

Château Clerc Milon 2013

CSPC# 763533

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Carmenere
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.chateau-clerc-milon.com/
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. Baroness Philippine de Rothschild passed away in August 2014 at the age of 80 years, from the effects of a serious operation.</p>
Vintage	<p>2013 will be remembered for its changeable and capricious weather. A cold and damp winter followed by a cool and wet spring held back the vegetation cycle and affected flowering.</p> <p>In striking contrast, July and August were particularly hot and sunny, with considerably less rainfall than the average. Peak temperatures of 38° C caused violent storms in late July.</p> <p>The water shortage continued in September, encouraging the grapes to ripen evenly. The Cabernets were promising and overall the grapes achieved satisfactory sugar levels with good potential acidity.</p> <p>The harvest at Château Clerc Milon began on 1 October and ended on 9 October, with exceptional help from Baron Philippe de Rothschild employees, who were invited to come and swell the ranks of the regular pickers. Over 130 staff members responded to the appeal and on 9 October, 695 meals were served in the harvesters' refectory, an all-time record!</p> <p>Sorted with painstaking care, the grapes were transported from the picking baskets to the gravity-fed vats in the Clerc Milon vat room.</p> <p>Although yields were among the lowest of the last 40 years, draconian selection ensured high quality.</p> <p>The 2013 vintage has been tended, fashioned and fine-tuned so as to get the very best out of the grapes.</p>
Soil	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.
Vineyards	43.6 hectares, with 8450 feet of vines per hectare. Average vine age 40 years.



Harvest	October 1-9 with 130 pickers.
Maturation	50% in new barrels during 16 month/s
Tasting Notes	An intense garnet red, the wine has a bright and glittering aspect. On the nose, Clerc Milon 2013 displays radiant aromas of slightly jammy raspberry fruit together with floral and mineral notes. Complex and engaging, these aromas are enhanced by elegant and finely toasted oak. From the attack, the palate reveals the wine's precise personality, with roundness and clear definition. The fruit on the nose accompanies an attractive depth of flavour which extends into a fresh finish underpinned by sappy tannins.
Cellaring	Drink 2014-2026
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014</p> <p>87-89 points - Robert M. Parker Jr., Wine Advocate #214 - August 2014</p> <p>86-88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2014</p> <p>89-90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2014</p> <p>93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 4, 2014</p> <p>87-89 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - Aug 2014</p> <p>15.5 points - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - April 2014</p> <p>17 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2014</p> <p>91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2014</p> <p>88 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 10, 2016</p> <p>88-89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2014</p> <p>86-88 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2, 2014</p> <p>87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>15 points - Farr Vintner - April 2014</p> <p>88-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2014</p> <p>16 points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2014</p> <p>92 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2014</p> <p>88-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2014</p> <p>89-90 points - Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants - April 2013</p> <p>89-91 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p>16 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p> <p>91 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p> <p>15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"The juicy core of plum and blackberry fruit provides an inviting profile, while light iron and tobacco notes hang in the background. Maintains a juicy edge through the bramble-tinged finish. A smart buy in this vintage. Best from 2017 through 2022."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A light toasty note sits atop the plum and currant fruit for now, with alder and juniper accents lining the slightly taut finish. Seems rather tight and backward today, featuring a plum skin edge that holds sway on the finish. Shows good stuffing for the vintage. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot and Carmenère. 89-92"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A very successful effort in this vintage from administrator Philippe Dhalluin, this blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot is a bigger, richer, more complete wine than its sibling, d'Armailhac. Yields were a tiny 23 hectoliters per hectare and the wine exhibits a dark plum/ruby color, medium body, a fleshy palate, and notions of herbs as well as black currants. Drink it over the next 10-12 years. 2014-2026 87-89"</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *"The Clerc Milon is a blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère. It was cropped at 23hl/ha due to the coulure on both the Merlot and more rarely the Cabernet. It has a light and slightly tertiary bouquet that does not have the precocity of the d'Armailhac. The palate is medium bodied with grainy tannins, compact red and black fruit with a structured but slightly short finish. I must confess: I was expecting more from such a great estate 86-88"*
- NM, Wine Journal
- "This is a delicious, lighter Clerc with currant, blackberry and mineral character. Medium body with good density and a good, fresh finish. 58% cabernet sauvignon, 27% merlot, 12% cabernet franc, 2% petit verdot and 1% Carménère. 89 - 90/100"*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "This is a structured wine, firm with tannins and still showing some of the wood-aging. Red-berry fruits are cut with crisper blueberries and considerable acidity. This is going to be a firm wine that is lightened by the fruit, and a very good representative of the vintage. Drink from 2020."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Barrel Sample. The Cabernet Sauvignon shows dominance here with ripe, juicy black current notes which cut through this wine's dry tannic structure. The wine has power and a future that will be medium-term."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "(58% cabernet sauvignon, 27% merlot, 12% cabernet franc, 2% petit verdot and 1% Carmeneré): Good bright, deep ruby. Aromas of blackberry, aromatic oak, licorice and eucalyptus. Fairly intensely flavored but tightly wound, with subdued but pure notes of blackberry, licorice and minerals. Finishes clean and saline; perhaps time will allow it to develop more flesh. 87-89"*
- ID, International Wine Cellar
- "58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Carmenère. Rich, juicy black fruit – very modern and smooth. Light, plasticine tannins, soft and easygoing. The tannins outweigh the body slightly. 2017-2027 15.5"*
- RH, JancisRobinson.com
- "Deep colour and firm fruit both on nose and palate, good structure and weight and fine vineyard character, good future. Drink: 2019-2030. 17"*
- SS, Decanter.com
- "Elegant, early drinking, medium bodied Pauillac, with a floral, red berry and cassis character."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "With espresso, plum and smoke on the nose, the medium/full-bodied wine is forward and open, ending with a simple blackberry note. From a blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmeneré, the yields were 23 hectares per hectare. The wine is aging in 50% new French oak. 88-89 Pts"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Vibrant purple; glossy and healthy looking; nice blackcurrant fruit on the nose; cassis; feels fuller than d'Armailhac; oak and fruit on the palate; little compact but has structure; blackcurrants, some wood; lacks a bit of concentration at the back; should fill out. [58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Carmeneré]. Drink 2018-2027. 87-89+ [Second note] Glossy look; purple at edge; fresh blackcurrants aromas; some plum too; sweet entry, some oak but pure; grippy but there is texture here; perhaps a fraction stretched at the end? Should fill out. Tasted UGC 1/4/14. 87-88 [Third note] Mid depth; cassis and menthol hints; blackcurrant tones also; softer entry and fruit here; glossier than sibling d'Armailhac; no dryness; elegant for sure and perhaps a little boney at the end. Tasted UGC 3/4/14. Drink 2018-2028. 86-88"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

Reviews

"Like Armailhac, this is made by the Mouton Rothschild team. Always a serious Pauillac, it has been much improved in recent vintages and usually represents good value for money. 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenere. Blueberry and red cherries on the nose here with some toasty notes from French oak. Soft tannins and refreshing acidity lift the ripe fruit flavours and hints of creamy vanilla. Soft and supple with a medium body, this will be an early-drinking Clerc Milon."
- Farr Vintners

"Brambly and black fruited yet fragrant the nose has quite a lot of complexity. The palate has sweet fruit quite rich in the middle just a hint of black truffle but at the back the bramble and bilberry mix refreshes and gives a slightly lighter feel to the finish. 2018-28 88-90"
- Derek Smedley MW

This is a fruity, velvety textured red with vibrant mixed berry fruit expression. There is freshness and lift in this vintage with supple tannins. Attractive notes of cedar and violets with a slim profile. Clerc Milon is consistently performing at a very high level - its vine age is close to 50 years old. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (01-Apr-2014)"
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"Good colour. Fruit is less expressive than in stablemate d'Armailhac, so oak is what shows most on the nose, but this remains quite a good rich mouthful, with a sort of Christmas cake plumminess significantly fuller than d'Armailhac and with everything in the right place. 89 - 90/100"
- Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants

"(58 Cabernet Sauvignon, 27 Merlot, 12 Cabernet Franc, 2 Petit Verdot, 1 Carmenère) This is a lot more interesting on the nose than its stablemate d'Armailhac and this is probably down to the full brochure of five grapes. Red fruit dominates and there is spice, brightness and lift. It is well balanced, quite succulent and red wine gummy. The acidity is delicious, and the overall feel is of an older style wine but with very clean and refreshing red fruit. Will age fast, but that's no bad thing. 16"
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"Dark cherries, tobacco, scorched earth, smoke and game inform the 2013 Clerc-Milon. The 2013 possesses good depth and intensity, although the tannins are a bit rough around the edges at this stage. In 2013 the blend is 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenere, harvested between October 1 and October 9. 88-90"
- AG, Vinous

"A beautifully crafted wine with sparkling fruit and floral and mineral notes. Complex and delicate! Baron Philippe de Rothschild acquired this estate in 1970, which is not surprising as it adjoins chateaus Lafite and Mouton which are already owned by the family. Though it had been left fallow at the time of its purchase, the estate was quickly returned to its glory by the new owners. Currently overseen by Baroness Philippine de Rothschild, new cellars were built in 2011 that were more respectful of the environment. The estate's 41 hectares are divided into nearly 250 parcels in the hamlets of Milon and Mousset in the northern section of the appellation. The wine produced at this estate is consistently excellent."
- SAQ (Quebec Liquor Stores)
