

Château D'Armailhac 1995

CSPC# 756592

750mlx12

13.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 26% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pauillac

General Info

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 *Cinquièmes Crus* (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.

Vineyards

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 *Plateau des Levantines et de L'Obélisque*, an extension of the Carruades croupe, where gravel reigns supreme, the 19 hectare *Plateau de Petit Pibran*, which has soils of sand and chalk over a limestone base, and *Le Croupe de Béhéré*, 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.

Vintage

1995 was a year of contrasts, with abundant rainfall from January to March followed by very fine, warm weather from April to September. The vegetation cycle began quickly, about seven days earlier than the average. Budbreak began on 23 March for Merlot and 30 March for Cabernet Sauvignon. Having begun early, the vegetation cycle continued at a steady pace. Flowering took place evenly five days ahead of the average. The drought observed in June continued in July with 28 days of very hot weather, the temperature climbing to a record 37° C on 20 and 25 June. Mid-veraison was reached between 9 and 12 August depending on the variety. The condition of the vines and the state of maturity of the grapes raised hopes of a very fine vintage. The potential of the crop remained unaffected by showers in early September and harvesting took place under very favourable conditions from Sept 18-27, 1995.

Maturation

Fermentation temperatures are allowed to rise quite high, blending follows malolactic fermentation, and the wine spends 16 months *en barrique*, of which about 30% are new, the remainder being old Mouton barrels.

Tasting Notes

The wine has a fine, deep colour and a forthright nose which retains some berry fruit aromas, especially blackcurrant, but already displays very pleasant traces of more elaborate notes of vanilla, caramel, roast coffee and oak. On the palate, forward but smooth tannins give volume and character while elegantly enfolding rich flavours, building to a complete finish, powerful and generous, typical of the vintage.

Cellaring

Drink 2008-2018

Scores/Awards

92 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007

92 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - January 31, 1998

89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #115 - February 1998

87-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #109 - February 1997

88 points - Robert Parker, Bordeaux Book, 3rd Edition - January 1998

85-87 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #104 - April 1996

85 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2011

82-84 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2000

88 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 1998

17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com – February 2011

16 points/4 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - September 2003



Scores/Awards **86 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - no review
14 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)
15 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"Gorgeous aromas of crushed currant, flowers and Indian spice. Full-bodied, with fine tannins. A little tight still. Give this time to show what it really has. --'95/'96 Bordeaux retrospective. Best after 2007. 21,000 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Loads of fruit in this wine, with concentrated tobacco, cherry and cedar. Full in body, with big, velvety tannins and a long, succulent aftertaste. Best after 2002. 21,000 cases made."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"The 1995 is possibly the finest d'Armailhac I have yet tasted. ... This deep ruby/purple-colored wine possesses low acidity, plenty of sweet tannin, and, in both its aromatics and flavors, gobs of ripe cassis fruit are nicely framed by the judicious use of toasty oak. Flavorful, round, generous, and hedonistic, this is a crowd-pleaser!"
- RP, Wine Advocate

"One of the better D'Armailhacs of recent vintages, this dark purple-colored wine offers pure cassis aromas, medium body, fine ripeness, surprising power and intensity, and sweet tannin nicely balanced by glycerin and extract. It requires 4-5 years to develop more aromatic complexity, but this is a 15-year wine."
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- RP, Wine Advocate

"This Pauillac estate, part of the Mouton quality hierarchy, is producing better and better wines. The grapy, unformed 1995 is ripe and sweet, with an uncomplicated fruitiness. This enjoyable, pleasant wine should drink well when released and last for a decade. It is fat, fruity, and pleasing. All of the wines in this segment were tasted between March 19 and March 28 in Bordeaux."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the Bordeaux lunch at The Ledbury. I have never been particularly impressed by this vintage. Here is has a very foursquare, conservative bouquet with dusty dark fruits, leather and thyme. Not the best delineation. The palate is medium-bodied, a tad brusque on the entry, quite masculine and linear with just a hint of liquorice on the finish. Not terrible, but neither is it memorable. Drink now-2015. Tasted May 2010."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Lighter in hue than the others. A bit dull on the nose - maybe still a bit closed. Firm grip - quite robust tannins. Sweet cherry and strawberry flavours but missing some depth and roundness. I expected a little more from this good vintage."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Sappy redcurrant and spice nose. Bright, fruity and juicy in the mouth; firmly built and fairly intensely flavored, but the tannins seem slightly dry in comparison to the '96."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Very dark crimson. Very fresh and aromatic - much more nose than the 1996 Armailhac. Racy and silky and really very appealing. Lots of flesh covers any dry tannin. Lots of punch and charm now. Drink 2005-2018."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Lean, savoury oak, black fruit, liquorice and mint. Very classy. 5-10 years+. Classy, vegetal ripe fruit aromas. Big mouthful, packed with fruit; lovely balance."
- Decanter.com
