

Château Mouton Rothschild 2010

CSPC# 749529

750mlx6

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
General Info

94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot
Pauillac

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.

Vintage

2010 was a dry but relatively cool year, with no summer heatwave. A generally cold winter gave way to a dry and cool spring that ended with some rainfall in mid-June. Temperatures started rising on 21st June and the summer weather continued through a particularly sunny July. The fine conditions of July were followed by a cloudier, slightly cooler and very dry August. Summer weather returned on 21st August with high temperatures (reaching 38°C on the 25th and 26th) and cool nights, getting the ripening process off to a good start.

A welcome spell of rain between 6th and 8th September helped the grapes to mature. Acidity levels fell and phenolic maturation was slow, but the crop remained in excellent condition. The fine weather returned, still accompanied by cool night, encouraging the quality and synthesis of anthocyanins and flavour until the harvest. After showers on 26th September, picking started on 28th September in very good conditions and ended on 13th October. Naturally concentrated, the grapes were small and their juice, rich and highly coloured, displayed good acidity.

These factors - dry conditions without drought, an exceptional amount of sunshine, cool nights and rainfall that arrived just at the right time - give the 2010 vintage a remarkable identity. A splendid sequel to 2009, it is sure to become an outstanding year in the long history of fine Bordeaux wine.

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 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.

Harvest

The 2010 harvest began September 28th and was completed on October 13th.

Maturation

Once harvested, fermentation is in 225-hectolitre vats of wood, with a maceration of 15 to 25 days. Then comes up to 22 months in oak before bottling. 2009 spent 90% in new barrels for 20 months

Cellaring

Drink 2020-2040



Scores/Awards **98 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013
95-98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011
98+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013
97-100 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011
98 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2013
98-100 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011
100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013
99-100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011
98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2013
96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011
95-98 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011
18.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012
18.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2012
19.5 points/5 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011
99 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012
97 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2011 (score only)
98 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2011
99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 8, 2013
98-100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 30, 2011
97-100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2011
98-100 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011
94-98 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011
19+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2011
19 points - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2011
90-92 points - John Sweeney, JJBuckley Wines - April 2011
94-96 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2011
96 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 24, 2011 (score only)
18.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)
19.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"This strides in with distinction, starting off with a showy but integrated layer of espresso-infused toast, followed by plush tiers of crushed currant, plum and blackberry fruit interspersed with cocoa and well-roasted cedar notes. The long, tobacco- and loam-filled finish shows lots of heft but stays polished. An impressive display of unadulterated, muscular Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2020 through 2045."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Another battleship in the making, with a massive core of red currant, plum and blackberry fruit laced with iron and roasted apple wood and backed by massive grip. Despite the heft, this is sleek and long, with terrific poise. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 95-98."
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Only 49% of the production made it into the 2010 Mouton Rothschild, which has a strikingly beautiful label by Jeffrey Koons. This is a truly great wine, with a very high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon (94%) and the other 6% Merlot. At 13.9% natural alcohol, Mouton's director, Philippe Dhalluin, has clearly produced another 50- to 60-year wine that has a chance at perfection in about 15 years time, when I suspect this wine will be rounding into drinking condition. It is dense, rich and full-bodied, with the classic Mouton creme de cassis, forest floor, licorice and floral notes, but also some blueberry and hints of subtle espresso and mulberry. The wine has more minerality and precision than the rich, extravagantly opulent 2009, and while that may please some, others will have their patience tested as they wait and wait for this compelling Mouton Rothschild to hit full maturity."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews

"The 2010 Mouton possesses the highest level of Cabernet Sauvignon (94%) of any wine this estate has produced. Combined with 6% Merlot, the wine achieved 13.9% natural alcohol. Under director Philippe Dalhuin, the harvest was accomplished between September 28 and October 13, and only 49% of the crop made it into this powerful effort. Reminiscent of the 1986, it is a 50-60-year wine that is not meant for consumers looking for near-term gratification. This backward, tannic, full-bodied, exceptionally promising 2010 reveals enormous weight along with extravagant levels of precise, fresh boysenberry and creme de cassis fruit. The abundant minerality is due no doubt to the fresh acidity. In need of at least 15 years of cellaring, it will undoubtedly remain an infant at age 25 (as does the 1986)."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Winemaker Philippe Dhalluin told me that the 2010s spent a little longer than usual in barrel and this was bottled in July. The Mouton-Rothschild 2010 has wonderful delineation on the nose that is refined, perhaps a little more linear than recent vintages, actually reminiscent of the superlative 2006 in style. The Cabernet Sauvignon is very expressive as one hoped since it contributes 96% of the blend. The palate is medium bodied with a very expressive entry: blackberry, a thread of graphite, a touch of citrus fruit and a delicate touch of blueberry. It is tightly coiled; perhaps more so than Chateau Margaux at this point, but there is a dormant power that should be unleashed with ten years in bottle. This is an immense Mouton, its silky finish penetrating and unfathomably long. Tasted November 2012.

- NM, Wine Journal

"Of all the First Growths, Mouton has perhaps the most seductive bouquet with macerated black cherries, creme de cassis, blackcurrant, mint and cedar all with very fine delineation but a drop more opulence than say, Lafite or Latour. The palate is full-bodied with saturated, ripe tannins, layers of pure blackberry and dark cherries intertwined with a touch of blueberry. Very good grip, very smooth and flirting with the idea of ostentatiousness...but 2010 is not that kind of vintage and the Cabernet defined the finish with graphite and a touch of, what almost feels great mineralité, much more so than the 2009. Great length and poise, this actually reminds me of the stupendous 2006. Drink 2020-2050. Tasted March 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This is pure Cabernet Sauvignon magic with incredible aromas of currants, blackberries and light spices. Tiny hints of hazelnut. Wet earth. Full body, with super velvety tannins. The purity of fruit is breathtaking. It goes on for minutes. This is 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot. Try after 2020."

- JS, James Suckling.com

"This is pure Mouton. The aromas to this wine are so fabulous. I thought right away back to the 1947, one of the great classics of Mouton. Menthol, minty, light eucalyptus, currants and dark fruits on the nose. Full bodied, with super intense and powerful fruit and tannins. So unique for a first growth. Almost all Cab. Magnificent. This is clearly better than 2009. 94 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 6 percent Merlot"

- JS, James Suckling.com

"A dense, smooth and opulent wine bursting with ripe Cabernet Sauvignon flavors. It's regal and well structured, balancing the natural exuberance of Mouton with a more severe side. This is a wine with power, yet not without its charms from the fruitiness and final acidity. This great wine will age many, many years."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"96-98. An impressively powerful wine, its tannins dense, while still retaining softness. The wine has the acme of elegance, with its great Cabernet Sauvignon flavors (94%), while hinting at spice and tannins."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Huge, exotic multi-fruit nose, layers and layers of flavour, the richness lifted by ingrained acidity, perfect balance for such a richly textured wine, the best Mouton for years. Drink 2020-50"

- SS, Decanter.com

Reviews

"(80 IPT; 3.8 pH; 14% alcohol; a 49% selection for the grand vin Deep, bright ruby. Reticent nose hints at deep redcurrant, blackcurrant and plum complicated by aromatic herbs, cedar and lavender. Precise and pure on entry, showing very smooth flavors of red berries, dark plum and soy sauce. A refined Mouton-Rothschild that impresses through its grace rather than power; less exotic than usual at this early stage, it conveys a more serious, austere personality, even if it is still more expressive today than either Latour or Lafite. Director Philippe Dhalluin told me that although the merlot vats tasted perfectly fine this year, the variety endured plenty of problems ranging from coulure to heat stress (Mouton's famed gravel soils are an enemy of merlot in very dry years such as 2010), and this explains the preponderance of cabernet sauvignon in the final blend. An outstanding Mouton."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Burnished dark pruny crimson. Very opulent and heady on the nose. Lovely perfume. Lots of fully ripe black fruits. Amazingly polished - so much so that you are almost distracted from the huge tannic charge. Not quite as dense as some of the greatest 2010s but very well balanced. Hugely Cabernet. As in 2009, great care has been taken not to produce too heavy a wine. There is almost Lafite-like structure here. Very, very polished middle palate. Bone dry, pretty tannic finish. 18.5 out of 20."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Very youthful and very Cabernet and pretty spicy. Very correct and with an attractive dryness on the finish. Very snazzy."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"After the disappointment – to me at least – of 2009, this is an impressive return to form for Mouton, showing less charry oak and much more finesse and freshness, despite the higher alcohol. It's a more classic Pauillac, with notes of graphite and cassis, lots of Cabernet structure, tangy acidity, subtle vanilla oak, a touch of herbal spice and the structure to age."

- TA, timatkin.com

"We are in rich, stately ruby territory here. This has a powerful, multi layered generosity of fruit, but pinned ferociously into place by a backbone of acidity. The tannins are clear and present, but as with Lafite and Margaux, they have a delicacy and grace that just sets them apart. This is a wine to truly take your time over, 94% cabernet sauvignon, 6% merlot. Wow!! The highest level of Cabernet Sauvignon on record, 88% last year. Thrilling, stunning length, my mouth is singing with this, delicacy and grace but generosity of fruit and huge length. Utterly gorgeous, has persistence but it builds in the mouth as it goes, getting more and more intense over several minutes. About 20% down from last year, from small berries and early coulure on the merlot."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Deep in color, fresh ground espresso bean, cedar stone, licorice, herb and jammy black cherries create an attention-grabbing perfume. Powerful, full bodied, rich, refined, sensuous, and sexy, the wine is plush, opulent, fresh and rich. There is a lot of density and power, yet everything is in balance. This is a beautiful, exotic expression that shows all the reason why Mouton Rothschild deserves its reputation and First Growth status."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Inky in color, this sublime Pauillac offers an explosive nose filled with coffee, Asian spice, crème de cassis, tobacco, pepper and toasty oak that is dense, plush, rich, opulent and intense. With an exotic leaning, this stunning, mouth coating Bordeaux wine feels like pure silk and velvet meshed with power. 98-100 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Mouton Rothschild represents the largest percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon used in blend in the history of the chateau at 94%. The remainder is Merlot. The wine reached 14% alcohol, which is slightly higher than the estate achieved in 2009. From 49% of the harvest, which already experienced low yields due to the weather, the wine achieved natural concentration. Inky dark ruby with purple edges, abundant scents of cedar, truffle, tobacco, boysenberry, cassis, and hints of blueberry prepare your palate for a bath in pure Cabernet Sauvignon. Rich silk textures, power and refined elegance with a suave, exotic, opulent style is the signature of this wine which explodes on your palate and continues to broaden and expand in flavor. This is a great vintage of Mouton which competes with the sublime 2006. 97-100 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"Deep and dense; oaky and brooding; lots of blackcurrants on aeration; very deep; loaded with pure, fresh blackcurrant fruits; some coffee and coconut at the edge; very polished wine on the palate; blackcurrant purity; depth and concentration here, tannins very nicely done; fantastic depth and length; intense flavours. Real freshness here, and really substantial and yet revealing more than 2009 Mouton did at the same stage. Extremely seductive wine and with fantastic length. Absolutely terrific wine. Incredible freshness and purity. [94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Merlot alcohol 14%] 98-100/100 Tasted 4 April 2011 at the Chateau."
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"The nose is very black fruited with lots of cassis. The palate starts with a rich mix of fruit the sweetness balanced by freshness. Layers of flavour give complexity the black fruits vying with red for dominance. The underlying freshness gives a lighter racier more elegant feel to the finish."
- Derek Smedley MW

"Since the arrival of new winemaker, Philippe Dallhuin, and under the management of Hervé Berland, Mouton has stepped up a level. Grapes are now selected only from the core original vineyard site. This year it is a massively Cabernet Sauvignon-based wine - 94%, with just 6% Merlot. A black saturated colour. Leather, woodsmoke, charcoal and tar on the nose. Dense and quite tight at this stage. Plenty of fruit on the mid palate but certainly less opulent than the 2009 wine at this time last year. If that wine was the new 1982, then this highly concentrated, tightly tannic wine is reminiscent of the 1986. Massive in structure, complex and firmly balanced with great purity and density. A classic Mouton."
- Farr Vintners

"The whole Mouton stable of wines this year was quite simply spectacular, but the Grand Vin itself was otherworldly. With such a majestic nose of deeply concentrated blackberries and cream, it was very hard to drag the glass away to actually taste it. It is exceptionally unctuous, silky, almost with the consistency of single cream. Incredible, ripe, but not overly so, with red and black fruits, and a really dense compote of woodland lushness. The tannins are gloriously wrapped up within the satin creaminess of its dense but elegant body and it has an extraordinary finish of minutes not seconds. Tasting and writing about the First Growths has now become something of an elite treat as we know that there is no chance we shall be able to afford to drink these incredible wines, but if I could afford to drink the best of the best, I'd find it hugely encouraging that they really are the Top Guns of the wine world and really deserve their status. An incredible Mouton: bravo!"
- SS, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

"Deep purple in colour, with notes of sweet plums, violets, and a hint of cedar and vanilla, this is a seductive, rich and powerful Mouton with plenty of dense flavours but disappointing in its slight lack of finesse and detail. There is however amazing density and weight here, with a richness and heaviness that come from very sweet, almost over-ripe fruit, so the wine will be embraced by those that prefer this kind of big rich ripe Mouton style. To my palate, the 2009 had more restraint and greater precision in its flavours."
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"94% cabernet sauvignon and 6% merlot. The 2010 Mouton harvest began September 28th and was completed on October 13th. The wine has an opulent nose of dark chocolate, coffee, cassis and oak. In the mouth, this is plush with precision on the finish, long with well-integrated tannins. A wine of considerable richness and complexity, this is a full-bodied vintage for Mouton. This gorgeous wine should last for 40+ years. 96-98 points"
- JS, JJ Buckley Wines

"Intense colour. Profound nose of fresh ripe red fruits. Concentrated palate revealing no excessive tannins. Closely integrated, ripe, sweet fruit-driven attack leading into a robust, concentrated mid-palate and a firmer, slightly austere finish. Good fruit quality. A wine still in its youth."
- en.gilbertgaillard.com