots of matter here; glossy quality to the fruit; lots of layers here; real density but the fruit tones are very attractive; grip and texture; wonderful length; cashmere Cabernet. Plenty of matter here; layered and deep. Very, very long finish. [82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc]. Drink 2025-2045. Tasted 4/4/16. 96-98+."

- 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 and the wine is always a classic example of both Cabernet Sauvignon and Pauillac. The 2015 has a modest 13.2 degrees of alcohol and was made from 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc. Philippe believes that this vintage has the "heft and opulence" of the 2005 but with softer tannins and a touch of the ripeness of 2009. Deep purple in colour with a very spicy, smoky, and exotic nose. Layers of spicy clove, cinnamon, cassis, and charcoal. The palate is slick and refined on entry with a polished and velvety mouthfeel. Superb poise and balance between vibrant blackcurrant fruit and toasted coriander and cumin spice. Exotic, complex, and long on the finish. Harmonious and elegant."

- Farr Vintners

"Firm black cherry on the nose slightly tight the start of the palate has muscle concentrated black cherry the tannins are firm. It fills out in the middle quite fleshy and velvety ripe and rich at the back. Bilberry and bramble on the finish give a fresher feel the finish is perfumed with lingering flavours."

- Derek Smedley MW

"Sweet, opulent, and quite forward for a first growth, this vintage of Mouton has charm and a wonderful approachability. The firm tannins and body are well structured but wrapped around ripe, sweet blackberry and plum fruit. A beautiful Mouton with charm and sweetness."

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"In 2015, Mouton Rothschild is fabulous. A big, towering wine, the 2015 makes its presence felt with layers of super-ripe dense fruit and striking textural resonance that carries all the way through to the finish. The 2015 is much more reticent from bottle than it was from barrel, which is not at all surprising, but is something readers should take into account. Even with all of its obvious intensity, the 2015 Mouton is a wine of classically inspired proportions. I can't wait to taste it in another 15-20 years. The 2015 is 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc that spend 19 months in 100% new French oak. 2025 – 2055."

- AG, Vinous

"A bold, dramatic wine, the 2015 Mouton-Rothschild sweeps across the palate with remarkable depth. Seemingly endless layers seem to open as the 2015 fills out its broad, ample frame. The tannins are silky and creamy, which give the 2015 much of its voluptuous, inviting personality, while the finish is both remarkably vivid and persistent. This is an especially dark, powerful Mouton. Tasted two times."

- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“With almost exactly the same blend as last year’s wine you couldn’t have two more polar opposite flavours. Dark, chocolaty, luxurious and indulgent, this is a forward, alluring Mouton with flamboyance and exoticism in equal measure. I love the daring fruit and stunning concentration even though this is not a particularly tannic or weighty wine. Stunning and very attractive, I cannot take my eyes off this wine, and it will amaze drinkers from a fairly early age for a quarter of a decade.”*
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

“The crème de la crème from the northern Médoc is the 2015 Mouton Rothschild and this incredible wine flirts with perfection. Made from 82% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Merlot, and 3% Petit Verdot, this inky, purple-colored effort offers sensational Cabernet flare in its crème de cassis, graphite, lead pencil shavings, floral, and Asian spice aromas and flavors. It is full-bodied, dense, and incredibly concentrated, yet still has the sexy, opulent, seductive style of the vintage front and center. It will be a candidate for perfection in 10-12 years and is going to be one of the longest-lived wines in the vintage. Hats off to Philippe Dhalluim and his team for this incredible effort that’s a step up over just about every other northern Médoc out there! 2023 – 2063.”
- Jeb Dunnuck
