

Château Duhart Milon 2009

CSPC# 756556

750mlx6

13.5% Alc./Vol.

Grape Variety	63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot
Appellation	Pauillac
General Info	Classified 4th growth in 1855. The fine wine from Château Duhart-Milon is often described as a classic version of the Pauillac appellation. It has a distinguished and reserved character. The courtier Abraham Lawton noted as early as 1815 that "it has firm taste, a fine colour, and a pronounced sap". This strong personality of Château Duhart-Milon remains accurate today Vinified by the team of Lafite Rothschild. Duhart Milon raised its concentration and its savours in mouth. 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 .
Vintage	The beginning of the growth cycle was a tricky period due to a rather warm, very wet spring. The team had to be particularly vigilant in order to protect the vines. Fine, stable weather returned in June and continued throughout the summer. In fact conditions became drought like, interspersed in July, August and September with welcome periods of light rain. Plenty of sunshine, with temperatures that were high without becoming scorching, and fairly cool nights enabled slow ripening that pushed the start of the harvests back to the end of September. Exceptionally favourable weather conditions, crowned by harvests in the sun, made for a vintage that is certain to be outstanding.
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.
Climate	Maritime, moderated by the Gironde estuary and Atlantic Ocean, pine forests provide insulation from strong winds off the ocean and help to lessen summer temperatures.
Harvest	September 23-October 8, 2009
Maturation	Aged 50% in new barrels for 14 months.
Tasting Notes	The nose is still somewhat subtle. On the palate, the expression develops and "gains altitude", taking on an ethereal dimension. Length, density and structure are all present in this delicious wine. A definite success.
Serve with	Decant 2+ hours prior to serving. Serve at 16-18 degrees celcius.
Production	20,000-25,000 cases made annually
Cellaring	Up to 30 years
Scores/Awards	92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012 91-94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010 97 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012 94-96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010 93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012 91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010 95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2012 92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - August 9, 2010 89-92 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010 17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010 17-18+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010 18 points/4 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010



- Reviews** *"This takes a fleshy, rather toasty approach, showing roasted plum and black currant fruit, with a smoked mesquite note on the loam-tinged finish. There's more breadth than depth, but this has the latent minerality to last a long time in the cellar. Best from 2015 through 2027."*
- JM, Wine Spectator
- "Intense aromas of currant and blackberry, with hints of toasted oak and flowers. Full-bodied, with thick and powerful tannins that are polished and racy. A persistent young wine. Score range: 91-94."*
- JS, Wine Spectator
- "This is superb, with so much beautiful subtle fruit and wonderful flowers. Full and very lively, with super fine tannins and a lively finish. Very exciting. Best ever from here. Try in 2018"*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "A blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon and 37% Merlot, it displays an inky/blue/purple color as well as a big, sweet nose of creme de cassis, forest floor, licorice, lead pencil, cedar and subtle barrique smells. Viscous and full-bodied, it is the most concentrated and broadest example of this cuvee I have tasted in over three decades. It will be ready to drink in 5-7 years and should last for three decades or more. Consumers looking to maximize value should be checking out Duhart Milon, as this may be the single smartest purchase in this great and historic vintage!
Since few consumers other than Chinese billionaires can afford wines such as Lafite Rothschild, perhaps it is time for readers to take a look at Duhart Milon, which sells for less than Lafite's second wine. The Rothschilds have invested heavily in resurrecting this property to near super-star status, and the 2009 appears to be the finest Duhart I have ever tasted. Drink 2017-2047."*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- "Fine purple red, briary black fruits on the nose, really good but rather restrained on the palate, firm and complex, a classic Pauillac, beautifully structured with purity and length."*
- SS, Decanter.com
- "92-94 Barrel sample. A rounded wine, its tannins submerged into the ripe fruits. It feels soft, and there is just a bite of alcohol. The structure is soft, generous, opulent"*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "2009 may turn out to be among the greatest vintages ever in the Medoc. The 2009 appears to be the finest Duhart Milon yet made. The Rothschild family has invested heavily in this estate over the last 20 years in order to upgrade the quality, and their investments have certainly paid off handsomely. A blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon and 37% Merlot, the 2009's opaque purple color is followed by an extraordinary perfume of creme de cassis, violets, graphite, and subtle wood. This full-bodied, intense, voluptuously textured, pure, seductive wine seems more open-knit and opulent than the more structured Carruades de Lafite. Nevertheless, the Duhart requires 3-5 years of cellaring, and should drink well for 30+ years. Bravo! (Tasted once.). Drink: 2013 – 2043."*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- "Cabernet Sauvignon 63%, Merlot 37%. The colour here is dark with good concentration, and the nose has a tightly defined fruit character, reticent rather than open, with a light sprinkle of chalk over some floral, black fruits. The palate has a very polished style, with a shell of fruit sitting around a core of very firm tannins which, although a strong component of the blend, do not over-ride the other elements. The texture is actually quite appealing, although it does have a stony-reserved style. Lovely supple fruit beneath though. Bold rather than exciting, but very good."*
- CK, The Wine Doctor

Reviews *"(a 63/37 blend of cabernet sauvignon and merlot; 13.5% alcohol; IPT 70) Medium-deep ruby. The delicately scented nose is classic Pauillac: blackcurrant, violet, cedar and graphite. Enters smooth and seamless, with lively acids nicely lifting the blackberry, plum and smoky mineral flavors. Refined and restrained Pauillac, finishing sleek and long, with very smooth tannins and a lingering mineral quality. This speaks to me of high-quality cabernet sauvignon on gravel. One of the best young Duhart-Milons ever, and in this vintage it bears more than a passing resemblance to Lafite-Rothschild, which is under the same ownership, even though the two wines are obviously quite different."*

- ID, International Wine Cellar

"63% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot. Dark crimson. Scented and satiny with lots of lush mulberry fruit in the middle. Not at all flashy. Low key. Very dry, Cabernet finish. Polished again and sleek. Fine tannins. Not for the very long term but very beautifully made in a polished Cabernet way. Bone dry finish. More solid than Carruades. Light and lively on the finish. Sprightly – fully fledged status now. Not an also ran – though there is just a little astringency on the finish. Drink 2017 to 2029"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"This is a very impressive Duhart-Milon that is often overlooked with all the hoopla over Lafite. This is one of the most expressive young Duhart-Milons I have encountered with freshness and vitality on the nose: cedar and graphite lifting off with continued aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with tightly-coiled tannins, lovely symmetry with great persistency towards the finish. I think the Merlot component really had a field day in 2009, countervailing Duhart's typical austerity. Tasted November 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at Lafite-Rothschild. Picked between 23rd and 30th September and 1st to 8th October, the Duhart is a blend of 63% Cabernet Sauvignon and 37% Merlot. It has that typically obdurate, almost sulky bouquet, dark berried fruit, cold stones, a touch of black olive and oyster shell. The palate is much more approachable than previous vintages, very fine tannins, a little purer than previous vintages, very harmonious and subtle with an almost feminine (for Duhart) finish. A classic Duhart fashioned in a more modern, pleasing style without losing its gravitas"

- NM, Wine Journal
