



Château Mouton-Rothschild

A majestic, cerebral Pauillac, the 2020 Mouton Rothschild balances richness and restraint with architectural finesse and layered, age-worthy structure.


Château Mouton Rothschild



1er Cru Classé 2020

Bordeaux, France

Region and Vineyards

Château Mouton Rothschild lies in the northern reaches of **Pauillac**, on Bordeaux's Left Bank, and stands as one of the five **Premier Grands Crus Classés** from the historic 1855 Classification. The estate spans **75 hectares** on a **gravel-rich rise ("motte")** over limestone, marl, clay, and sand. This well-drained, heat-retentive terroir is ideally suited to **Cabernet Sauvignon**, which dominates the estate's plantings and its grand vin.

The 2020 growing season was characterised by **early budbreak**, a rapid and early flowering, and intense summer heat. While July saw significant drought, **well-timed August rains** restored balance and spurred even véraison. The grapes reached full ripeness under **stable anticyclonic conditions**. Harvesting took place between **7 and 24 September**, one of the earliest on record, under dry, ideal weather. Yields were modest, but the fruit quality—ripe, fresh, and deeply aromatic—was exceptional.

Winemaking

The 2020 Mouton Rothschild is a blend of **84% Cabernet Sauvignon**, **13% Merlot**, **2% Cabernet Franc**, and **1% Petit Verdot**, fermented in traditional **225 hL wooden vats**, followed by a **22-month élevage in 100% new French oak**. This was the **first vintage fully overseen by Jean-Emmanuel Danjoy**, who succeeded Philippe Dhalluin and brought an emphasis on balance, precision, and restrained power.

At **13.1% alcohol**, this wine marks a shift toward more moderate expressions of ripeness compared to previous warm vintages. Only **49% of the harvest** was selected for the grand vin, ensuring concentration and purity. The result is a wine with impeccable tannin integration, lifted aromatics, and remarkable aging potential.

Alcohol :12,80 %

Composition: 84% Cabernet
Sauvignon, 13% Merlot, 2%
Cabernet Franc



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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep, opaque ruby with a vibrant purple core.
- **Aroma:** Intense and pure aromas of cassis, violet, mint, graphite, and cedar, underpinned by notes of rose petal, licorice, and fine spice.
- **Palate:** Medium to full-bodied with a firm, vertical structure and fine-grained tannins. Black fruits and red currants unfurl across the palate, layered with mineral tones and smoky earth. The finish is exceptionally long, fragrant, and saline, revealing great poise and restraint.

Did you know?

The label of Château Mouton Rothschild 2020 was created by **Peter Doig**, a British painter of Scottish origin, known for his dreamlike figurative style. His artwork for this vintage blends pastoral scenes and musical inspiration, evoking vineyard labour and the poetry of winemaking under a starlit sky—a romantic metaphor for the birth of a great wine.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Rack of lamb with thyme and lavender jus** – complements the wine's aromatics and refined tannic backbone.
- **Beef tenderloin with truffle glaze** – highlights the richness and mid-palate depth.
- **Roasted game birds with blackcurrant sauce** – mirrors the wine's cassis and graphite profile.
- **Aged Manchego or Saint-Nectaire** – balances the wine's savory and mineral elements.



Robert Parker (RP) : 100 Points (2020)

The 2020 Mouton Rothschild is a striking wine and one that I regretted not purchasing en primeur as soon as it landed in my glass. Offering up complex aromas of minty cassis, pencil shavings, loamy soil, cigar wrapper, espresso roast and violets, it's medium to full-bodied, broad and layered, with terrific concentrated, beautifully refined tannins and a long, penetrating finish. Checking in at 12.8% alcohol, its incipient complexity, ineffable sense of completeness and exquisite balance mark it out as the purists' choice among the trio of 2018, 2019 and 2020. In this vintage, the lots that made it into the blend were largely confined to the core gravel terroirs that represent Mouton's heart, meaning that there's a little less to go around. This was the first vintage overseen by Mouton's new technical director, Jean-Emmanuel Danjoy, and he has begun with a flying start. (WK)



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Decanter (DCT) : 100 Points (2020)

Dark fruits on the nose, blackcurrants and cherries with savoury nuances of dark chocolate and tobacco. Fresh and forward on the palate, this hits you square on, still very lean and direct, almost piercing and severe in its intensity and drive, though wonderfully precise: it's like an arrow. Serious and focussed yet full and layered, the texture is lovely, a slight graininess that lingers but it's the acidity and the fruit purity that are so excellent - they give such a sense of vibrancy and make this wine so thrilling. You get a feeling of pent-up energy, but after a few minutes the slight density of the ripe fruit comes through, giving some plushness and weight. I love the Cabernet details and the mineral element that leaves the mouth cool and fresh. A well constructed, subtle beauty. (GH)



James Suckling (JS) : 100 Points (2020)

The purity of blackcurrants, blueberries, creme de cassis, and flowers. Hints of subtle spearmint. Iron. Blood orange. Medium-bodied with a compacted palate, like a cylinder of perfectly ripe fruit and fine tannins. A million layers of tight-grained tannins. It goes on and on. Such freshness and weightlessness to it. Ethereal. New classicism.

