

Château Mouton Rothschild 1995

CSPC#742351

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety Appellation General Info

72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc
Pauillac

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.

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.

Vinification/ Maturation Tasting Notes

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

The wine has a fine, deep red colour with a slightly brickish tint and a subtle nose, a lovely marriage of jammy fruit, black cherry, some toasty, roasted notes and a pleasant touch of mint that brings freshness and refinement. Seductive on the palate, it has compact, well-balanced tannins in a nicely rounded structure enhanced by rich and complex flavours of blackcurrant liqueur, with powerful mineral notes.

The finish is full and dense, long, stylish and generous, entirely typical of the vintage.

Production Cellaring

30,000 bottles made

Drink now-2030

Scores/Awards

94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007

96 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - January 31, 1988

95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #115 - February 1998

95-97 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #109 - February 1997

96 points - Robert Parker, Bordeaux Book 3rd Edition - January 1998

95-97 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #104 - April 1996

92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011

95-97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2005

18.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com

92 points - Jean Marc Quarin



Reviews *“Aromas of ripe fruit and grilled meat follow through to a full-bodied palate, with velvety tannins and a long caressing finish. Very beautiful wine. Mouton shows finesse yet richness in this vintage. --'95/'96 Bordeaux retrospective. Best after 2007.”*
- JS, Wine Spectator

“This classic wine is only showing a portion of what it's got to offer, but it's excellent even so. Inky in color, with masses of berry, violet, mint, mineral and cherry character, and full in body, with tons of velvety tannins and a moderate finish. Needs time to open. Best after 2004.”
- JS, Wine Spectator

“Bottled in June 1997, this profound Mouton is more accessible than the more muscular 1996. A blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, and 19% Merlot, it reveals an opaque purple color, and reluctant aromas of cassis, truffles, coffee, licorice, and spice. In the mouth, the wine is "great stuff," with superb density, a full-bodied personality, rich mid-palate, and a layered, profound finish that lasts for 40+ seconds. There is outstanding purity and high tannin, but my instincts suggest this wine is lower in acidity and slightly fleshier than the brawnier, bigger 1996. Both are great efforts from Mouton-Rothschild. Anticipated maturity: 2004-2030.”
- RP, Wine Advocate

“After less than persuasive performances in two potentially great years, 1989 and 1990, Mouton-Rothschild appears to have settled down, producing fine efforts in recent vintages, culminating with the enormously promising, unquestionably profound 1995. This wine is evolving into one of Mouton-Rothschild's greatest vintages. It boasts an inky purple color, as well as a powerful, blockbuster nose of explosively jammy cassis intermingled with toasty new oak, minerals, and spice. The wine is layered, with extraordinary depth, richness, glycerin, and length. This is undoubtedly the greatest Mouton since the 1986, with a more precocious, up-front character than that wine. A formidable tannin level combined with low acidity (the wine's PH is around 3.8), and magnificent layers of fruit suggest the 1995 will be approachable after bottling, but I expect it to close down (as most Mouton-Rothschilds do) after 6-7 years in the bottle, not to re-emerge for 15-20 years. Anticipated maturity: 2005-2030. Although Mouton-Rothschild can be among the most inconsistent first growths, when this estate gets everything right, the wine can be as compelling as any produced in Bordeaux.”
- RP, Wine Advocate

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“When Mouton-Rothschild gets everything right it is unquestionably a candidate for the wine of the vintage. Mouton did indeed hit the bull's eye in 1995, making the greatest wine produced at this estate since the legendary duo of 1982 and 1986. The harvest began on September 18 and finished on September 28. A blend of 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, and 8% Cabernet Franc, the 1995 appears to be one of those sensational Moutons made from extraordinarily ripe Cabernet Sauvignon, the key at this estate to wines of remarkable volume and mass. It offers a profoundly deep purple color, followed by a knock-out bouquet of jammy blackcurrants, coconut, coffeecake, and smoke. This staggeringly rich, low acid Mouton is enormously rich and chewy, with layers of concentrated fruit, in addition to being extremely pure, exceptionally concentrated, and amazingly silky and sweet. According to cellar master Michel Bosq, the 1995's tannin level is similar to such great Moutons as 1986, 1982, and 1961. To put this effort into another context, consider what readers might taste if there were a hypothetical blend of 50% of the 1982, 25% of the 1986, and 25% of the 1985. Such a blend might provide an inkling of just what Mouton has achieved in 1995. Mouton-Rothschild has a tendency to be extremely showy for three or four years and then go into a shell (the 1982 and 1986, after their flamboyant early years, are now forbiddingly backward). My instincts suggest this wine will be utterly profound for another 5-6 years and then shut down for about 20 years thereafter. It is certainly a Mouton that will last for 30 years. All of the wines in this segment were tasted between March 19 and March 28 in Bordeaux. Most of the important wines from both the 1994 and 1995 vintages were tasted three separate times during my ten-day stay in Bordeaux.”
RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews *"This bottle of Mouton '95 was surprisingly disjointed on the nose and seemed to be cowering next to the '96. The herbaceous element was more pronounced than anticipated, some lovely hot gravel and stony scents but missing the breeding of the following vintage. The palate is better with blackcurrant, cedar, graphite and slightly coarse tannins. This is like a car that cannot get out of second gear and yet, it seems like a very nice automobile. I would like to taste this again but, on this showing, go '96. Tasted February 2011."*
- NM, Wine Journal

"First tasted blind for Wine magazine when it was "utterly pure & beguiling". Brilliant. Then at the CECWINE 1995 horizontal in September 2004. A sensuous nose with notes of black cherry and blueberry with a dash of black pepper. Becomes more savory and meaty in the glass. The palate is very harmonious with fresh acidity, well knit unobtrusive tannins and layers of sweet black fruits. Quite a showy, ostentatious wine, spoiled by a lack of cohesion on the finish. Stylish, quite brash. Drinking from 2006 I would say. Finally, in September 2005, where it was showing beautifully at the Mouton vertical. A very deep garnet core. An attractive, rounded nose of black cherry, black olives and mocha. Complex and well-knit. The palate is very concentrated, more focused than the 1996, with well-knit new oak. Decadent, sweet ripe red fruits: raspberry, black cherry. Superb length. A slightly more complete wine than the 1996."
- NM, Wine Journal
