

# Château Mouton Rothschild 2006

CSPC# 831586

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot

**Appellation**

Pauillac

**Classification**

First Growth. Premier Grand Cru Classe in 1855 & in 1973

**Website**

<http://www.chateau-mouton-rothschild.com/>

**General Info**

Château Mouton Rothschild, owned by Baroness Philippine de Rothschild and her children, is regarded as one of the world's greatest wines. The story of Mouton Rothschild is that of a magical combination of soil, climate, and devotion of one man, Baron Philippe de Rothschild (1902-1988), Baroness Philippine's father. In 1853, Baron Nathaniel de Rothschild, from the English branch of the family, bought Château Brane-Mouton and immediately renamed it in Mouton Rothschild. Baron Philippe de Rothschild, when he took over the estate in 1922, decided to devote his life to it and to make Mouton unique, producing the very best wine. In 1924, he was the first to introduce entire chateau bottling. In 1926, he built the majestic 100-metre barrel hall. In 1945, to celebrate the liberation of France, he had the idea of crowning the label of that year's vintage with a V for Victory. Since then, a different label is created for each vintage by famous painters. In 1962, he opened the Museum of Wine in Art. In 1973, he obtained the revision of the 1855 classification so that Mouton would be officially recognized as a First Growth.

**Winemaker**

Philippe Dhalluin

**About the label**

Every year since 1945, a great artist has created an original artwork for the Château Mouton Rothschild label. Thus, the most famous names in contemporary art are brought together in a collection to which a new work is added each year.

Baroness Philippine de Rothschild, the owner of Mouton, has given the commission for the 2006 vintage to the British painter Lucian Freud, born in 1922, a universally acknowledged master of contemporary portraiture.

In 2008, one of his works was sold for the highest price ever attained by a living artist. For the Mouton 2006 Lucian Freud has chosen a joyously exotic transposition of the pleasure of drinking, in which the vine stock is transformed into a springing palm tree and the wine lover into a happily anticipatory zebra.

**Vintage**

*2006 was a year of surprises, marked by unusual conditions that will remain in the memory.* Generally speaking, the weather was hot and dry, with much higher temperatures than the seasonal average in June, July and September. Such untypical conditions at key times during the vine growth cycle had a far-reaching and beneficial effect on the future quality of the crop. Heavy rain at the end of the winter was followed by a long spell of warm and dry weather in April, May, and June, enabling the vegetation cycle to catch up after a relatively late start. Flowering took place early and evenly, starting in late May. Veraison likewise began very early, mid-veraison occurring four days ahead of the average, though very hot weather in the second half of July slowed the process. A total of 459 mm of rain fell between 1 January and 31 August 2006, compared with an average of 517 mm. The grapes started to ripen slowly in the cooler temperatures of August but subsequently accelerated in the exceptional conditions of the first half of September, with heatwave temperatures in the early part of the month.

**Vineyards**

The Mouton vineyards incorporate 75 hectares of typical gravelly soil over a base of sand, clay, marl, and limestone. They are situated on a mound or motte at an altitude of approximately 40 metres, dizzying heights for the flat and undulating land of the Medoc. It is widely thought that motte is the origin of the name Mouton, the local Bordeaux dialect providing us with as many words for mound, hill or hillock as there are perhaps fish in the Gironde. It does not derive, as some rather unkind individuals have postulated (I say unkind because the accusation brings rural, rustic tones), from the French for sheep, mouton, although this might be suggested by the grazing



<b>Vineyards</b>	pasture that abuts the estate. The vines are 80% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 8% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot, planted at a density of 8500 hectares, with an admirable average age of around 50 years.
<b>Harvest</b>	A period of high temperatures and humidity soon brought the Merlots to maturity and picking began on 20 September. The harvest lasted until 5 October in variable weather conditions, producing a crop of fully mature grapes in excellent condition.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	Once harvested, fermentation is in 225-hectolitre vats of wood, with a maceration of 15 to 25 days. Then 20 months in new oak before bottling.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The wine is an attractive, intense, and dark cherry red. With Cabernet Sauvignon predominant, the blend of Château Mouton Rothschild 2006 expresses a complex and intense array of aromas, combining fruit (bilberry) and milky notes with the toasted aromas (blond tobacco, incense, toasted hazelnut) of judicious oak. The precise and harmonious attack is prolonged by fresh and crisp, richly flavoured tannins, while the palate is full, creamy, and powerful. Château Mouton Rothschild 2006 is in the line of the great classics produced by the estate.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Mouton Rothschild is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Château Mouton Rothschild should be served between 17°C and 18°C. Decant between 30 minutes and 2 hours before serving, depending on the vintage
<b>Production</b>	15,830 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink now-2040
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 2009</p> <p><b>95-98 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 2007</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - January 2017</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - May 2016</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #216 - December 2014</p> <p><b>98+ points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #181 - February 2009</p> <p><b>96-100 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2010</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2008</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2007</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - October 2015</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2007</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2009</p> <p><b>96+ points</b> - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May 2009</p> <p><b>94-95 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - June 2009</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>17.5+ points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2007</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2016</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - December 2016</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2016</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2015</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - November 2010</p> <p><b>91-95 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2007</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine - May 2007</p> <p><b>19.5 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2008</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2007</p> <p><b>19 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - April 2007</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Tom Cannavan, wine-pages.com - January 2007</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2016</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This is in an interesting spot right now, still sporting some youthful blackberry, cassis and plum fruit, with only secondary hints starting to emerge. Yet those secondary hints are very tantalizing, with well-worn cedar, tobacco and sanguine notes adding range and cut. There's a freshness throughout, yet also a supple edge, which allows the fruit to drape prettily on the finish. —Non-blind Mouton-Rothschild vertical (March 2017). Drink now through 2034. 15,830 cases made."</i></p> <p><i>- JS, Wine Spectator</i></p>

**Reviews** *“Complex aromas of crushed berries, cedar, mahogany and sweet tobacco follow through to a full body, with velvety tannins and a long finish. There's also lots of coffee. Balanced and very beautiful already. Best after 2015.”*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*“Gorgeous aromas of currant, raspberry and mineral. Full-bodied, with ultrafine tannins. Long and caressing, building on the palate. Very pretty, very elegant. Subtle and seductive. This could be better than 2005. Wait and see.”*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*“Tasted at the Mouton-Rothschild vertical in London, the 2006 Mouton-Rothschild was really the wine that put winemaker Philippe Dhalluin on the map, in the sense that unlike the 2005 born in a great vintage, this 2006 had to transcend it. It remains one of the standouts of the growing season and actually replicates previous showings just the week earlier and in January. As expected, the nose has quite brilliant delineation with blackberry, graphite, here an almost cold slate-like scent. The palate is harmonious with the carefully judged acidity, fine-grain tannin, and immense detail on the finish. Recent bottles suggest that it may close up for several years, in which case, either enjoy this in the next few months or cellar this for a few years and receive vinous dividends down the line. Tasted May 2016.”*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*“The 2006 Château Mouton-Rothschild has a brilliant bouquet that is extremely well defined: blackberry, minerals and graphite aromas that you could pluck from the ether. That sets you up nicely for what follows. The palate is very harmonious with supple tannin. The silver bead of acidity is beautifully judged and interwoven through this linear and classic Mouton that is reminiscent of those ethereal wines Baron Philippe oversaw during the 1950s. It is all about the precision and classicism without denuding the fruit intensity, to wit, a complete Mouton-Rothschild that is a strong candidate for wine of the vintage. This is the wine that really put winemaker Philippe Dhalluin on the map and rightly so.”*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*“A major sleeper of the vintage and a great effort, the 2006 Mouton-Rothschild boasts abundant notes of crème de cassis, licorice, truffles, forest floor and cedarwood. The stunning aromatics are still somewhat primary, but the wine is full-bodied with sweet, abundant tannin. Built like a skyscraper with multiple dimensions, this super-concentrated, beautiful blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Merlot should drink well for 30+ years.”*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*“A sensational effort, the 2006 Mouton Rothschild exhibits an opaque purple color as well as a classic Mouton perfume of crème de cassis, flowers, blueberries, and only a hint of oak. Dhalluin told me that in whisky barrel-tasting vintages such as 1989 and 1990, Mouton was aged in heavily-toasted barrels, and they have backed off to a much lighter toast for the barrels' interior. I think this has worked fabulously well with the cassis quality fruit they get from their Cabernet Sauvignon. The full-bodied, powerful 2006 possesses extraordinary purity and clarity. A large-scaled, massive Mouton Rothschild that ranks as one of the top four or five wines of the vintage, it may turn out to be the longest-lived wine of the vintage by a landslide. The label will undoubtedly be controversial as a relative of Sigmund Freud, Lucian Freud, has painted a rather comical Zebra staring aimlessly at what appears to be a palm tree in the middle of a stark courtyard. I suppose a psychiatrist could figure out the relationship between that artwork and wine, but I couldn't see one. This utterly profound Mouton will need to sleep for 15+ years before it will reveal any secondary nuances, but it is a packed and stacked first-growth Pauillac of enormous potential. Anticipated maturity: 2020-2060+.*

*Ever since owner Philippine de Rothschild put Philippe Dhalluin in charge at Mouton in 2004 there has been a dramatic reduction in the amount of wine produced under the Mouton Rothschild label. The selection process has been ratcheted up to the level of other first-growths, and that is reflected in what is clearly the greatest Mouton produced since 1982 and 1986. As I indicated in my barrel tasting notes, only 44% of the crop made it into the 2006 grand vin, which is the lowest percentage in more than fifty years. The final blend includes a high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon (87%) and the rest Merlot (13%). No Cabernet Franc was utilized in 2006, and purchasers will have a long wait until this wine reaches full maturity. Keep in mind that, where well-stored, the 1986 currently tastes like a 4–5-year-old wine, and the 1982 is just beginning to enter early adolescence. If you*

**Reviews** *extrapolate from that, the 2006 will need at least twenty years to reach a teen-age status, and probably will not hit its plateau of maturity for three decades.”*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*“This extraordinary Mouton should turn out to be the finest they have made since the monumental 1982 and 1986. In early tastings, Mouton often seems to tag along behind the other first-growths. Yet in 2006, there is no question that the Baronne Philippine de Rothschild gave carte blanche authority to her talented administrator, Philippe Dhalluin, to turn up the heat in 2006. Yields were a tiny 32 hectoliters per hectare, the harvest took place between September 20 and October 15, and a minuscule 44% of the crop made it into the grand vin (the lowest percentage in more than half a century). The final blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Merlot is unusually high in Cabernet Sauvignon, but it possesses Mouton’s hallmarks of pure creme de cassis and flowers in addition to a toasty oak character. Profoundly concentrated, super-textured, and rich, Mouton’s powerful, full-bodied 2006 is unquestionably a strong candidate for the “wine of the vintage.” Kudos to Mouton’s winemaking team for fashioning this brilliant wine. Anticipated maturity: 2018-2050.”*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*“Tasted at Bordeaux Index's annual 10-Year On tasting in London. The 2006 Château Mouton-Rothschild has a brilliant bouquet that is extremely well defined: blackberry, minerals, and graphite aromas that you could pluck from the ether. That sets you up nicely for what follows. The palate is very harmonious with supple tannin. The silver bead of acidity is beautifully judged and interwoven through this linear and classic Mouton that is reminiscent of those ethereal wines Baron Philippe oversaw during the 1950s. It is all about the precision and classicism without denuding the fruit intensity, to wit, a complete Mouton-Rothschild that is a strong candidate for wine of the vintage. This is the wine that really put winemaker Philippe Dhalluin on the map and rightly so. Tasted January 2016.”*

- NM, Wine Advocate

*“Tasted blind at Southwold '06 Bordeaux tasting. This has a beautifully defined, crystalline bouquet with blackberry, plum and a touch of violets; beguiling lift from the glass, its fingers caressing the senses and luring you back into the glass. There is tangible mineralité here, a Pauillac that exudes breeding. The palate is very smooth and harmonious, perfect balance, a more feminine wine but there is undoubtedly still a great deal of power and cohesion. Lingers beautifully on the finish. Divine. Tasted January 2010.”*

- NM, Wine Journal

*“Bottled in July, I can finally see what all the fuss was about (although I did opine that I thought this wine would come into its own once the dominant oak had enmeshed itself into the fabric of the wine.) It now has very fine precision on the nose, great lift and sense of minerality with notes of blackcurrant, a touch of blueberry, mint and limestone. Much more feminine and wily than I was expecting, almost to the point where I am thinking of Burgundy! The tannins have softened considerably since showing out of barrel with layers of tobacco-tinged blackberry, raspberry and cedar coming through on the persistent finish. Very harmonious with a lingering graphite-tinged finish. This has certainly come into its own – just a beautiful wine, like a peacock strutting around the grounds of a castle! Drink 2012-2030+ Tasted September 2008.”*

- NM, Wine Journal

*“Tasted at Mouton Rothschild. Deep black/purple colour. The nose seems a little over-extracted and lacking some delineation as a consequence. Scents of black cherries, cassis, iodine. Opulent as one comes to expect from Mouton. The palate is attractive, full-bodied, decadent, and showy with ripe blackberries, cedar, and cassis. The one problem I find is that it is dominated by too much new oak, and it is difficult to discern the character of the wine underneath. It needs more poise and delineation although Mouton always improves significantly between now and the summer. Touch of black coffee on the finish. Certainly, a commendable Mouton, but I need that oak to become more enmeshed within the fabric of the wine. Tasted April 2007.”*

- NM, Wine Journal

*“This is an eye-opener with a tight core of complex fruit character as well as subtle chocolate and spices. Full body, firm tannins, and a classy finish. Holding back. Much better than expected. A vintage forgotten.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

**Reviews** *"Gorgeous aromas of currant, raspberry and mineral. Full-bodied, with ultrafine tannins. Long and caressing, building on the palate. Very pretty, very elegant. Subtle and seductive. This could be better than 2005. Wait and see."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"At the time it was shown as a barrel sample in early 2007, this was the best wine of 2006. That accolade remains. It has all the power of the Cabernet Sauvignon in Pauillac, which was the greatest success of the vintage. That power comes from the dense tannins as well as the black plum and spice flavors and minerality. The texture becomes velvet, giving a final richness, but never losing its long aging potential. In a year that is good, but not at the top, Mouton has made a great wine. \*Top 100 Wines of 2009, Cellar Selection\*"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Bright ruby-red. Vibrant aromas of cassis, blueberry, cedar and graphite. Wonderfully pure and silky in the mouth, with great subtle, slow-building intensity and superb energy and thrust. A real essence of Cabernet Sauvignon and Mouton terroir This one really rattled my brain-in the gentlest way. As silky as it is, it possesses bottomless depths. Finishes with big but noble tannins and outstanding length."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Good bright, deep ruby. Great class to the aromas of blackcurrant, graphite, spices, cedar, and flowers. The cabernet-dominated flavors are at once sweet and penetrating, with harmonious acidity and firm underlying minerality giving the wine a sappy, vibrant character. Extremely fine-grained wine finishing with very broad, suave tannins that saturate the front teeth. An outstanding 2006 with great potential."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Tasted blind. Healthy sweet nose. Tastes almost like a good right-bank wine with concentration and ambition. Iron filings and lots of ripeness. Very long. 18.5/20 points."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, harvested 20 September - 5 October. Very dark purple but with quite a pale rim. Not very expressive on the nose at the moment - seems if anything a bit weedy. Very strict, bone dry, treading a very fine line between elegance and meagerness. They're obviously playing the finesse card, but the finish is very dry and drying indeed. This is very Cabernet but has remarkably little weight. I think for a great wine to be this light it also has to have a bit more aromatic expression and allure, but this may well develop."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"The breadth and depth of this wine is impossible to ignore. Tobacco notes blend with cappuccino, cedar, and grilled almonds. This is classy, with just the right amount of abandon. Grilled black fruits are very Mouton, but with the touch of austerity and pulled-in, pared-down tannins that tell you it's 2006. Complex and complete."*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Don't let the lightening of color around the edge fool you into thinking this ready to drink. The nose is only now starting to show its tobacco, cigar box, forest floor, exotic spice, and dark fruit characteristics. Full bodied, dense, and powerful, while there is still a wealth of tannin present, the tannins are ripe. The fruit is sweet, warm, and spicy. There is a beauty to the cherry liqueur and kirsch flavors in the supple textured finish. If you like your wines young, or have no patience, you can open a bottle. But if you have a cold cellar, and can manage to wait 5-10 more years, this will be a stunner. Produced from a blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon and 13% Merlot, the harvest took place starting September 20 and finished October 5."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Young, OK, very young, but there is a lot to like here, with its fragrant nose of cassis, lead pencil, earth, spice, tobacco and blackberry filled perfume. Opulent, silky, round, and concentrated, give it 10 more years to come around and it should score even better. At least I hope so. I'm sitting on my bottles patiently."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

**Reviews**

*"2006 Mouton Rothschild is the wine of the vintage. It's only 4 years old, and its potential is already clearly evident. The best wines offer a uniqueness of character, and 2006 Mouton has that in spades! The aromatics explode from the glass. The complex perfume is filled with primary scents of smoke, caramel, tar, espresso, coffee, chocolate, spicy black cherry, and cassis. This dense wine is extremely rich and offers multiple layers of fruit and freshness. It coats your palate with a finish that lasts close to 60 seconds! The fruit displays an intense purity that is hard to find. Consumers wanting to own a great vintage of Mouton should be laying down the 2006. In my opinion, in the years to come, this will be considered one of the legendary vintages of Mouton Rothschild. While it's expensive, it sells for less than other recent vintages like 2000, 2005 and 2009 and this is a better wine!"*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*"Very much back on form. The black fruits have a touch of spice and white pepper. The tannins are ripe and rounded bringing out the sweetness of the fruit and giving richness on the finish."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"Deep dark ruby garnet, youthful reflections, purple border. On the nose, fine, sweet cassis jam, fine spicy notes, minerally, a hint of blackberries. Very elegant and rich in finesse on the palate, perfectly integrated tannins, almost red berry-like fruit, balanced. At first glance, the wine looks almost light-footed, but is profound and very finesse and is already very stimulating to drink, fine cassis in the aftertaste, very good freshness and length, great future potential. Exceptional precision."*

- Falstaff Magazine

*"87% Cabernet sauvignon with 44% of the harvest making it into the Grand Vin. A flash of creamy new oak then a very deep-set quality of berry fruit comes through. Some cedar and coffee and again that earthiness. On the palate the oak is noticeable, with lovely fruit filling in, and although there is plenty of tannin, that is quite decisive, the balance is very good."*

- TC, [wine-pages.com](http://wine-pages.com)

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