

# Château Mouton Rothschild 2016

CSPC# 832566

750mlx6

13.2% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Pauillac
<b>Classification</b>	First Growth. Premier Grand Cru Classe in 1855 & in 1973
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.chateau-mouton-rothschild.com/">http://www.chateau-mouton-rothschild.com/</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Philippe Dhalluin
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>In 2016, there were two main trends in the weather as we experienced it in Pauillac:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– a very wet winter and spring: more than half of the annual rainfall came in the first four months of the year, including a record 240 mm in January;</li><li>– an extremely dry summer and autumn without any significant rainfall, resulting in a water deficit at the end of the year.</li></ul> <p>As a consequence of the summer drought, the grapes were numerous but remained rather small, making for density and concentration. High temperatures in August and September allowed for slow ripening and excellent maturity, so that the harvest started with the Merlot on 26 September and continued in perfect conditions until 14 October. In the vat house, each grape variety and each plot were, as usual, vinified separately in order to let their intrinsic character shine through. The wines, which have now been blended, offer remarkable colour, intense fruit and spice aromas and a dense texture of very rich and well-rounded tannins. Its density and substance make the 2016 vintage comparable with the finest so far this century.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<p>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 <i>motte</i> at an altitude of approximately 40 metres, dizzying heights for the flat and undulating land of the Medoc. It is widely thought that <i>motte</i> 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 <i>Gironde</i>. 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, <i>mouton</i>, 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.</p>
<b>Harvest</b>	from 26 September to 14 October 2016
<b>Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The wine is a dark and intense cherry red. The highly refined nose reveals perfectly ripe fruit. Ripe bilberry and blackcurrant aromas combine harmoniously with floral notes. With airing, the nose unfolds on pepper and spice balanced by elegant notes of graphite and blonde tobacco, bringing charm and nobility to an extensive range of



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	aromas. The full and dense attack exhibits exceptionally well-rounded and silky tannins. The ample mid-palate abounds in black fruit along with cocoa flavours and biscuity notes, leading into a full-bodied and remarkably persistent finish, the sign of a great vintage.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Mouton Rothschild is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. 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. Chateau Mouton Rothschild is also good when matched with Asian dishes, Chinese food, rich fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms and pasta.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2026-2079
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>98 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2019</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p><b>98-100 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p><b>98 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2019</p> <p><b>98-100 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p><b>18.5+ points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>19 points</b> - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>95-98+ points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"A generous, pure and lush ball of Cabernet, with wave after wave of unadulterated cassis and blackberry puree flavors rolling through. Features notes of roasted apple wood and sweet tobacco, offset by a long tug of sweet earth, but that's all background music to the impressive core of fruit, which steams along like a cruise ship with enough stores in reserve to go around the world twice without stopping. *Collectibles* (JM)"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Mouton Rothschild is a blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, with the Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot vinified together. It has a very deep purple-black color and slowly slides out of the glass with spicy notes of Sichuan pepper, cloves and cinnamon stick giving way to a core of perfumed black fruits and florals—blackcurrant cordial, candied violets, blackberry compote, rose hips and black plums—plus suggestions of espresso, damp soil, tar and beef drippings. Medium-bodied, the palate is very firmly structured and jam-packed with latent energy about to burst, offering superbly ripe, grainy tannins and bold freshness to support the intense floral and black fruit layers and finishing very long and very minerally. Powerful, profound wine."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Mouton-Rothschild is a blend of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, the latter two co-fermented, picked from 26 September and finished on 14 October. As usual, it is being matured in 100% new oak. It has a very intense bouquet with blackberry, raspberry, cold limestone and crushed violet aromas that if anything, appear to gain vigor with aeration in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with supple, juicy tannin. There is a lot of fruit packed into this Mouton-Rothschild and therefore one can feel the weight in the mouth, yet the acidity keeps everything on tip-toes. The finish has superb precision and opulence, completing a Mouton-Rothschild that will rivet you to the spot. Tasted on two occasions, the second confirming that this is simply a magnificent wine. Whichever artist eventually designs the label is going to be drinking well."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p>

## Reviews

*“Dark ruby, purple color. Aromas of blackcurrants, black truffle, crushed stone, licorice and hints of tar. Full-bodied, deep and vertical on the palate, drawing you in and down. The structure is very tannic and powerful, yet the tannins are folded into the wine. One of the most powerful Moutons ever for me. Try after 2027.”*  
- JS, James Suckling.com

*“This is a phenomenal, muscular red that shows incredible power and depth. Full-bodied and with great concentration of tannins but this remains agile and polished. The form to this is stupendous. Such precision and clarity. The new 1986 but better”*  
- JS, James Suckling.com

*“The rich fruit in this wine nearly envelops the tannins. Flavors of black plums, blackberries and blueberries meld with intense acidity to mask the power and concentration of the polished tannins. With this structure, will age for many, many years. Do not drink before 2026.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“98-100. Barrel Sample. The opulence of this wine is very much in the tradition of the estate. This year, though, there is a level of freshness that's amazing. The generous tannins and acidity give the wine the perfect lift. It's a great wine from this estate, likely to mature for decades”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Exceptional crimson. Real lift and transparency. Quite a soaring dry style with great texture and refreshment. Very strong style statement. Infusion of Cabernet. A sort of amalgam of cassis and tar in that very Mouton way but with 21st-century lift and transparency. Quite brave in a way. Bone dry and utterly embryonic compared with most of the 2016s (with the notable exception of Las Cases).”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“A higher level of acidity than is usual for Mouton is buttressed by waves of fruit and tannin. It's a modern take on 1986 that shows the most wonderful precision of creme caramel, liquorice, blackcurrant, creme de cassis and cedar. it's opulent but also has great tension through the palate - a monumental Mouton that for me has gained in stature over the past two years of ageing. The idea of a drinking window almost feels like a mirage - the perfect moment is likely to recede into the distance time and time again. It could be drunk in the next decade perhaps, but it's going to take 20 years or more to really get into its stride. Easily one of the wines of the vintage, for me this is showing even better than during en primeur. 1% Cabernet Franc completes the blend.”*  
-JA, Decanter.com

*“For the 2016 vintage, Philippe Dhalluin and his team have wrought a big, rich Mouton full of seductive grilled coffee bean, slate, graphite, tight cassis and bilberry. This has depth and impact and closely approaches the 2010. Astonishing! Clearly powerful but with the beauty and flourish of Mouton. It is a long-lasting wine, just stretching out endlessly in front of you. The tannins are ever present and precise with a sweetness to them and a satin edge. This is 100% new oak but has that 2016 trick of seeming perfectly integrated already. A wine to age then sink into on some happy future date.”*  
-JA, Decanter.com

*“Aged in 100% new oak, this is a bold, dense and very serious Mouton that will reward long cellaring. Toasty, rich and very concentrated with lashings of dark berry fruit and crème de cassis, some Asian spices and plenty of backbone and acidity. 2028-40”*  
- TA, timatkin.com

*“Almost opaque in color, the wine is inky dark with a beautiful sheen to the edge. Blackberry, cassis, citrus, flowers, Cuban cigars and exotic spices are the first things you notice. Power balanced with stylishness, sweetness with acidity. This is pure silk and velvet in texture with the flavor of berries just picked off the vine. I timed the finish at over 60 seconds, and this is just a baby! Imagine what this will be like when it's mature! This is the first time since 2004 that Mouton Rothschild has been able to include Petit Verdot in the blend. At 13.2% alcohol with a pH of 3.76.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

## Reviews

*“Originally classified as a Second Growth, Mouton made some of the greatest red Bordeaux wines ever in the period after the end of the Second World war and was finally upgraded to First Growth in 1973. Every year since the 1940's a different artist has decorated the label. Since the arrival of Philippe Dhalluin in 2003, Mouton has been on fine form. Grapes are now selected only from the core original vineyard site and the wine is always a classic example of both Cabernet Sauvignon and Pauillac. 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 1% Cabernet France and 1% Petit Verdot in 2016. The Grand Vin will represent 53% of total production this year. A huge, dense, expressive nose here. Layers of black fruits, liquorice, vanilla, pepper, tar and anise. The palate has great intensity of fruit - blackcurrant, kirsch, black cherries - all framed by greatly refined, ripe tannins adding great density. This is power and finesse combined, with velvety texture, complex chocolate, black fruit and exotic spice all adding to the harmony. This is a magnificent wine, displaying all the best attributes of the vintage - power, lift, intensity and freshness. Great precision and classic Mouton exoticism. One of the very best wines in 2016.”*  
- Farr Vintners

*“The nose has a mix of black fruits the start of the palate bright and fresh but there is mid richness concentrated flavours. The tannins are fine discreet well integrated the mid palate supple fleshy with ripe black fruits but there is freshness at the back the finish is long stylish elegant. 2026-44”*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2016 Mouton Rothschild bowled me over when I tasted it from barrel. Philippe Dhalluin compares it to the 1986 in terms of intensity of fruit, although there is more maturity and refinement in the tannins apropos of the 2016. Bottled in July 2018, this has an intense bouquet with pixelated black fruit, crushed stone, hints of blue fruit and a touch of India ink. But it is the delineation and focus that take your breath away. The palate is medium-bodied with very supple tannin framing the pure black currant and cassis fruit. The acidity is pitch-perfect, and there is a gentle but insistent grip toward the extraordinarily long finish. Racking my brains to think of another Mouton Rothschild that I have tasted over the last 20 years that was as good as this, I simply cannot come up with one”*  
- NM, Vinous

*“A towering, thrilling wine, the 2016 Mouton Rothschild is unbelievably beautiful today. Aromatics, fruit density and vertical structure all come together. In the glass, the 2016 is remarkably vivid and powerful, and yet a gentler, more feminine side emerges with time in the glass. The intense, mineral, savory profile recalls the 1986, but the 2016 has more grace, inner sweetness and sophistication than that wine. Even so, the 2016 is going to need at least a number of years in bottle before it starts drinking well, although it won't be the bruiser the 1986 remains to this day. This is breathtaking wine from Mouton, Technical Director Philippe Dhalluin and his team.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“On first impression, the 2016 Mouton Rothschild is incredibly reminiscent of the 1986, especially in its aromatics. On the palate, the 2016 naturally reflects the more finessed personality of the year as well as 30 years of continual refinements in vineyard and cellar work. Graphite, grilled herbs, smoke, crème de cassis, bittersweet chocolate and ripe plums are some of the many flavors that flesh out in the glass in an utterly captivating, exquisite Mouton that I had to taste twice and then directly from barrel because of its pure allure. Although it is early, the 2016 Mouton is shaping up to be one of the wines of the vintage.”*  
- AG, Vinous

*“Along with the Château Lafite, the 2016 Château Mouton Rothschild is the wine of the vintage from the Médoc and is a truly profound, magical, blockbuster wine in every sense. It's based on 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, raised in new French oak. Boasting a saturated purple color as well as an extraordinary bouquet of thick black fruits, lead pencil shavings, new saddle leather, and burning embers, with just a hint of its oak upbringing, this beauty hits the palate with a mammoth amount of fruit and texture yet stays fresh, pure, and light on its feet, with a thrilling sense of minerality as well as building tannins on the finish. It's one of the most profound young wines I've ever tasted, and while it will probably keep for three-quarters of a decade, it offers pleasure even today. Bravo! Drink 2023-2098.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

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