

# Château Clerc Milon 2009

CSPC# 742339

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Carménère, 1% Petit Verdot
<b>Negociant</b>	Ginestet
<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</b>	43.6 hectares, with 8450 feet of vines per hectare. Average vine age 40 years.
<b>Harvest</b>	September 23-October 6, 2009. 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 16 months.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Super sweet, blackberry aromas waft from the 2009 Ch. Clerc Milon. This has great intensity and power in the mouth with a lovely ball of sweet, ripe fruit on the palate and very, very, fine, ripe tannins. Somehow though, this still manages to retain its elegance, which is carried through on a long, fine finish.
<b>Production</b>	Approx. 14,000 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	20-25 years
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012 <b>93-96 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010 <b>92 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012 <b>90-92+ points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010 <b>91+ points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012 <b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010 <b>93-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2012 <b>94 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012 <b>94-96 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010</p>



**Scores/Awards** **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

**Reviews** *"Juicy and nicely framed with a singed bay leaf note, which allows the medium-weight core of crushed plum and mulled fig to glide along nicely through the velvety finish. This fleshes out considerably as it sits in the glass, showing more layers of dark fruit and lingering minerality. This has some power in reserve, but lovely balance as well. Best from 2013 through 2024"*

- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Delivers blackberry galore, with fabulous floral and currant undertones. Complex on the nose. Full-bodied, offering chewy tannins and lots of black licorice and currant character. Chewy, but reserved at the same time. A top Clerc. 50 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 44 percent Merlot, 4 percent Cabernet Franc, 1 percent Petit Verdot and 1 percent Carmenère. Score range: 93-96"*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"What an amazing nose of lead pencil shavings and dark fruits. Stunning. Full bodied, with super silky tannins and an amazing depth of fruit. Polished and refined. Gorgeous. 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot, and 1% Carménère. Best after 2017"*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This fat, fleshy, dense purple-colored 2009 exhibits abundant notes of creme de cassis, roasted espresso, chocolate, berry fruit and underling hints of high quality, unsmoked cigar tobacco. Composed of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and a touch of Carménère, it reveals plenty of structure and tannin, but the evolved aromatics offer a deceptive view that the wine will be drinkable early on. I do not think this is the case as the tannins kick in once it hits the palate. This seriously endowed, powerful, boisterous, muscular Pauillac should hit its prime between 2017 and 2035."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Despite the fact there is 44% Merlot in this wine (blended with 50% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, and Carmen ere), this is a tannic, structured, backward Clerc Milon, which is atypical for this estate. Perhaps I just caught it at a time when the structure was dominating. It is a deep ruby/purple-hued, concentrated, impressively endowed effort that requires serious cellar age, 4-5 years minimum. It should last for 20-25 years. (Tasted two times.)"*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London and later at Mouton-Rothschild. The Clerc Milon 2009 has a slightly reserved nose at first, taking time to open up, but fresh and lively and driven by the Merlot (44% of the blend.) I would like more expression of its terroir. The palate is medium bodied with juicy, sappy tannins, quite "thick" in the mouth with a concentrated finish. It is a little brusque at the moment and does not quite contain the harmony of the d'Armailhac, but I am sure it will improve as there is certainly great length. Broody, introspective but fascinating. Long-term Clerc-Milon. Tasted November 2011."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted at Chateau Mouton-Rothschild. A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot and 1% Carménère (the first time since 2005.) 12.5% alcohol, a little higher than usual. This has a very lifted nose, very lively, this is a bouquet that wants to party, although it just lacks the refinement that I find in the d'Armailhac. Very minerally, real scents of crushed stones in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied, silky smooth tannins, very good fruit intensity with black cherries, boysenberry, black plum and that minerality stretching long at the finish. Superb persistency. The wine is calming down in the glass. Very tight at the moment, it will hopefully blossom after its elevelage. Tasted March 2010."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"This wine continues the upward progression of Clerc-Milon. It has weight and density while also showing sweetness and delicious acidity. A very complete wine."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

**Reviews** *"94-96 Barrel sample. Firm tannins, a wine packed with rich fruits, along with bright acidity. It is fresh, but solid, bringing out intense freshness and acidity, finishing with new wood."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"(a blend of 50% cabernet sauvignon, 44% merlot, 4% cabernet franc, 1% Carménère and 1% petit verdot; ph 3.65; 13.5% alcohol; IPT 65) Ruby red. An enticing floral element adds lift to aromas of red berry cocktail, cinnamon and bay leaf. Enters juicy and fresh, with flavors similar to the aromas, offering good concentration and length but also a youthful austerity. The energetic finish features chewy tannins, considerable energy, and notes of menthol and coffee that speak of the Carménère, a variety that can make its presence even in minute doses. Barons Domaines de Rothschild's general manager and technical director Philippe Dhalluin told me that the '09 Clerc Milon is very Pauillac in style. "I know that's a funny thing to say considering that it includes 44% merlot, but it has a rigid and massive quality that is very typical of Pauillac," said Dhalluin. "My main goal with Clerc Milon is to try to civilize it more and more with each new vintage." One factor that will go a long way toward improving the already high quality of this wine is that, starting with the 2009 vintage, Clerc Milon now has its own director in charge of operations, Jean-Emanuel Darjoy, who works closely with Dhalluin on a day-to-day basis."*  
- ID, International Wine Cellar

*"Purple red, fine briary blackcurrant fruit, lots of earthy energy and an herbaceous lift to the naturally sweet density of fruit."*  
- SS, Decanter.com

*"Cabernet Sauvignon 50%, Merlot 41%, Cabernet Franc 4%, Petit Verdot 1%, Carmenère 1%. Like d'Armailhac also a good hue, cherry red with a bluish rim. The nose here has a very bright and crunchy and lifted style of fruit, cherry aromas with a floral tinge. The palate is again very nicely composed, very firm in terms of structure, with a very upright backbone of tannin. Deep, lightly creamed fruit, although it has a fresh style, just a touch of juice to it. Towards the end it has more grit, a tinge of charcoal too. Overall harmonious, although with firm tannins coming through which will demand time. Lovely savoury finish. Well balanced."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"A full-on, stolid but at least expressive layer of fruit on the nose, which at least inspires some confidence. A lovely supple integration on the palate though, as there is a balanced weight of fruit together with well-covered, ripe and almost imperceptible tannins and a gentle but fresh acidity. The finish is very savoury and only lightly structured, but the flavours of olive and cranberry with its slightly bitter, mouth-watering bite certainly bring some pleasure. A very good effort"*  
- CK, The Wine Doctor

*"Deep moody colour. Pretty sumptuous and polished – super-ripe and flattering. Very sweet and rich although, like the other wines from this stable, some slightly rugged tannins. No obvious alcohol but fairly ripe and plush, plus notable acidity. Fine boned with attractive sweetness but no knock-out ingredient X. Rather drying finish, imprecise. Certainly a defiantly more traditional style than some of its peers – odd, or perhaps predictable? – in view of the fact that it used to be criticised for being too New World!"*  
- CK, The Wine Doctor

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