

# Château Clerc Milon 2008

CSPC# 742339

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Pauillac
<b>General Info</b>	<p>Chateau Clerc Milon, classified a Fifth Growth in 1855, is located in an exceptionally favorable situation adjoining Lafite Rothschild and Mouton Rothschild, both First Growths. Now owned by Baroness Philippine de Rothschild and her children, Chateau Clerc Milon was bought in 1970 by her father, Baron Philippe de Rothschild, at a time when the estate had become very much run down. The property was entirely reorganized and renovated and, under the expert guidance of its new owners, Chateau Clerc Milon has become one of the most sought-after wines both in Bordeaux and throughout the world. The Chateau Clerc Milon label is illustrated with a pair of dancing clowns made of precious stones (the work of a 16th century German goldsmith) from the Museum of Wine in Art at Chateau Mouton Rothschild.</p> <p>When the Rothschilds purchased this Fifth Growth estate in 1970, they began pumping money into the property, and Clerc-Milon now consistently outperforms its rank. With its fairly substantial percentage of Merlot, the result of a recent gradual shift away from Cabernet, this Pauillac often displays an exotic aromatic character, with rich if sometimes rather medicinal-scented fruit and smooth tannins. These wines are ultimately closer in style to its big brother Mouton-Rothschild than to Armailhac, which is also owned by the Rothschild family.</p>
<b>Soil</b>	The soils are a mixture of two-thirds sandy gravel, with a deeper seam of clay-limestone. This clay comes to the surface towards the east, nearer the river, accounting for the remaining one-third. The slope of the land aids drainage, as well as improving the aspect of the vines.
<b>Vineyards Harvest</b>	43.6 hectares, with 8450 feet of vines per hectare. Average vine age 40 years. Thursday, October 02, 2008-Wednesday, October 15, 2008 The harvest is manual, naturally, with the fruit picked during several <i>tries</i> into small, 12kg baskets. The fruit undergoes hand-sorting twice, before moving to the winery in mobile bins.
<b>Maturation</b>	Once at the new facilities optical sorting is a possibility, prior to pressing and then moving the fruit by gravity flow into the 40 new stainless steel, thermo-regulated fermentation vats. Once complete, the embryonic wine goes into oak barrels, of which 30% is new each vintage for 18 months.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The wine is dark, an attractive garnet red with deeper shades of violet. Reflecting the high proportion of Merlot, Château Clerc Milon 2008 opens on intense, almost jammy red fruit mingled with delicate touches of roasted coffee. Round and perfectly structured on the palate, it reveals blackberry and blackcurrant fruit. The nicely forward tannic structure contributes to the overall balance of a wine whose long and flavoursome finish suggests considerable ageing potential.
<b>Production</b>	Approx. 14,000 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	20-25 years
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>90 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - May 30, 2011 <b>88-91 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2009 <b>90 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011 <b>89-91 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #182 - April 2009 <b>91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2012 <b>92+ points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2011 <b>91-93points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2009</p>



**Scores/Awards** **89-92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2009  
**93 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2011  
**91-93 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 31, 2009  
**89? points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July/Aug2011  
**16.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 4, 2009  
**17 points/4 stars** - Decanter Magazine  
**90-93 points** - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010  
**17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2011  
**18 points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2011  
**17.5-18.5+ points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010  
**17.5 points/4 stars** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010  
**90 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010  
**90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 16, 2012  
**90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 28, 2011  
**89-91 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 31, 2009  
**91 points** - Richard Jennings, rjonwine.com - UGC Bordeaux Tasting - Jan 22, 2011

**Reviews** *"This offers a solid, structured core of red currant, cherry skin and fig notes, laced with savory herb, violet and light-handed toast. There's nice cut on the iron-tinged finish, with some depth in reserve for the cellar. Drink now through 2016."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Rose and currant aromas follow through to a medium body, with fine tannins and a clean finish. A more delicate style Clerc. Score range: 88-91"*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"The dense ruby/purple-tinged 2008 Clerc Milon offers attractive aromas of toast, black currants and forest floor. Deep, full-bodied, rich, elegant and moderately tannic, this impressively endowed 2008 is an outstanding success from the Mouton Rothschild staff (who are responsible for making this wine). It will benefit from 2-3 years of bottle age and should drink well for 15 years."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Aromas of sweet tobacco interwoven with cedar, black currants, and subtle smoky menthol emerge from the medium-bodied 2008 Clerc Milon. While slightly austere, it exhibits sweet black currant fruit along with hints of mocha and underbrush. Its substantial tannins are neither aggressive nor unripe, and the wine reveals the beautiful purity and seamlessness that are the hallmarks of so many 2008s."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted ex-chateau and single blind in Southwold. The Clerc-Milon 2008 has an earthy, broody bouquet with dark plum, blackberry and cedar aromas, a saline note in the background. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins, fine delineation and good substance. It is a little oaky on the tobacco-tinged finish but there is enough fruit to back it up. Very fine. Tasted January 2012."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted at the UGC 2008 tasting in London. Lovely nose; well defined with cedar, tar, blackberry leaf and plum. Good lift and vigour. The palate is sweet on the entry, sappy ripe tannins, generous at the moment but with firm structure towards the tobacco-tinged finish. Moderate length, crisp and focused, I think this Clerc-Milon will grow in stature after 2-3 years in bottle. Drink 2014-2030. Tasted October 2010."*

- NM, Wine Journal

**Reviews** *"This has a great nose that seems to have moved away from d'Armailhac in the last few months. Good intensity, blackberry, wild hedgerow, cedar, pencil lead, boysenberry and a touch of pain grille. Great lift. The palate is full-bodied, dense, very well balanced, marrying Pauillac austerity with the succulence blessed by the*

*clement late growing season. Very pure and beautifully poised on the finish. Clerc Milon always improves in barrel and the 2008 is no exception. Excellent. Tasted September 2009."*

*- NM, Wine Journal*

*"En primeur barrel sample. Again, this is very tight on the nose, lots of cedar, graphite aromas, tightly wound and more introverted like the d'Armailhac. Blackberry, smoke and a touch of pencil lead. Thick chewy tannins on the entry, blackberry, briary, cedar and then great persistency on the finish, the back-palate with lovely pure black fruits than linger. Cigar box towards the finish that is cut through with a citrus edge – but it clams up on the finish. Long-term. Tasted April 2009."*

*- NM, Wine Journal*

*"The wine is dark, deep, rich and dense. It has just the right wood element, black berry juice and a pure line of acidity. It is weighty for a 2008, while keeping the freshness."*

*- RV, Wine Enthusiast*

*"91-93 Barrel sample. On the dry, structured side, a wine with huge fruit tannins that roll over the fruit. The concentration is palpable, all dense fruit. The berry flavors get a look-in right at the end. For long aging, as long as the tannins finally soften."*

*- RV, Wine Enthusiast*

*"Bright, dark red. Musky currant, pepper and mint, with a note of raspberry emerging with air. Supple, spicy and concentrated, with dark berry and bitter chocolate flavors complicated by a saline nuance. Good inner-mouth energy here. Finishes long, with a sweet dusting of tannins."*

*- ST, International Wine Cellar*

*"Lots of blue still in the purple. Dense, polished, sweet start. Lots of acidity. Difficult to read. Well polished plums Looks much more developed than its stablemate Armailhac. Savoury notes with a little tarmacadam. Very dry and only medium weight on the palate - not that luscious or ripe. But maybe just a little bit too tart for comfort? One of the 'greener' Pauillacs. Drink 2015-2025"*

*- JR, JancisRobinson.com*

*"An attractive style of wine on the nose, open and expressive, suggesting a good layer of solid, well-bound fruits, fresh and lightly crunchy but with a dark and spicy character to them. The palate is supple and starts off rather flat but then demonstrates a more gritty, textured extract through the middle with good spice to it. It has a rather sweet and lightly juicy character and is a touch loose knit. There is promise here though. Nice tannins which only reveal themselves on the finish. From a tasting of 2008 Bordeaux at two years of age. 16+/20 (October 2010)"*

*- CK, The Wine Doctor*

*"Dark and aromatic, pure, with quite concentrated fruit. An attractively open style on the palate, broad, gently fleshy, with nicely covered tannins. Clean, perhaps a touch diffuse, but with good character. This may come together in time and may well warrant a higher score. From my 2008 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 16-17+/20 (April 2009)"*

*- CK, The Wine Doctor*

*"Black-red, richly concentrated blackcurrants nose, quite smoky and spicy, very good structure and firmness, firm, even a little raw still but very good, quite tight expression that will become more floral and broad. Drink 2015-25. (17 points)"*

*- Decanter.com*

**Reviews** *"Scents of chocolate, licorice, cassis, cherry, mint, coffee and stone open to a medium/full bodied, soft textured wine, ending with a tart, black cherry filled finish."*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*"Clerc Milon was already closing down. With coaxing, earth, tobacco, cedar and cassis aromas could be found. This lighter style of Pauillac wine ends with a chocolate covered, cherry finish. The vintage of Clerc Milon to buy remains the 2009."*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*"08 Château Clerc Milon was deep ruby. Black fruit with a hint of oak on the nose. The finish showed great purity with its red and black fruit profile. An elegantly styled wine. 89-91 Pts"*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*"Dark red violet color; cedar, currant nose; tart currant, cedar, coffee palate; medium finish"*

- RJ, [rjonwine.com](http://rjonwine.com)

---