

Château Duhart Milon 2012

CSPC# 756556

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety	62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	Fourth Growth. Quatrieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.lafite.com/en/the-chateaus/chateau-duhart-milon/
General Info	<p>Classified 4th growth in 1855.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Duhart is said to have been a pirate in the service of Loius 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 .</p>
Vintage	<p>2012 was characterized by difficult weather conditions in the Bordeaux region. After a relatively mild winter, the spring was mostly wet and rainy, especially April, which brought a violent hail storm on the 24th.</p> <p>Such conditions hampered fertilization, leading to fears of reduced yields. Work in the vineyard was as vital as ever.</p> <p>June and July alternated heat and humidity. The weather became more stable from the beginning of August, enabling the healthy grapes to finish ripening in good conditions.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there was considerable variation in their degrees of ripeness and a great deal of sorting work was carried out by our teams from the end September.</p>
Soil	Fine gravel mixed with aeolian sands on tertiary limestone bedrock.
Vineyards	<p>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.</p>
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	27th September to 17th October
Maturation	Aged 50% in new barrels for 14 months.
Tasting Notes	<p>There is some woodiness, but it is very refined and does not dominate. The fruit is subtle and develops after the wine has had some time to breathe. The powerful attack makes way for a rounded, full-bodied mid-palate before finishing on fresh, slightly spicy notes that are still a little intense. This wine will benefit greatly from 6/8 years in the cellar.</p>



Serve with Decant 2+ hours prior to serving. Serve at 16-18 degrees celcius.
Production 25,000 cases made
Cellaring Drink 2015-2030
Scores/Awards **90 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015
91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013
89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015
85-87 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013
88-90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013
90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013
94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2015
92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 11, 2013
17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 24, 2013
89 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013
17.5 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013
94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)
89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 23, 2013
90-91+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013
89 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013
90 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 24, 2013 (score only)
91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
16 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
15 points - Tom Cave, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2013

Reviews *"Red currant, cherry and pomegranate notes form the core and flesh out steadily through the finish, picking up apple wood and anise accents along the way. Features polished grip through the finish, with a light echo of loam lending some contrast. Best from 2017 through 2025. 25,000 cases made"*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

" The savory tobacco and cassis notes race along, with a charcoal frame. A backdrop of kirsch fill this out, displaying a peppery hint on the lightly dusty finish. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 91-94 "
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"This property has enjoyed the considerable investments from the Rothschild family and the quality of the wines over the last generation has been increasingly impressive. I've always written that if you can't afford Lafite Rothschild, why not try Duhart Milon, which is not far off the quality of its much more famous neighbor. Spicy, deep ruby/purple with notes of cassis, cedar wood and spice box, the wine is soft, round, juicy, medium-bodied and ideal for drinking now and over the next 15 or so years. It is not one of their finest efforts, but it is certainly well-made, supple-textured and seductive."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"A blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot, this 2012 exhibits good ripeness as well as a strong herbaceous streak throughout the aromas and flavors. It is a very good, medium-bodied effort, but it is not as exceptional as some of the Duharts we have seen in recent vintages (2008, 2009 and 2010). It is slightly richer than the second wine of Lafite Rothschild, Carruades."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted en primeur at the chateau. The Duhart Milon-Rothschild is a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot cropped between 27th September and 17th October. It has a tightly wound bouquet that demands coaxing (perhaps because of the low pressure that day.) There are broody black fruit, sous-bois and graphite, but missing a little vigour. The palate is medium-bodied with a saline note on the entry. The tannins are quite fine, though it is missing a little weight in the mid-palate and on the finish. It is an understated Duhart, one that will be more approachable than other recent vintages. Tasted April 2013."
 - NM, Wine Journal

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Reviews *"Firm and pretty with fine tannins and lovely fruit. Medium-bodied, with good fruit and a medium finish."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Dense colour, meaty/cassis nose with firm Lafite-stable elegance, a fine Pauillac with a good future."
- SS, Decanter.com

"This marks an impressive step forward for this wine that's so often been in the shadows of other wines in the Lafite-Rothschild stable. It's dense and structured as well as deliciously fruity. The wine is straight down the line, starting with perfumed acidity and finishing with blackberry fruit. Intense and tannic, it's likely to age. Drink from 2020."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"92–94. Barrel sample. While initially severe with chocolate and dark coffee flavors, ripe fruitiness comes through on the mid palate. It's full bodied and dense in tannins, but a solid wine showing the continuing development of this property."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot. A little deeper than Carruades. Very light nose indeed. Quite a strong palate impact. Very firm and quite complex. Veering towards St-Estèphe austerity. Admirable restraint. Hums on the finish. I do like this. Suave."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Picking 27 September to 17 October, blend of 62% cabernet sauvignon, 38% merlot. This is subdued on the nose, tight tannins again, with a lovely structure, and the tannins are finely wrought, carrying out a balancing act with the lovely acidity frame, good fruit behind. This is pretty, well handled, and with real potential, but again lacks the impact of the very best wines from this estate. 89 / 16.75. Recommended. Drink 2018-2030."
- JA, The New Bordeaux

"62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot – The wine offers sweet dark berries, freshness and a sweet and tart, red and dark berry finish. 89-91 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deeper than Carruades; very blackcurrant nose; tobacco too and coffee bean hints; cassis and blackcurrant really come through on aeration; again earthy note like Lafite here; firm, quite dense palate; some leafy hints; mid-palate a fraction pinched and firmness to the tannins at the end. Good-ish length. 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot. Tasted at Lafite April 9, 2013. 90-91+"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Duhart Milon reveals a pleasing purity and sense of elegance with ripe, even plump, fruit all progressing neatly in a laid back, easy manner which is a credit to the team at Ch. Lafite who have resisted stretching the wine. It hasn't great weight, and nor should it in a vintage like '12, but with its satisfying, sweet fruit it will make fine early drinking."
- TC, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

"Supple, fresh, classic Pauillac red from a relatively cool year. This wine is medium bodied with green bell pepper and savoury notes. Subtle fruit flavours that is not showing very much now but it does possess firm structure and good length. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (06-Apr-2013)"
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"Fruit-driven nose with a faint vegetal touch. Powerful, full palate showing fruit. Very firm across the palate but typically Pauillac in style. (16-Apr-2013)"
- en.gilbertgaillard.com