

Château Clerc Milon 2011

CSPC# 763533

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

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| Grape Variety | 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Carménère |
| Website | http://www.chateau-clerc-milon.com/ |
| Appellation | Pauillac |
| General Info | <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> |
| Vintage | <p>2011 was one of the hottest, sunniest and, above all, driest of the last forty years. Very warm weather in April and May gave the vegetation cycle a head start: flowering was recorded on 15 May, the earliest date in living memory, and veraison started two-and-half weeks earlier than normal. Conditions in July and August were very different, bringing less sunshine and significantly more precipitation. By the end of August, however, only 326 mm of rainfall had been recorded since 1 January, compared with an average of 519 mm. Fine weather returned to the Médoc in early September and bright sunshine prevailed throughout the two weeks of the harvest, which began on 12 September. These auspicious conditions were extremely beneficial, allowing the grapes to ripen fully. Picking ended on 28 September. Low yields, especially at Mouton, have produced structured, deep and very fresh wines. 2011 is thus a classic Bordeaux vintage, to be ranked among the finer, or perhaps even the finest.</p> |
| Soil | <p>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.</p> |
| Vineyards | <p>43.6 hectares, with 8450 feet of vines per hectare. Average vine age 40 years.</p> |
| Harvest | <p>September 12-28.</p> |
| Maturation | <p>30% in new barrels during 16 month/s</p> |
| Tasting Notes | <p>The wine is a deep and radiant garnet red. The nose reveals finely toasted spice and tobacco notes combined with more intense aromas of red fruit and cherry stone, with a mineral touch. The palate is full and dominated by the luster of succulent fruit and refined, flavoursome tannins that open on a hint of chocolate. The long, warm-hearted finish is lifted by a slightly saline taste. A superb wine in a particularly demanding vintage.</p> |
| Cellaring | <p>20-25 years</p> |



Scores/Awards **91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014
90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012
88 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014
89-91+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012
88-90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012
91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012
94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2014
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - November 5, 2012
87-90 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012 (score only)
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012
17 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012
93-94 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012
88 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2012 (score only)
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012 (score only)
90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 16, 2014
90-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 10, 2012
91-92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012
92-93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2012 (score only)
16 points - Gault & Millau - April 2012 (score only)
93 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2012 (score only)
91 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - May 10, 2012 (score only)

"Exhibits a solid core of crushed currant, blackberry and black cherry fruit, backed by refined tannins. The notes of roasted cedar and iron are well-buried for now. This should develop into a textbook Pauillac after some modest cellaring. Best from 2016 through 2026."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Displays a strong tobacco leaf edge from the start, along with smoke and singed balsam wood notes, all weaving around a core of dark plum and black cherry fruit. A touch firm in the end right now but shows very good range. Score range: 90-93"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Administrator Philippe Dhalluin has produced a firmly structured 2011 Clerc Milon that displays notes of red and dark cherries intermixed with earthy, dusty characteristics, medium body and good purity. Slightly angular, it will benefit from some bottle age, and should evolve for 15 or more years. The only troublesome element is the tartness in the finish, which should soften and dissipate in several years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Administrator Philippe Dalhuin told me this property (100 acres) has 240 separate parcels, which must make the strategy of harvesting a nightmare. Composed of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and a dollop of Petit Verdot, the 2011 Clerc Milon is more tannic, tightly knit and structured than its sister chateau, d'Armailhac. With more acidity showing, it performed as if it had just come off malolactic fermentation. Possessing a dense color along with copious notes of new saddle leather, black currants, mocha and wood spice, it will require several years of bottle age, and should keep well for 15+ yrs."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2011 Clerc-Milon, a blend of 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 1% Carménère and 1% Petit Verdot, has a lifted sorbet bouquet that usually seems more extravagant and precocious than d'Armailhac. The palate shows slightly higher acidity than the d'Armailhac (pH 3.65 compared to 3.75 for the d'Armailhac.). It is slightly pinched at the moment, very linear and strict with a little hardness on the finish that should soften with time. This will be more representative after bottling. Tasted April 2012."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This is a racy young wine with currants and blueberries on the nose and palate. Full and very silky with fine tannins and a balanced finish. A little muscular and lean."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *“Continuing its impressive development, Clerc Milon 2011 is a serious wine. It is elegant, stylish, its fruits well integrated with red berry and plum skin flavors. Powerful while round and fruity with a fine sense of weight, this wine will develop relatively quickly but will then stay at its peak for many years. Drink from 2017.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “93-95. Barrel sample. This is a structured and complex wine, with dominating sweet tannins. At the same time, there is fruitiness and juiciness that add freshness to the finish.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot, 1% Carmenère. Sweet, creamy, oaky, spicy nose, hint of coffee. Fresh and spicy on the palate too and a little cedary. Not the same freshness as the Armailhac, though it is fresh, but very silky tannins, seems you could almost drink it now.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Firm deep colour and fine briary spice nose, very good depth, very Pauillac, full of character and potential complexity. Drink 2017-2030. Decanter.com”*
- JL, Decanter.com
- “More density and power, and yes can see higher acidity than the Armailhac. This is a little more of a big kahuna wine, there is a steelier side to it, and its built to last. Very good quality, well chiseled, less feminine than the Armailhac. Made in the new cellar also. 54% cabernet sauvignon, 37% merlot, 7% cabernet franc, 1% petit verdot, 1% Carmenere. (also tasted at Mouton, where it got 93-94).”*
- JA, The New Bordeaux
- “Polished, soft, fresh, forward and elegant, the lively, cassis and dark cherries are complicated by earthy, tobacco and spicy qualities. Open and easy to like, this is a very successful wine in this difficult year.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Blending 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and even amounts of Petit Verdot and Carménère. Lead pencil, earth and cassis, this polished Pauillac ends with a long, fresh, bright cassis and mineral sensation.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Saturated but vibrant at edge; more stone fruit, some plum; some Cab freshness too; as always feels a bit leaner on the nose than d’Armailhac [must be terroir - the blends are similar]; purity though to the fruit – blackcurrant with a black cherry edge; blackcurrants and cassis on the palate; some spice but purity again; cooler and fresher even than d’Armailhac. Nimble and not over-extracted. Very refined and polished. Feels fresh. 91-92+ Tasted at Mouton 3/4/12 [Second note] Deep at core; vibrant edge; stone fruit, blackcurrant, some plum; fresh again, some stalkiness as before; blackcurrants; quite structured palate with acid; tannin very nicely handled. Will settle well. Cool. Some twist at the end. 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. Tasted 3/4/12 and 5/4/12 at UGC. 91-92+”*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “There are spicy notes in this wine which has some 50-year old Carmenere in the blend this year (1%) since it was ripe enough to include it. Clerc Milon has just over 5 hectares total. Spicy aromatic notes with great lift and wonderful concentration in mid palate and finish. It is a powerful Pauillac with 40% of Merlot on clay and limestone along with gravel. Clerc Milon has 40 ha planted on 247 plots! Jeannie Cho Lee MW, AsianPalate.com Drink 2018-2036”*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- “EN PRIMEUR - Deep garnet-red. Nose of red fruit enhanced by a subtle touch of red bell pepper. Clean, lively palate revealing more of the fruit and the slightly vegetal character.”*
- en.gilbertgaillard.com
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