

Château Mouton Rothschild 2011

CSPC# 756553

750mlx3

13.0% alc./vol.

CSPC# 890702

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pauillac

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

Vintage

2011 was one of the hottest, sunniest and, above all, driest of the last forty years. Very warm weather in April and May gave the vegetation cycle a head start: flowering was recorded on 15 May, the earliest date in living memory, and veraison started two-and-half weeks earlier than normal. Conditions in July and August were very different, bringing less sunshine and significantly more precipitation. By the end of August, however, only 326 mm of rainfall had been recorded since 1 January, compared with an average of 519 mm. Fine weather returned to the Médoc in early September and bright sunshine prevailed throughout the two weeks of the harvest, which began on 12 September. These auspicious conditions were extremely beneficial, allowing the grapes to ripen fully. Picking ended on 28 September. Low yields, especially at Mouton, have produced structured, deep and very fresh wines. 2011 is thus a classic Bordeaux vintage, to be ranked among the finer, or perhaps even the finest.

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 2011 harvest was from September 12th-28th

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. The colour is intense, a dark red with brilliant highlights. The supremely elegant nose displays red fruit aromas with touches of spice. On the palate, a smooth, creamy attack yields powerful, velvet tannins. The roundness is remarkable, giving the wine very attractive length. The finish reveals vanilla and chocolate aromas, with pleasant floral notes. A very fine, classic Mouton and a great success in a tricky vintage.

Cellaring

Drink 2020-2040



Scores/Awards **95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014
93-96points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012
92+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014
93-96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012
92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012
95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2014
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - November 5, 2012
92-94 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2012
17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - February 2012
19 points/5 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2012
97 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012
94-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 10, 2012
95-96+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012
18.5 points - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2012
93-94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
94 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - May 10, 2012
18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
19.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
96-97 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012
95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

Reviews *"This delivers a gorgeously pure beam of cassis and cherry compote, with singed apple wood, graphite and iron notes hanging in the background for now. Long and polished through the finish, showing serious depth in reserve. Best from 2018 through 2035."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Delivers a pure beam of cassis, raspberry and cherry, with lightly toasted spice notes and a firm plum skin edge holding sway on the finish. Stretched out somewhat already, this seems nicely tuned and has good buried minerality. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 93-96 "
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The dense ruby/purple-colored 2011 Mouton Rothschild (90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc) displays tell-tale notes of creme de cassis, vanillin and spicy oak, more tannin than many of the Pauillac's, and a solid, medium-bodied, concentrated, muscular Cabernet Sauvignon personality. Still tightly-knit and closed, but with lots of potential, it is a big, firmly structured Mouton that may turn out to be slightly austere. However, there are many reasons for optimism as well, so forget it for 7-8 years. It has 2-3 decades of aging potential. Only 54% of the production made the grade for Mouton Rothschild."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Mouton's classic note of creme de cassis is well-displayed in this inky, purple-colored wine. Significantly more powerful, rich, and textured than its nearby neighbor, Lafite Rothschild, Mouton boasts superb intensity, stunning concentration, and plenty of sweet tannin. This is an impressively built, full-throttle wine that will require 5-8 years of cellaring and should keep for 25-30 years thereafter. It should prove to be one of the longest-lived wines of the vintage.

Mouton Rothschild harvested between September 12-26, producing a final blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. One of the vintage's great wines, it is a candidate for wine of the vintage. According to administrator Philippe Dalhuin, only 54% of the production went into the grand vin."
- RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews

"Tasted twice, two weeks apart at the property. The 2011 is a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc (the first time it has been blended since 2005) and cropped at 30.1hl/ha. It has a tightly wound Cabernet nose with graphite and cedar aromas, blackberry, and a touch of cassis. Leaving the glass to one side, there is fine minerality and delineation here. The palate is very composed on the entry with supple tannins that are a little thicker and more saturated than Lafite. This has very good density, more like Latour than Lafite and a silver thread of acidity (pH 3.8). It has superb precision and tension on the finish that does not quite possess the persistency that a great vintage would have given. But this is still very impressive: a quintessential Mouton that may warrant a higher mark after bottling. Tasted April 2012."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This is delicious with a gorgeous ripe fruit with hints of chocolate, lightly toasted oak, and blueberries. Salty and savory. Long and very caressing. But then it goes on for a long, long time with firm tannins. Is it a baby 1986, one of the greats of Mouton? 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, and 3% Cabernet Franc."

- JS, James Suckling.com

"There is a lightness about this vintage of Mouton Rothschild. It doesn't take away from its quality but does give the wine poise and an attractive lift. The wine is based on solid tannins, then the ripe fruit builds layers of fruitiness and freshness. It is not likely to be one of the longest-aging Moutons, but it will be delicious. Drink from 2020."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"95-97. Barrel sample. Smooth, opulent tannins lend a velvety texture. This wine shows weight and spice, with potential power."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Ripe black fruits on the nose, the succulence expected from Mouton with wonderful depth, purity and richness of texture, a great example of the vineyard."

- SS, Decanter.com

"(90% cabernet sauvignon, 7% merlot and 3% cabernet franc): Deep ruby-red. Spicy red cherry, fresh blackcurrant, bay leaf, and cedar on the nose. Enters the mouth fresh and juicy, with bright acidity lifting the creamy red and black fruit flavors. Finishes clean and long, with mouthwatering acidity and supple charm. A knockout Mouton and one of the stars of the vintage. Director Philippe Dhalluin told me this wine reminded him of the '95 in some respects even though that wine has more flesh. This vintage marks the return of cabernet franc in Mouton's blend: it was last used in 2005, but then only 1%. Dhalluin told me he thought long and hard about this issue, worrying that adding cabernet franc might make the wine softer. "But in 2011, I realized that may not be such a bad thing after all," he explained. "Plus, I really liked our cabernet franc this year, and so I thought, let's give it a shot."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc. Deep crimson. Exotically spiced, warm red fruits. Exotic, prettily aromatic, delicate, and pretty gentle on the palate. Subtle and harmonious. Cedary freshness and a fluidity on the finish and a note of oak char at the very end. It seems just so soft, but Philippe Dhalluin assures us the tannins (or at least the polyphenol index) is very similar to last year so I am giving it the benefit of the doubt."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"20% less production than last year, but no major problems with hail. Touched 6% of the vines. Inky black, rich in colour. See those weight of tannins, that are kneaded together, quite strong coffee beans, and the fleshy blueberries and blackcurrants, with a touch of generosity, that marks out Mouton so often from its peers. This has quite a strong coffee on the finish, but the length is clear. Keeps giving out. Many vats were pumped over only one time a day. Definitely no overdoing, again it's clear we are in professional hands. 90% cabernet sauvignon, 7% merlot, 3% cabernet franc. 96-97."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

Reviews *"With a large percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon at 90%, 7% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc, this deeply colored wine offers boysenberry, coffee, truffle, smoke, blackberry, earth, and black cherry. With ripe tannins and plush sensations, this classic, opulent, stylish, concentrated vintage of Mouton Rothschild ends with deep blackberry and spicy cassis. 94-95 Pts."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and dense; earthy purple at edge; cool nose; blackcurrants, cassis; real poise; layers; very pretty oak too; nice perfume; very attractive nose; deep palate with grip and extract but very nicely handled; density but with harmony; tannins round and supple; nicely handled. Blackcurrant and cassis tones again on the palate; good length with espresso notes on the finish. Lots of length and genuine elegance here. 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc. Tasted at Mouton 3/4/12. 95-96+."
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"2011 Ch. Mouton-Rothschild is outstanding and the second-best red wine of the vintage for me, just behind Ch. Latour, and I do mean just! A superb blast of cool and racy Cabernet blackcurrant fruit is at the centre of this divine beast. This does not taste like a 2011 at all, as it has meat on its bones and ripeness, flair, and gravitas. There is a super succulent finish that lasts minutes and I really see this as a legend in the making. It reminds me of the brilliant 2006 and it might lead the way of pricing too this year. Come on Mouton, you can do it!"
- SS, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

"In this vintage, Mouton is more restrained with greater delicacy, which is very much appreciated. Flavours range from ripe plums, cedar and sweet spices. Tannins are generous but well managed with a sweet, rounded and long finish. Mouton has managed to make a balanced wine with ripeness and no over-extraction. There is 1% less alcohol in this vintage than over the past several years with a very high proportion of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon (the second highest in past 50 years); there is 7% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc."
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"EN PRIMEUR - Deep garnet-red with crimson. Ultra ripe nose with jammy notes and evident oak showing toasted accents. Full attack, robust structure reinforced by oak tannins. Firm, stocky, and tannic finish."
- en.gilbertgaillard.com
