

Château Mouton Rothschild 2018

CSPC# 756553

750mlx3

13.8% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 2% 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.

Winemaker
Vintage

Philippe Dhalluin

The first half of 2018 was marked by heavy rainfall and severe hailstorms during the winter, followed by a much milder spring.

Cool temperatures in March were followed by a warm spell in April which favoured vegetation growth and brought the vines into flower slightly earlier than usual. This trend was confirmed from June onwards as hot and sunny weather advanced the vine cycle by 5 days in relation to the average.

In July, high humidity coupled with the summer heat made it difficult to keep the vines healthy, but constant care from our growers ensured that all the qualities of the vineyard were preserved. Fortunately, hot and dry weather then set in for three months, with temperatures sometimes reaching more than 30°C, ending the mildew attacks.

Although conditions in the first half of the year did not herald a great harvest, the record-breaking temperatures, low rainfall, and relative drought that followed in the summer months rectified the situation. The grapes were small but outstandingly rich in sugar and tannins.

The advance in the vine cycle and the hot, dry summer meant that the harvest began in late August for the white grapes and early September for the red grapes.

At Château Mouton-Rothschild, picking started with the Aile d'Argent parcels from 30 August to 5 September and continued with the red grapes from 10 September to 3 October.

The wines are intensely coloured and have excellent tannic structures. They are remarkably dense and smooth, with a rare concentration of aroma and flavour. Yields were smaller because of the drought, but the vintage can already be reckoned one of our great successes.

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



Vineyards	the French for sheep, <i>mouton</i> , 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	From 10 September to 3 October
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 intense, deep black color. The nose reveals intense ripe fruit aromas and nutmeg notes, set off by touches of mint. The ample, full, and refined attack opens on blackberry and cherry flavors lifted by a hint of spice. Generous, creamy, and well-rounded tannins underpin candied flavors, giving an overall impression of succulence. Great balance between the fruit and the tannins paves the way for a highly refined and exceptionally long finish.
Serve with	Chateau Mouton Rothschild is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Mouton Rothschild is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Production	Approx. 20,000 cases annually
Cellaring	Drink 2030-2050
Scores/Awards	<p>98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2020</p> <p>99 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>97-99+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - October 2019</p> <p>97-99+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2021</p> <p>100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>99 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2021</p> <p>97-99 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019</p> <p>18 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019</p> <p>100 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p>98-100 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>98-100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>19.5 points - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p>97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>95-97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p>99 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>94-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p>97+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2019</p> <p>96-98+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p>18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p>99 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p>97 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>99 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>19.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This large-scaled wine is brimming with cassis and distilled plum fruit that's remarkably pure, focused and driven in feel, supported by a seamless, iron-clad and remarkably polished structure, doing its job without detracting from the fruit. Add in sparkles of savory, racy floral and sanguine accents, as well as some pretty ridiculous length, and you have another battleship of a wine in the making. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2030 through 2050."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2018 Mouton Rothschild is a blend of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc—there is also a splash of all the Petit Verdot they had, but it doesn't even register in the percentage. It has 13.8% alcohol, which is relatively modest for the vintage. Deep garnet-purple colored, it straight away pops with bright, vivacious notes of crushed blackcurrants, juicy blackberries and redcurrant jelly with slowly emerging nuances of candied violets, stewed plums, licorice and black tea, plus a waft of dusty red soil. The medium-bodied palate is built like a brick house with super firm, super ripe, grainy tannins and bold freshness</i></p>

Reviews *supporting the muscular black fruits, finishing long and savory with lingering mineral suggestions. This is so, so delicious and, due to the ripeness of tannins, approachable now. It will be difficult to keep your mitts off it for a good 5-7 years, when all those tightly tucked away nuances should begin to emerge. After that, it should improve over the course of 25 years or more and drink for 40+.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“A barrel sample, it was fascinating to take another look at the 2018 Mouton Rothschild, after having spent six more months in cask since I last tasted it. Deep garnet-purple, it maintains a jaw-droppingly profound nose of crème de cassis, mocha, plum preserves, licorice and Black Forest cake with touches of iron ore, Sichuan pepper, allspice and tilled soil. Full-bodied, super concentrated and possessing layer upon layer of black fruits, exotic spices and fragrant earth-inspired flavors, it has a rock-solid, firm, grainy texture with fantastic freshness and incredible length.”
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“The 2018 Mouton Rothschild is composed of 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc—there is also a splash of all the Petit Verdot they had, but it doesn’t even register in the percentage. Grapes were harvested September 10 to October 3, and the wine was blended at the beginning of December; it has 13.8% alcohol, and the tannins were slightly higher this year. Deep purple-black in color, it is a little closed to begin compared to some 2018s, slowly unfurling to reveal a profound nose of warm black plums, blackcurrant cordial, star anise, blueberry pie and mocha with suggestions of candied violets, oolong tea, camphor and unsmoked cigars plus a touch of crushed rocks. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers waves of opulent, spiced black and blue fruits with seamless acid lifting this gorgeous mouthfeel that is at once plush from the ripe fruit and firm and grainy from the super ripe tannins, finishing very long and wonderfully creamy.”
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“Exquisite purity of blackcurrants, raspberries and some citrus. The aromas flow from the glass. Full-bodied with seamless tannins that coat the palate and then fall into the center, to deliver a thoroughly refined and harmonious young red. Endless finish. 86% cabernet sauvignon. This is the new 1959, one of the legendary vintages of Mouton. Try after 2026.”
- JS, James Suckling.com

“I am a little bit speechless about this one. I have not seen such earthy and totally deep character of the soil in a young Mouton in my career. Of course, I didn’t taste 1945 or 1959 when they were young, but I have been lucky enough to have a few bottles in my life. There is really terroir-driven character to this. Layered and so intense with polished and incredible tannins.”
- JS, James Suckling.com

“Dense structure, powerful tannins and intense black fruits are contained within this wine that shows richness and sustained concentration as well as amazing freshness. The 86% Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend is the secret of this great wine that is sure to age magnificently. Don’t think about drinking before 2029.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“This wine is ripe and juicy, packed with black fruits and generous tannins that sit on a velvety texture. It is dense, concentrated and intensely structured in bold tannins, but still the purity of the dark shines through. Barrel Sample: 97-99.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc. Barrel sample. Black core with purple rim. Pure, perfectly ripe and lightly spiced cassis. Perfect Cabernet Sauvignon with a nice touch of cassis leaf to freshen the aroma – invitingly perfumed. On the palate, much more freshness than on the Petit Mouton, the tannins slimmer and finer even if they are compact and very present. Chewy, generous in fruit, big but harmonious. Structured and deep and so much more to come. (JH)”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

"This has so much tannic power, with density, layers and structure along with layers of blackberry, liquorice, baked earth, cigar box and the signature exotic spices of Mouton. A big, textured and complex wine that is taking it all in its stride. 100% new oak. There is the tiniest touch of Petit Verdot in the blend, but under 1%, so it's not in the official figures. 62% of production went into the grand vin. 3.78pH. 88IPT. The artist for this vintage is Xu Bing."

- JA, Decanter.com

"This has incredible persistency and density of flavour in 2018. It's extremely well knitted with everything drawn out and taut through the mid palate, slowly layering on the succulent, plump notes of damson, juice-filled blackberries, charcoal, menthol, cigar box, pencil lead and black chocolate that is a signature of the vintage. I always love that this property shares the same gravel-filled plateau as Lafite and yet the two have such different personalities and interpretations of vintages – with Mouton here absorbing the richness of the year and adding a touch of glamour into the wine as always. The alcohol, while still very balanced compared to most in the vintage, is unusually high at Mouton because, as managing director Philippe Dhalluin says; 'usually the poor soils at Mouton mean the grapes make tannins but not sugar, but in 2018 they made both'. There is the tiniest touch of Petit Verdot in the blend but under 1% so it's not in the official figures. 100% new oak which has been beautifully integrated. 62% of production went into the grand vin. 3.78pH. 88IPT. The artist design for the 2018 label will be revealed later."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Dark red ink in color, the wine exudes Asian spice, espresso, smoke, cigar box, walnuts, cocoa, blackberry and red currant aromas. If you can pull yourself away from seeking additional nuances in the perfume, the wine hits your palate with waves of sensuous, decadent, velvety, dark red fruits and spice that clock in at over 60 seconds. Think of 2018 as a better version of 2009, with more concentration, silkier tannins, additional levels of purity and opulence. Even with all this voluptuousness, the wine is energetic and intense. The blend comes from 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc, 13.8% alcohol."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Opaque in color, the purple black hue is gorgeous. The perfume with its sea salt, lead pencil, blackberry liqueur, black currants, tobacco, spice and smoke is a knockout! That will keep you busy enough but it is on the palate where you'll really experience the wine as it hits and coats every nook and cranny in your mouth. The wine is lavish, dense, concentrated, and showy. The naturally flamboyant nature of Mouton Rothschild comes through loud and clear. Even with all this voluptuousness, the wine is energetic and intense. The finish remains with you for well over 60 seconds. Clearly, the 2018 is going to be one of the great vintages of Mouton ever produced. The blend comes from 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc and reached 13.8% alcohol. The harvest took place from September 10 to October 3, the Grand Vin represents 66% of the harvest with very low yields of only 28 hectoliters per hectare."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and viscous in the glass. The nose is exotic and perfumed, with classic Cabernet cassis, black pepper, dark cocoa, morello cherry and baked vanilla. Complex, intense and enticing. The palate follows, with oodles of rich, fleshy, glossy fruit and nutmeg, clove, and charcoal. The tannins are plentiful but perfectly refined and integrated, building a velveteen structure that is both seamless and powerful. Smoky and exotic yet brilliantly precise and harmonious, the fruit drives through to an unerring and enduring finish that is complex, refined, and hedonistic. A real showstopper, and contender for wine of the vintage."

- Farr Vintners

"The 2018 Mouton-Rothschild needed 2–3 hours before I began composing a single word. Eventually it unfolds with the same aromatics that I observed out of barrel: extraordinarily pure blackberry, blueberry, pressed violet petals and potpourri. It still has the alluring Margaux-like florality. The palate is medium-bodied with filigreed tannins, disarmingly satin-like texture, and wonderful cohesion. This is a sophisticated Mouton-Rothschild that is maybe less ostentatious than other recent vintages, but well aware of its class and breeding; it knows that there is no need to show off. The precision on the finish is riveting. Assessing it over many hours to plot its evolution, I wager that this First Growth may well drink earlier than I anticipated, so give it 5–6 years in bottle. Chapeau to retired winemaker Philippe Dhalluin and his team."

- NM, Vinous

Reviews

"The 2018 Mouton Rothschild is blessed with a glorious and extremely pure bouquet of blackberry, wild strawberries, touches of blueberry and pressed violets, almost Margaux-like in style. As usual, the new oak is seamlessly integrated. There is an undercurrent of exoticism here, but it is very discreet and never overshadows the DNA of Mouton. The palate is medium bodied with sappy black fruit, a fine line of acidity and layers of opulent black fruit. This is one of the more extravagant Mouton Rothschilds in recent years, a little sweeter on the finish compared to the previous two vintages yet maintaining freshness and tension. It will be irresistible in its youth, although it will benefit from a decade in bottle."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Mouton Rothschild is a rich, shockingly flamboyant wine endowed with tremendous fruit density and a level of unctuousness that could be taken for a wine still in barrel. Marvelously open and fleshy, the 2018 is utterly breathtaking today. I imagine it will shut down at some point, but today it is all seduction here. Ripe red cherry, plum, mocha, spice and cedar infuse the 2018 with tons of complexity. This is a tremendous showing."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2018 Mouton Rothschild is dense and unctuous in the glass, with striking textural depth and plenty of overall intensity. Super-ripe dark cherry, plum, spice, leather and sweet spice infuse a Mouton that stands out for its unctuousness and fruit intensity. There is plenty of tannin, but it is nearly buried by the sheer voluptuousness of the fruit. In 2018, Mouton is radiant, sensual, and impeccable in its balance, even if it doesn't possess the sheer visceral thrill, energy or pedigree of truly great vintages. The blend is 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot and 2% Cabernet Franc."

- AG, Vinous

"Coming from a selection of 76% of the total production, the 2018 Château Mouton Rothschild checks in as 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc that was brought up all in new French oak. This dense purple-hued effort has a backward, primordial bouquet of pure crème de cassis, scorched earth, burning embers, and graphite. There are hints of classic Pauillac tobacco and lead pencil, but it's locked and loaded at this point. Full-bodied, beautifully concentrated, and flawlessly balanced on the palate, it has lots of tannins, a good spine of acidity, and a great finish. It doesn't have the sexy opulence of the 2015 and 2016 yet has more minerality, and I suspect it's every bit as concentrated. A solid decade of bottle age is going to be warranted, and this powerful, concentrated Mouton is going to evolve for longer than most of us reading this will be alive. 97+."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Representing 76% of the total production, the 2018 Mouton-Rothschild checks in as 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, and 2% Cabernet Franc brought up in new oak. The most backward and reserved of the First Growths, this deeply colored beauty boasts a rich, layered bouquet of blackcurrants, graphite, scorched earth, and liquid violets. Deep, full-bodied, and seamless on the palate, it's more elegant than the opulently styled 2016, but it's still an incredibly powerful and promising Mouton that's going to live for half a century or more."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"(86 Cabernet Sauvignon, 12 Merlot, 2 Cabernet Franc) | 13.8% alc There is an immediate volley of class on the nose of this distinguished wine, and it introduces its leather and graphite details up front. This is certainly not a Cabernet show in spite of the dominance of this grape in the cépage because the Merlot is present throughout and this brings welcome complexity and tonal variation to the whole. Succulent and sumptuous, this is a heady Mouton with a long, cool finish and it is in very good shape overall. Honed and polished, 2018 Mouton is true to type."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com