

Château D'Armailhac 2013

CSPC# 780150

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855
Website	http://www.chateau-darmailhac.com/
General Info	<p>Château d'Armailhac, previously named Château Mouton-d'Armailhacq (historical name from inception, 1750–1955), Château Mouton-Baron Philippe (1956–1973), Mouton Baronne (1974–1978) and Château Mouton-Baronne-Philippe (1979–1988), is a winery in the Pauillac appellation of the Bordeaux region of France. The wine produced here was classified as one of eighteen <i>Cinquièmes Crus</i> (Fifth Growths) in the Bordeaux Wine Official Classification of 1855. Since 1989 its original identity has been restored and it is now known as Château d'Armailhac. Baron Philippe de Rothschild bought the estate in 1933 and it remains in the hands of his daughter, Baroness Philippine de Rothschild.</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 d'Armailhac began on 1 October and ended on 14 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 Château d'Armailhac vat room.</p> <p>Although yields were among the lowest of the last 20 years, draconian selection ensured high quality. The 2013 vintage has been tended, fashioned and fine-tuned so as to get the very best out of the grapes.</p>
Vineyards	<p>Today the property comprises 50 ha of land under vine, with more being planted, so the expansion of the late 20th century continues. There are three principle vineyards, including the 26 hectare <i>Plateau des Levantines et de L'Obélisque</i>, an extension of the Carruades croupe, where gravel reigns supreme, the 19 hectare <i>Plateau de Petit Pibran</i>, which has soils of sand and chalk over a limestone base, and <i>Le Croupe de Béhééré</i>, 5 hectares of light gravel up to three metres deep in places. They are planted at a density of 8500 vines/ha, with 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, with an average age of 47 years, although some sections of the vineyard are easily a century old.</p>
Harvest	October 1-14, 2013
Vinification/ Maturation	Fermentation temperatures are allowed to rise quite high, blending follows malolactic fermentation, and the wine spends 16 months <i>en barrique</i> , of which about 30% are new, the remainder being old Mouton barrels.
Tasting Notes	The wine is a garnet red with a bright, violet tint. The nose is pleasant and fresh, displaying notes of fresh fruit and crisp redcurrant aromas. The attack is firm and elegant, followed by a substantial and ample mid-palate. Structured tannins reveal a firm, close-knit structure, while the long and elegant finish gives attractive overall balance.



**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2014-2022

- 88 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016
- 88-91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014
- 85-87 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #214 - August 2014
- 88-90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2014
- 87-88 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - April 2014
- 91 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2014
- 87-90 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2014
- 16.5 points** - Roger Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - April 2014
- 17 (90) points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 11, 2014
- 91 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)
- 88-89 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2014 (score only)
- 87 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 10, 2016
- 88-90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2014
- 85-88 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2014
- 88 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
- 89-92 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2014
- 89 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2014
- 91 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
- 89-91 points** - Falstaff Magazine - April 2014 (score only)
- 16 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)
- 15 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
- 86-89 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2014
- 88 points** - Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants - April 2014

Reviews

"Has a taut feel, with focused red currant, blood orange and Campari notes streaking along, lined with a pronounced iron edge. Lightly cedary, with good cut through the finish. Best from 2017 through 2022."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Lightly tangy in feel, with damson plum and star anise leading the way for black cherry and blackberry fruit. Offers well-integrated toast, with a juniper note threading everything together and a lingering spice note. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. -Tasted non-blind. Score range: 88-91."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Fruity, soft, round and easygoing, this medium-bodied blend of 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and the rest mostly Cabernet Franc with a touch of Petit Verdot is a charming, consumer-friendly red to enjoy over the next 5-8 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The d'Armailhac is a blend of 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot cropped at a whopping (for the vintage) 40hl/ha. It has quite an open, powerful bouquet in keeping with the d'Armailhac style: blackberry, cedar and graphite. The palate is medium bodied with firm, grippy tannins, good depth with a touch of spice on the finish. Fine. Tasted April 2014. "
- NM, Wine Journal

"A pleasant, fruity wine with hints of hazelnut and currant character. Medium body, firm tannins and a clean finish that's a little light. 59% cabernet sauvignon, 28% merlot, 12% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot. "
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"With great freshness, this is an attractive, fruity wine with final ripe berry flavors that are delicately leavened and given weight by tannins. There is already a drinkable balance from the fruit, although the wine needs more time to be in harmony. Drink from 2018."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Ruby-red. Plum, redcurrant, licorice and violet on the nose. Fresh, juicy and pure, showing flavors of blackberry, coffee and spicy herbs. Very precise wine thanks to lively, harmonious acidity. Finishes with sweet tannins and very good length. The yields (40 h/h) were the highest of any of the Mouton-Rothschild estates because the younger Merlot didn't suffer shatter; once again, though, the aroma and flavor profile of this wine is heavily

Reviews *influenced by its old-vine Cabernet Franc. This may be even better than it's showing today.”*
- ID, International Wine Cellar

“Pure black cassis fruit, light style on the palate. Slightly simple on the mid palate, though the spiciness is very charming on the finish. Correct balance, easy drinking -- especially for Pauillac. (RH)”
- RH, JancisRobinson.com

“Fine purple-red, fragrant nose, expressive and even exuberant, a Pauillac with charm and good tannins for the future.”
- SS, Decanter.com

“With a sharp, cassis, cranberry and tobacco infused character, the wine is medium bodied, and finishes with light, bright, red fruits.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“With a licorice, floral and dark cherry nose, this delicate, medium-bodied Pauillac ends with dusty tannins and a forward cassis and cherry finish. From 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, the wine is aging in 35% new oak. 88-90 Pts”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep at centre; purple at edge; vibrant looking; attractive perfume; lift and blackcurrants; cool fruit tones; chewy fruit on the palate; some spice; quite polished; feels bit compact; wood showing a bit; lacks a bit of charm at present; solid; some grip though not puckering; still a bit clipped overall. [59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot]. Drink 2018-2025. 86-88 [Second note] Deepish; vibrant at edge; stalky and slightly reductive Cabernet nose; some boiled sweet tones; palate more open and slightly sweeter than at Mouton; more cream this time; blackcurrants on the palate; acidity gives freshness. Good showing. Tasted UGC 1/4/14. 87-88+ [Third note] Mid depth; stalky blackcurrant aromas; bit reductive but clean and fresh; some polish on the palate but also firm and slightly pinched feel; spicy and fresh blackcurrant flavours; fraction austere on the finish. Tasted UGC 3/4/14. Drink 2018-2025. 85-87”
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“Red fruits are to the fore on the nose fresh and the start of the palate is light. There is more depth in the middle sweeter fruit and although the tannins are firm, they do not over dominate. The finish is fresh bright but slightly dry. 2018-28 89-92 “
- Derek Smedley MW

“This is a savoury d'Armailhac with 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot and 12% Cabernet Franc. Tannins are quite firm, and the mid palate fruit is not expressive at the moment. Not a concentrated vintage, this wine will be ready in about 5 years' time. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (01-Apr-2014)”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“I tasted this at least three times during the primeurs week, and oddly least well at Mouton. Quite good solid weight Cabernet fruit, with acidity building toward the finish, but the fruit is still there, and it remains quite rich.”
- Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants

“The 2013 is very pretty and silky in the glass. Violets, plums, smoke, tobacco and graphite meld together effortlessly in a gracious, mid-weight wine that impresses for its length, energy and vibrancy. Overall, this is a solid showing for the year, although some slight elements of greenness lurk beneath the fruit. The blend is 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, harvested between October 1 and 14. Tasted twice. (AG)”
- AG, Vinous