

Château Clerc Milon 2016

CSPC# 890683

6x750ml

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, 1% Carmenère
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>
Winemaker	Jean Emmanuel Danjoy
Vintage	<p>In 2016, there were two main trends in the weather as we experienced it in Pauillac:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– a very wet winter and spring: more than half of the annual rainfall came in the first four months of the year, including a record 240 mm in January.– an extremely dry summer and autumn without any significant rainfall, resulting in a water deficit at the end of the year. <p>As a consequence of the summer drought, the grapes were numerous but remained rather small, making for density and concentration.</p> <p>High temperatures in August and September allowed for slow ripening and excellent maturity, so that the harvest started with the Merlot on 26 September and continued in perfect conditions until 15 October.</p> <p>In the vat house, each grape variety and each plot were, as usual, vinified separately in order to let their intrinsic character shine through.</p> <p>The wines, which have now been blended, offer remarkable colour, intense fruit and spice aromas and a dense texture of very rich and well-rounded tannins.</p>
Vineyards	43.6 hectares, with 8450 feet of vines per hectare. The average vine age 40 years. The soil is 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.
Harvest	26 September to 15 October
Maturation	50% in new barrels during 16 month/s
Tasting Notes	The wine has a very deep, almost black colour with a glittering hue. The refined and elegant nose reveals intense ripe fruit aromas, mingled with liquorice and pepper notes. An ample and precise attack ushers in a dense and creamy mouthfeel which offers a generous and well-balanced range of flavours. The mid-palate



Tasting Notes	coats the mouth with blackberry and bilberry flavours, revealing fine tannins and expressive, spicy oak. Long and lofty, full and rich, the finish unfurls on chocolate notes.
Serve with	Chateau Clerc Milon is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Clerc Milon is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2038
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2017</p> <p>94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - November 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - December 2022</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>94 points/Editor's Choice - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2020</p> <p>17.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Farr Vintners - April 2017</p> <p>90-95 points - Derek Smedley MW - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - August 2020</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - October 2021</p> <p>95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2017</p> <p>94 points - Vert de Vin - January 2019</p> <p>93 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - January 2019</p> <p>17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A fresh and stylish version, with chalky minerality running from start to finish. Succulent plum and cassis fruit flavors coil around this and absorbs this easily at first. Then pretty violet and lilac notes guild the finish, with the minerality taking a slightly firmer stand. Best from 2023 through 2035."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Very fresh in feel, with bright cassis and cherry fruit racing along an iron edge. Shows a good sleek feel through the finish and a light tug of earth at the very end. A vivacious and delicious wine in the making."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The Cabernet Franc was fantastic this year, so it was all used in the grand vin. The final blend is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carménère. Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Clerc Milon leaps from the glass with beautiful scents of chocolate-covered cherries, plum preserves, and crushed blackcurrants with suggestions of lilacs, cardamom, underbrush, and unsmoked cigars. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has a firm frame of finely grained tannins and seamless freshness lifting the perfumed fruit to a nice long finish.</i></p> <p><i>Mouton's congenial managing director, Philippe Dhalluin, was unfortunately in Napa while I was in Bordeaux in October, so I was hosted by Eric Tourbier—Mouton's technical director—and Clerc-Milon's winemaker, Jean-Emmanuel Danjoy. While discussing the particularly abundant range of aroma/flavor compounds I was perceiving in the 2016 reds, Danjoy commented, "When you have a wet spring, you tend to have more aromatic precursors. Also, it was a long maturation period. The vine made a lot of aromatic components. The gap between the Merlot and the Cabernet Sauvignon for ripening was very long. In fact, Cabernet was very late this year. We didn't know if the Cabernet Sauvignon was going to make it! The big surprise for us was the Cabernet Franc—all of it was delicious. We used it all in the grand vin at Clerc Milon."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2016 Clerc Milon is a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère (the latter vinification intégrale, so that it includes 50% of the stems, and Philippe Dhalluin said he was pleased with the results). It has a very pure bouquet, a mixture of red and black fruit, a touch of cedar and ash in the background. It takes time to really unfold in the glass. The palate is adorable: svelte tannin, beautifully pitched acidity, great depth with a silky-smooth finish that just caresses the mouth. There is a little tightness here compared to the more expressive 2016 d'Armailhac, but I have no doubt that it will turn into a top-flight Clerc-Milon. Drink 2023 - 2050."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 Clerc Milon is a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot, and 1% Carmenère. Deep garnet in color with a hint of purple, it flies from the glass with notes of crème de cassis, preserved plums, and chocolate-covered cherries, plus hints of star anise, truffles, and fertile loam. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is chock-full of ripe, rich black fruits, supported by fine-grained tannins and plenty of freshness, finishing with great length and purity."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"Hot crushed stones and dark berries jump out of the glass. Full body, very dense fruit, and powerful tannins, yet it remains agile and bright with beauty and energy. So muscular and toned. Truly outstanding Clerc for the future. Unwavering nature to this. Try after 2024."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Refined and ultra-fine with a linear and polished character. Full-bodied, yet tight and racy. A classy and sophisticated young wine."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Dark and concentrated, this wine offers depth and intensity. It has great ripeness as well as fine tannins that are integrated into the fruit. It is so juicy and exuberant that it's hard to remember the tannins that will allow the wine to age. *Editors' Choice* (RV)."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Tasted blind. Quite lean and refined. A thoroughbred? But a certain green streak runs through it. For purists. Drink 2025 – 2035."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Real aromatic lift. Calm, collected, lovely 'minerality'. Completely pure. Fully ripe but not a trace of sweetness. So cool! Drink 2025-2043."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Always more muscular and powerful than Armailhac, there's no surprise that this has closed down more than its sibling. The complexity of the layers is still on display, showcasing fresh menthol, cranberry, white pepper, black olive, rose and blackberry, all wrapped up in a tight tannic hold. There are some wonderful, toasted caramel notes, subdued but rich and tight, waiting to show their exuberance on the finish. There's no doubt that this is as good as I thought en primeur, but it needs time to open up, and I would suggest the full 10 years. 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère finish up the blend. Drinking Window 2026 – 2042."

- JA, Decanter.com

"An estate that has been making great leaps forward over recent years, and once again we have a gorgeous Clerc on our hands. This is extremely succulent, with aromatic complexity and a freshness that just bursts out of the glass. Things start off closed for the first minute or so, then the juice comes rushing through. The mid-palate is smooth and polished but also bursting with energy. This is quite clearly one of their best ever wines, ripped through with sweet cherry and wild blackberry fruit, tightened up by slate and cedar. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère (some of the oldest plantings of this grape in Bordeaux)."

- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews

"The combination of all that juicy, red fruit, tobacco leaf, touch of dark cocoa and fresh, spicy fruits feels as good as it tastes. Medium bodied, refined and with ample structure to age, give it 7-9 years and this is going to be a very good Pauillac. The wine was made from blending 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% old vine Carmenère."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"What a super wine! This has depth of flavor, perfectly ripe, juicy, sweet, fresh cassis galore, soft, silky tannins and a finish that keeps on going. This should age without trouble for at least 30 years but will start drinking well by its 10th birthday."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Retaining its depth of color, the wine easily shows off its black raspberry, cassis, cocoa, and floral notes. Silky tannins with a hint of salt and a purity of fruit with freshness for lift keep the layers of fruit on its toes."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"With quite a dark ruby color, there is chocolate-covered black raspberry, plum, and cigar box with a floral nose. The palate has a richness that I've never seen here before. Concentrated, polished, silky, sweet, and fresh, the wine is long with real depth of flavor, ending with a salty complexity in the finish. This is a new level of quality for Clerc Milon. Blending 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% old vine Carmenère, this wine reached 13.6% ABV with a pH of 3.58. The harvest took place September 26 to October 15."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Very different from but just as enjoyable as the richer, smoother 2015, this is a very impressive Clerc-Milon showing more freshness and precision. Bright and aromatic, with cut grass and black fruit notes, granular tannins, and deftly integrated oak. 2022-30."

- TA, timatkin.com

"Like Armailhac, this Pauillac is made by the Mouton Rothschild team. Always a serious wine, it has been much improved in recent vintages and usually represents good value for money. A fleshy Pauillac with less Cabernet Sauvignon than most. The 2016 is a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Carmenère. Juicy with good intensity of black cherry and cassis fruit. Refined and silky in texture, this is very pure and focused on the palate with cassis fruit and light toasty notes lingering on the finish. Well made, but perhaps lacking an edge of complexity."

- Farr Vintners

"The nose has a mix of fruits quite fragrant and fresh the fruit on the palate is ripe mid suppleness and flesh. Integrated tannins the back palate has richness sweet fruit but there is enough underlying freshness to balance and brighten. 2026-41."

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2016 Clerc-Milon has a crisp, graphite-infused bouquet of well-defined black fruit, hints of peony and iris petals showing underneath. The classic palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins, well-judged acidity and just the right amount of austerity toward a finish that has a bitter edge. Excellent (and less "aloof" than I found 12 months earlier). Tasted blind at the Southwold tasting. 2021 – 2036."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2016 Clerc-Milon has a tightly knit bouquet of blackberry, raspberry and light floral scents, very similar to its sibling, d'Armailhac. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannin. Initially it displays crisp acidity and feels quite fleshy, but it firms up and finishes persistent but linear and a little aloof. I personally find that appealing, and I suspect this Pauillac will blossom after several years in bottle."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2016 Clerc Milon is striking. Here, the interplay of dense fruit and supporting structure make for a wonderfully complete and expressive wine. Dark blue stone fruit, licorice, lavender, spice, and menthol are all beautifully delineated in the glass. The aromatic structure of both Cabernets comes through with notable energy and precision. The 2016 has enough density and pedigree to drink well for many years to come."

- AG, Vinous

Reviews *"I was able to taste the 2016 Château Clerc Milon on multiple occasions and it was always brilliant, showing a deep ruby/purple color as well as sexy aromas and flavors of crème de cassis, new saddle leather, spicy oak, and graphite. Deep, powerful, and beautifully concentrated, it's a rock star of a Pauillac that's going to keep for 30 years or more. The blend is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, and the balance Petit Verdot and Carménère, all aged 16 months in 50% new French oak."*
- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, subtle lightening of the edges, fine dark wild berry confit, a hint of cassis and blackberries, delicate precious wood spice. Juicy, extract-sweet berry fruit, fine, integrated tannins, a hint of nougat, highly elegant, long-lasting, very balanced, a wine that promises drinking pleasure for many decades."
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is fresh, fruity and offers concentration as well as a fine power. It reveals notes of wild blackberry, wild strawberry and more slightly wild blueberry associated with small /fine touches of cornflowers (cornflower ...), fine hints of gray pepper, spices as well as very discreet hints of cocoa (in the background) and an imperceptible hint of nutmeg / zan. The palate is fruity, juicy, elegante and offers a beautiful definition, gourmandize, beautiful suavity, fat, a good freshness, power, minerality (racy minerality) as well as a beautiful acidulous frame. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy / juicy and fleshy / juicy strawberry associated with small touches of fleshy raspberry, juicy cassis as well as hints of small berries, cornflower, and very discreet hints of liquorice sticks/ zan. Tannins are elegant and structuring."
- Vert de Vin

"A well-built Pauillac with discreet nose offering ripe cassis, plum, coffee bean, a fine toastiness. Dense and muscular palate with a core of ripe tannin and a long and elegant finish. Very stylish with great potential."
- AL, Tasted.com
