

Château Duhart Milon 2015

CSPC# 890687

750mlx6

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot
Pauillac

Fourth Growth. Quatrieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

<http://www.lafite.com/en/the-chateaus/chateau-duhart-milon/>

Classified 4th growth in 1855.

Château Duhart-Milon sits immediately west/inland of Château Lafite-Rothschild, facing Château Lafon-Rochet across the Jalle du Breuil in Saint Estèphe. Château Duhart Milon is owned by its very illustrious neighbour Château Lafite-Rothschild, with whom it shares a vineyard management and wine making team.

Duhart is said to have been a pirate in the service of Louis XV who settled in the Médoc in his retirement. Indeed, the "pirate's house" stood by the Gironde until the 1950's and is pictured on the label. His vineyard was united with Mandavy-Milon in the 1830's by the Castéja family. Earning 4th Growth status was a high point for Duhart-Milon with the next 100+ years being a period of some decline. Vineyards were sold off (notably to the Batailleys) and the wines declined considerably in quality. By the time Baron Eric de Rothschild bought Duhart-Milon in 1962 it was in a very sorry state with barely 17ha under vine.

Rothschild ownership saw the vineyards completely re-planted and the chais (and a chais is all there is, there never has been an actual château) renovated. Today the wines are made with the same meticulous care as Lafite, but sell at a fraction of the price, making Duhart-Milon a bit of a bargain.

Since the harvest of the 2003 vintage, the domaine has its own team of vintners. The vat room and cellars were extended and totally renovated in 2003. The current owner is Baron Eric de Rothschild, and the winemaker is Charles Chevalier.

Winemaker

Oenologist and Winemaker: Christophe Conge. Alexandre Canciani, cellar master. Vineyard Manager: Régis Porfilet.

Vintage

The beginning of the winter was mild and dry, and it was only at the end of January that beneficial colder temperatures arrived, accompanied by rain. Bud break began in early April as usual, and the vines then grew quickly, as they had ample reserves of water, and the weather was mild. In June, flowering was early and uniform, which is always a promising sign.

The influence of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gironde estuary helped to reduce the effect of a somewhat hot summer with high temperatures. Water stress was high, but rain in August brought the freshness required for the grapes to change colour and then to ripen perfectly. Conditions were ideal during the harvests, enabling us to obtain optimal ripeness for each plot.

Soil

Fine gravel mixed with aeolian sands on tertiary limestone bedrock.

Vineyards

The vineyard of Chateau Duhart-Milon is on the Milon hillside on the western side of Chateau Lafite Rothschild. It is located in Pauillac, a small village and port. The estate is made up of 152 hectares, including 73 hectares of vineyards (Cabernet Sauvignon 67% and Merlot 33%). 7500 feet of vines per hectare. The average age of the vineyard is 30 years. A single team has managed the Chateau since 1962, it is the same team which supervises Château Lafite Rothschild too.

Harvest

Merlot, 17 to 23 September; Cabernet Sauvignon, 28 September to 6 October. Yield 44 hL/ha.

Winemaking

Château Duhart-Milon is made according to traditional Bordeaux methods. The grapes are carefully sorted and placed in concrete or stainless-steel vats depending on their provenance for alcoholic fermentation. Gentle pumping over is carried out during fermentation to optimize extraction. Total maceration time is about 20 days before racking. Once the wines have undergone malolactic fermentation, they are transferred to French oak barrels made by the Tonnellerie des Domaines in Pauillac. Each barrel is tasted individually in December in order to determine which ones will be selected for the grand vin. Following this rigorous selection, the wine is blended and transferred to oak barrels (50% new).



Tasting Notes	The wine has a beautiful dark garnet colour. The nose is deep, with good harmony between the young woodiness characteristic of our Tonnellerie Des Domaines barrels and the wine's fresh fruit. Beautiful notes of liquorice. On the palate, it develops quickly and is immediately very present. Consistent and balanced, it continues with tremendous length. Pleasant finish with notes of cherries. Excellent potential to improve with age.
Serve with	Decant 2+ hours prior to serving. Serve at 16-18 degrees Celsius. Chateau Duhart Milon is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Duhart Milon is also good with Asian dishes, and hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta.
Production	22,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2031
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2018</p> <p>90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - February 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2017</p> <p>90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - November 2022</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2018</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2019</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - October 2018</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>88-91 points - Derek Smedley MW - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Stephen Tanzer, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>17+ points - Matthew Jukes - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2016</p> <p>94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - March 2019</p> <p>93-94 points - Vert de Vin - February 2018</p> <p>16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2019</p> <p>15.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - January 2019</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2018</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This has a mix of silky and charcoal-edged texture carrying gently steeped black currant, plum and cherry fruit flavors along, while lovely perfumed black tea and violet notes infuse the finish. Shows sneaky length, with a lingering iron detail. Just a touch shy on depth overall. Best from 2020 through 2031. 22,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Composed of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27% Merlot and aged for 14 months in barrels, 50% new, the 2015 Duhart-Milon has a medium to deep garnet-purple color and an open, expressive nose of warm red currants, black raspberries, and spice cake with nuances of cedar chest, bay leaves, and tobacco plus a waft of rose hips. Medium-bodied, vibrant and refreshing in the mouth, it has a good amount of chewy tannins and layers of lively red and black fruits, finishing on an earthy note. 2019 – 2029."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Duhart Milon is a blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27% Merlot picked between September 23 and October 6, the September 17-23 respectively. It will eventually see 40% new oak during its élevage. It has a tightly-wound bouquet with blackberry, bilberry and cassis fruit, moderate complexity, perhaps just a little static at the moment. The palate is medium-bodied with quite supple tannin for the normally obdurate Duhart-Milon, the acidity nicely judged with a pleasing salinity towards the finish. I would just like to see more personality come through by the time of bottling. Otherwise, this is a fine Duhart-Milon that is more compromising than the tannic "beasts" of yesteryear, and it should drink after 5-7 years in bottle. Drink 2020-2048"</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *"The 2015 Duhart-Milon has a modest, classically driven bouquet with dusky black fruit, mulberry and a touch of cassis. As I remarked from barrel, it is just missing a little tension and vitality. The palate is medium-bodied with quite a spicy, black pepper-tinged entry. I like the acidity here, quite fresh if not a deep wine, with a subtle marine influence developing on the finish. Partner this with a simple meat dish and it will serve as a fine vinous partner."*
- NM, Wine Journal
- "The smoke, almond, dark-berry, and plum character is impressive to this young Duhart. Full body, round and silky tannins and beautiful fruit and spice undertones. Plenty of coffee and cedar flavors at the end. A pretty Duhart. Needs four- or five-years bottle age."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "A firm and silky red with blackberry and chocolate character. Hints of walnut. Full and chewy. Fresh finish."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Firm and tannic, this wine's rich structure is balanced by a concentrated blackberry flavor and bright acidity. Drink from 2026."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Barrel Sample. There are plenty of firm tannins here, although this wine succeeds because of the intense acidity and classic black currant flavors. It is already a delicious wine with its fine acidity and lively aftertaste. Barrel Sample: 93-95 Points."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Tasted blind. Solid, dense, thick wine with real intensity of both fruit and tannin but not an amazing amount of lift. Earthbound. A little chunky. Should last! Some slightly awkward acidity. Drink 2026-2045."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Light and mild-mannered on the nose. Sweet palate that could do with a little more freshness. Very dry finish. So unassuming it's rather underwhelming. Full marks for texture but flavour is a bit dull. Drink 2023-2030."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Fine, firm 73% Cabernet fruit with a brambly middle ripeness from 27% Merlot. Shows polish, depth, and a restrained elegance – a firm, classy wine with a fine future. Drink: 2022-2040."*
- SS, Decanter.com
- "This has an abundance of tobacco notes, with crushed black fruits and dark chocolate. We are clearly striding through Pauillac here, and this is a very good wine, but not the best Duhart of recent years - for me you have to head to 2016 for that. Things taper off quicker than expected through the mid-palate, although there is a black cherry sweetness that is very attractive. 50% new oak."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "It is the elegance and purity in the sweet, red berries that stand out here. Forward, soft, refined, and complex, the wine is fresh, and the textures exude grace. Give it 4-5 years in the cellar."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Nice wine indeed, but the 2016 is so much better. That in itself does not take anything away from the fresh, vibrant character here and all its complexities offered here."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Freshly snipped herbs, tobacco, cedar, and black currant begin a refined and stylishly spicy wine. Be prepared for a burst of sweet, pure black raspberries and cassis in the end note. Made from a blend of 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27% Merlot, the fruit was harvested in late September and early October, beginning with the Merlot, and finishing with the Cabernet Sauvignon."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"Refreshingly low in alcohol (as most of the wines from the Lafite stable are in 2015), this is grassy, scented and refined with well-integrated 45% new oak, flavours of red and black cherries and bright acidity. Drink: 2020-28."

- TA, [timatkin.com](https://www.timatkin.com)

"Smoky black fruits the palate is light with a mix of fresh fruits. Sweeter and ripe in the middle more depth of flavour a mix of cassis and bramble. The back palate has depth the fruit ripe, but the firmness of the tannins tends to close down the finish."

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2015 Duhart-Milon has an intense bouquet of blackberry, undergrowth, mint, and pencil shaving scents that soar from the glass, demonstrating much more conviction than its peers. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin and well-judged acidity, and quite natural and classic in style, though it misses a little depth toward the finish, which attenuates prematurely. Tasted blind at the Southwold 2015 Bordeaux tasting."

- ST, Vinous

"The 2015 Duhart-Milon comes across as much tighter and more reticent than it did from barrel, but some, or, perhaps, all, of that might be attributable the post-bottling shock. Time in the glass brings out the wine's plentiful sensual charms, with hints of crushed flowers, tobacco, mint, leather, and smoke that add nuance throughout. The 2015 opens up nicely with air, which leads me to believe that all the 2015 needs is time in bottle."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Duhart-Milon is soft, open-knit, and expressive, with gorgeous dark red and purplish fruit pushed forward and pretty spiced notes that add complexity. Medium in body and gracious, the 2015 should drink nicely with minimal cellaring. This is a very pretty, understated Duhart. The blend is 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27% Merlot."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Duhart Milon is a surprisingly charming, elegant, and medium-bodied Pauillac that's 73% Cabernet Sauvignon and 27% Merlot that was brought up in 40% new French oak. With perfumed notes of spice-box, cedarwood, toast, and sweet black currant fruit, it has sweet tannin and is already accessible, yet will cruise for two decades."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Typically firm and a touch gruff this is a robust, manly Duhart with a faint red component reminding me that this is not a 100% Cabernet wine. There is freshness and lift on the finish which allows the tannins to retreat gracefully. Decent if lacking in magic."

- Matthew Jukes

"Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate lightening of the edges, fresh dark berry confit, ripe plums, fresh orange zest, heart cherries, delicate herbal spices. Full-bodied, ripe cherries, fine extract sweetness, very well integrated tannins, elegant and persistent, delicate nougat on the finish, has very good length and definite potential for development."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"The nose is aromatic, fine, racy, silky and offers a slight concentration as well as a slight depthness. It reveals notes of cassis, violet and slight touches of red fruits (redcurrant, wild strawberry) associated with subtle touches of ripe boysenberry, liquorice, Sichuan pepper as well as a discreet hint of blond tobacco (in the background). The palate is fruity, well-balanced, mineral, aerial and offers a nice definition, a nice acid frame, a beautiful racy minerality (terroir), a good definition, a beautiful crunchy fruit, a bit aerial as well as a very nice freshness and nice tension. On the palate this wine expresses notes of blackberry, cassis and red berries associated with slight hints of wild fruits, wood, slight / discreet touches of mocha, tobacco, with subtle touches of spices as well as a discreet hint of tobacco, tea, and an imperceptible toasted touch (in the background). Tannins are well-built. Good length."

- Vert de Vin
