

# Château Mouton Rothschild 2017

CSPC# 749529

750mlx6

13.1% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**Classification**  
**Website**  
**General Info**

90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, 1% Petit Verdot  
Pauillac

First Growth. Premier Grand Cru Classe in 1855 & in 1973  
<http://www.chateau-mouton-rothschild.com/>

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**  
**Vintage**

Philippe Dhalluin

In 2017 there was no frost at Mouton—just a little at d'Armailhac. Winemaker Philippe Dhalluin noted that the drought at the beginning of the growing season ensured that the bunches consisted of many small berries. In fact, the Merlot was a bit stressed and suffered a little, thus Dhalluin felt it was more of a Cabernet year here in Pauillac. Yields are down in 2016 only by about 10%. Petit Mouton is about 21% of production this year. The final blends were made in mid-November because the malolactic fermentations progressed so quickly.

After a relatively mild winter with below average rainfall, the first major event in 2017 was a spring frost which hit the whole Bordeaux terroir on 27 April, though the Mouton vineyard was very fortunately spared. That was followed by a particularly lengthy drought, which did not truly end until December.

Spurred by above average temperatures, the vine growth cycle started slightly earlier than usual, at the end of March. Exceptional weather in April and May meant that flowering occurred 10 days earlier than the average for all varieties. After a very wet June, the summer was moderately sunny but dry, increasing a water deficit which started in 2016. As a result, the grapes remained small, with concentrated sugar and colour.

With an early growth cycle and a dry summer, the 2017 harvest was particularly early. At Château Mouton Rothschild, it lasted from 7 to 29 September. Running off ended on 20 October and blending was completed in December.

**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.



<b>Harvest</b>	The harvest began with the young Merlot on September 7th and finished with the later varieties, the Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot, on September 29th.
<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 has a deep, dark color with a garnet hue. The elegant and complex nose opens on wild berry aromas. With airing, notes of pepper, blackcurrant bud and dried flowers bring a satisfying sensation of harmonious complexity. The attack is fresh, clear-cut, and well-structured, leading into a dense and full-bodied mid-palate on fresh fruit flavors. Refined and mature tannins coat the palate, leaving an enduring impression of smoothness. A packed and balanced finish confirms that this is a wine full of promise.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Mouton Rothschild is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius. 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.
<b>Production</b>	Approx. 20,000 cases annually
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2025-2067
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>97 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020</p> <p><b>96+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #245 - October 2019</p> <p><b>97-99 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020</p> <p><b>97-98 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>95 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2018</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p><b>93+ points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"A brick house Cabernet, featuring a thick sheath of warm ganache and smoldering tobacco over a core of well-steeped black currant, black fig, and blackberry compote flavors. Cuts a wide and deep trench as it moves along, with loamy, tannic grip for ballast. Retains a well-buried inner purity that should blossom as this mellows in the cellar. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. Best from 2025 through 2040"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2017 Mouton Rothschild is a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot and 1% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple in color, it slowly unfurls to reveal notes of warm black plums, baked black cherries, kirsch, and freshly crushed blackcurrants with hints of candied violets, cinnamon toast, Ceylon tea and pencil shavings. Medium-bodied, the palate is charged with amazing energy, featuring dynamic black and red fruits and loads of baking spice and mineral sparks, framed by ripe, fine-grained tannins and finishing long and fragrant. Given the intensity of fruit and structure, while this is a relatively elegant Mouton that will be approachable early on, I don't see it as being short lived. It should give pleasure for a good 40+ years."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2017 Mouton Rothschild has one of the highest percentages of Cabernet Sauvignon ever at 90%, with 9% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot. Very deep purple black in color, the nose is already singing of crushed black currants, warm blackberries, and chocolate-covered cherries with hints of violets, star anise, cinnamon stick, and cloves plus wafts of pencil lead and unsmoked cigars. Medium-bodied, wonderfully delicate yet intense in the mouth (gaining some richness in the mid-palate on my second taste two and a half weeks later), it has</i></p>

**Reviews** *super fine-grained, smooth tannins and incredible freshness, finishing very long with tons of tightly wound layers. Wow. This vintage is going to be very long-lived in the cellar!"*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Extremely perfumed Mouton with currants and crushed berries. Hints of roses and other flowers. Tight and extremely refined with ultra-fine tannins and cool yet rich currant character. The center palate offers sweet cherries and hints of oak. Lightly sweet and sour. Fresh, balsamic note. It firms up at the end. Solid. A blend of 90% cabernet sauvignon, 9% merlot and 1% petit verdot. Try after 2025."*  
- JS, James Suckling.com

*"This is a very shy and tight Mouton with blackberries, blackcurrants, and hints of terracotta. Full body and very integrated tannins that are extremely polished and beautiful. Spicy and white-pepper finish. Sexy and exciting. So long and refined."*  
- JS, James Suckling.com

*"The hint of new wood still shows in the aroma of this wine. But on the palate, it has the richness and exuberance that comes with this great estate. Tannins show structure and intensity, bringing out the bold black fruits. Packed with freshness as well as structure, the wine will age well. Drink from 2024."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"96–98. Barrel Sample. The wine develops slowly on the palate, gradually revealing its powerful tannins and solid structure. It has the classic black currant fruitiness of Cabernet Sauvignon, to match the robust, lasting tannins. This impressive wine will develop slowly with great power."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Healthy, glowing deep crimson with soft cherry rim. Rocky/smoky cassis lift to the aroma. Fragrant with sober and non-exotic fruit. Serious. Super-fine texture appears gentle but is very persistent, so fresh, and effortless and yet intense and long. Refined and accessible but long term too. Drink 2027-2047."*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*"Vibrancy is one of the key themes of the year in the most successful properties, and this has bright, plump fruit and good depth of colour, even if it's less concentrated than the past few vintages. The Pauillac first growths have done a great job in 2017, and it's hard to question the depth of fruit and richness here - there's no doubting that this is a great Mouton. Cassis and blackberry notes are delivered with precision, but there is a clear restraint that is another signature of 2017, and perhaps doesn't reflect Mouton's personality as much as some of its neighbours. There's not the same weight of tannins as 2016 (around 70 IPT this year, still a high amount), but it's a beautiful, persistent, gorgeous wine that will age gracefully. 100% new oak. (Image is the 2015 bottle; the design for the 2017 label will be revealed later)."*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*"Graphite, black chocolate, pencil lead, blackberry, and liquorice. This is serious, not holding back on its confident sense of power and depth. 100% new oak coming through as toasted grilled almond aromatics, this has no issue with settling in for the long term and will deliver over the next two to three decades. Easy to love."*  
- Decanter.com

*"Inky black colour. Spicy rich coffee oak aromas, with plush cassis and damson. Some toast and sweet herbs. Intense and juicy fruit flavours with black cherry and damson. Ripe rounded tannins. Fresh acidity and structure. Mouth-coating velvet feeling, ripe tannins. Fine and manages elegance despite the power. Very good indeed."*  
- TA, timatkin.com

*"Nearly purple in color, this is full bodied and intense. There is a strong sensation of crushed stone, exotic spices, licorice, and barbecue smoke swirling about the dusky red fruits as they coat your palate. Powerful and sensuous with a magnificent wholesomeness of fruit, the wine nimbly builds to a boundless finish, which clocks*

**Reviews** *in at close to 60 seconds! The blend comes from 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot, reaching 13.1% alcohol with a pH of 3.75. The harvest took place from September 7 to September 29 and the Grand Vin represents 51% of the harvest."*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*"90% Cabernet Sauvignon with 9% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot. Philippe Dallhuin believes the 2017 to be between the 2014 and 2015 vintages in quality. This year a typically expressive and expansive aroma profile of coffee bean, roasted fruits, dark chocolate, and barbecue leaps out of the glass. The palate is creamy with vanilla and cocoa notes, as well as more exotic star anise and clove. The fruit is juicy and ripe, but compact and folded in on itself on entry. This grows and fleshes out through the mid palate, gaining in intensity and weight, and taming the ripe, chewy tannins that offer ample structure for ageing. The fruit softens and integrates these tannins, giving a very polished mouthfeel despite their plentiful, mouthcoating nature. This is very refined, but the longevity and purity of fruit is the drive that gives the finish length and harmony. A very impressive effort this year."*

- Farr Vintners

*"The nose has a mix of fragrant fruits the start of the palate light minty more bramble and bilberry. It fills out on the mid palate with sweet ripe cassis and black cherry the richness balanced at the back by underlying freshness. 2027-45."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2017 Mouton-Rothschild is lucid in colour, quite deep like the Le Petit Mouton. It has a pixelated bouquet with precise blackberry, raspberry and crushed stone aromas, the oak seamlessly integrated so that the aromatics have unerring focus. The palate is medium-bodied with a graphite-tinged entry that is reminiscent of Latour in many ways. This Mouton-Rothschild is all about finesse and poise, the acidity beautifully judged and with superb tension on the finish. One of the finest Left Bank wines of the vintage, there are few 2017s superior to this. Drink 2025-2055."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2017 Mouton-Rothschild was picked from 7 to 29 September and matured in 100% new oak. This First Growth is driven by the Cabernet Sauvignon, as you would expect given the high percentage, expressive pencil lead and cedar that infuse the slightly introspective black fruit. Dare I say that it actually reminds me of Latour in style? The palate is medium-bodied, finely tuned, and precise, a more masculine Mouton-Rothschild compared to the last three vintages, fresh with a sustained, lightly spiced finish that lingers in the mouth. That backbone is accentuated more during my second visit in mid-April. It is a cliché, but this Mouton-Rothschild is unashamedly "classic" in style, perchance "le petit frère" of the 2010 Mouton-Rothschild that also contained a lot of Cabernet Sauvignon (though before you search the archives, yes, the 2011 and 2012 contained the same proportion!) Tasted twice with consistent notes. 2022 – 2050."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2017 Mouton Rothschild is a powerful, brooding wine that very much reflects the high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. Not in the mood to show much, the 2017 is also very much closed in on itself. Time in the glass brings out hints of black cherry jam, wildflowers, and spice, but that's about it. Readers will have to be patient with the 2017, but I am not sure Mouton will ever be an elegant wine in this vintage. Time will tell. (AG) 93+"*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2017 Mouton Rothschild is a powerful wine for the year, probably because of the high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. Dense and closed in on itself, the 2017 is likely going to require quite a bit of time to soften. Raspberry jam, pomegranate and blood orange add lift and perfume with time in the glass. There is quite a bit of energy and brightness in the 2017, but not as much immediacy as is common for the vintage. That may ultimately turn out to be a positive for the wine's long-term prospects. The blend is 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot and 1% Petit Verdot. "After the frost, which did not really affect us, the major challenge in 2017 was heat stress," Mouton Technical Director Philippe Dhalluin told me. "We had no rain until the end of June. Then, in September, when we needed a bit of rain again, we got more than double what would have been optimal. The September rain affected the Merlot and Cabernet Franc, while the Cabernet Sauvignon was able to take advantage of the last 15 days of the growing season, which were much more*

**Reviews** *favorable. In the cellar, we opted for longer macerations at lower temperatures, as we wanted to avoid extracting the type of hard tannins that mark other vintages with very dry summers, such as 2011.*  
- AG, Vinous

*“The top 2017 Chateau Mouton Rothschild checks in as 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot that spent 18 months in new barrels. This rock star of a wine offers stunning notes of chocolately blackcurrants, toasted spice, and espresso roast, as well as loads of classic Pauillac lead pencil shavings and graphite nuances. It's another wine that starts out slowly yet builds incrementally on the palate with full-bodied richness, ripe, polished tannin, no hard edges, and a stunning sense of purity and elegance. Give bottles upwards of a decade and it will evolve for 30 years or more.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Compared to the 2014 (and better than 2011 and 2012) by the estate, the 2017 Mouton-Rothschild is a final blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot, harvested from the 7th to the 29th of September, brought up all in new barrels. This beauty is going to check in behind the sensational 2015 but is unquestionably one of the gems in the vintage. Crème de cassis, graphite, Asian spice, and cedar pencil notes all flow to a rich, full-bodied, deep, layered beauty that has tons of potential. Hitting 13.1% alcohol, it has more texture and depth than most and will need 4-6 years of cellaring. Production is down over 10% due more to the dry summer than any frost damage. Barrel Sample: 95-97.”*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Considering the dominance of Cabernet in this wine the nose is surprisingly fruit driven with both red and black fruit tones. There is some superb tannin here and it is sprinkled throughout the palate from the very first moment until the very last. This is a calm and centered wine with little fuss or fanfare and yet it has a lot of concentration and style about it. Perhaps not the DNA for superstardom, this is still a very harmonious and exciting Mouton.”*  
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

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