

Château Duhart Milon 1996

CSPC# 742340

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot
Appellation	Pauillac
Classification	4eme Cru Classe (fourth growth) in 1855
Website	http://www.lafite.com/en/the-chateaus/chateau-duhart-milon/
General Info	<p>Château Duhart-Milon takes its name from Milon, the Pauillac village where its vineyards lie, and their former owner, said to be the widow of a pirate in the service of Louis XV. Classified as a Fourth Growth in 1855, Duhart-Milon was headed steadily downhill until the Rothschild family rescued the estate -- a familiar pattern in Pauillac -- in 1962. 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.</p> <p>Incidentally, there's no real Château at Duhart-Milon: the wines are finished in a large warehouse off a side street in Pauillac. But as long as this helps keep costs down, we don't mind. 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>A year with ideal weather conditions, except for a rainy August. The harvest under sunny skies reassured us of the vintage's quality. 1996 was a superb vintage for wines of the Medoc scoring 96 points out of a possible 100 from wine critic Robert Parker. Owned by Chateau Lafite Rothschild, Baron Eric de Rothschild's words were, 'It would have been nonsense not to acquire such a great neighbouring vineyard'. And the critics seem to agree too, regularly awarding 90 points or more for the new vintages. Parker gave the 1996 vintage 90 points, calling it 'rich and intense, with considerable finesse' and possibly 'the finest Duhart produced since the 1982'.</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.
Maturation	<p>1996 had a higher percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon at 85% and 15% Merlot. The wine is aged for 14 months in oak barrels, half of which are renewed each vintage. The high quality of this vintage reflects the meticulous attention from Charles Chevalier, Lafite's director in charge of their estates.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>A lively, fruity wine with excellent olfactive expression. Plenty of substance on the palate, while remaining supple and balanced. This wine may be aged for a long time, and is somewhat similar to the 1986 vintage.</p>
Serve with	<p>Pairs well with red meat, game, Lamb and strong cheese. Decant 2+ hours prior to serving. Serve at 16-18 degrees celcius.</p>
Cellaring	Drink 2005-2020
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007 89 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - January 31, 1999 90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #122 - April 1999 88-90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #115 - February 1998 88-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #110 - April 1997 93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2000</p>



Scores/Awards **17.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010

17+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - July 2002

17+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - July 2001

16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)

14.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Silver Medal - Indy International Wine Competition 2001

Reviews *"Some plum and fresh herb character, with hints of cedar and lemon. Medium-bodied, with silky tannins and a medium finish.--'95/'96 Bordeaux retrospective. Drink now."*
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Dark-colored, with lovely aromas of licorice, berry and spice. Medium-bodied, with fine tannins and a spicy, fruity aftertaste. A bit tough on the finish, but well made. Best after 2000."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"A strong case can be made that this is the finest Duhart produced since the 1982. The color is a saturated dark ruby/purple. The bouquet offers aromas of blackberry fruit intermixed with licorice, minerals, and dried herbs. Rich and intense, with considerable finesse, medium to full body, and outstanding concentration and purity, this should be a reasonably priced wine. It reflects the increased attention Lafite's administrator, Charles Chevalier, has been giving this nearby estate. Anticipated maturity: 2005-2020."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"From a property that appears to be benefitting from increased attention to detail, the 1996 may turn out to be the finest Duhart-Milon produced since the 1982. The 1996 displays a dense ruby/purple color, followed by a pure, mineral, plum and black currant-scented nose with some spicy oak. High tannin could prove to be troublesome, but at this stage it tastes sweet and well-integrated with the wine's flesh and fruit. This is a well-made, backward, classic Pauillac that will benefit from cellaring. Anticipated maturity: 2003-2015."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"I enjoyed this wine, which was a strong effort for this property, owned by the Rothschilds of Lafite. The wine exhibits a dense purple color, a sweet, framboise, oak, and mineral-scented nose, and powerful, medium-bodied flavors with a tannic edge. The tannin is ripe and counter-balanced by the wine's pure fruit. The 1996 Duhart-Milon-Rothschild should develop into a stylish, elegant, classic Pauillac for consuming between 2004-2020."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A much more intense cedar, blackberry nose. Still quite backward and classic in style. Well-structured palate, good definition, fresh, cedary, pencil-shavings. Robust on the finish. Masculine, but very class indeed. Needs 10+ years. Tasted September 2006."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A deep purple wine, obviously youthful, and unsurprisingly quite closed on the nose. The palate, however, is absolutely packed with fruit, is round and sweetly textured, with plenty of tannin and gentle acidity. This will be a lovely wine. Certainly developed from my last tasting. Drinking 2004 onwards."
- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Lovely colour. Somewhat hard and austere on the nose. Minerals, wet stones, ink and notes of violets sit with some crunchy fruit. Very balanced on the palate, and quite an elegant stance for such a young wine. Lots of stony, blackcurrant fruit, ripe tannins and correct acidity. Give it another five years."
- CK, The Wine Doctor

"On the borderline between velvety/voluptuous and oxidised. Very attractive evolved nose. Rich start and then very neat. Chunky and lively. Drink 2008-18"
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
