

Château Mouton-Rothschild

A monumental Pauillac of precision and grandeur , Château Mouton-Rothschild 2016 marries sculpted Cabernet power with Mouton's signature sensuality, delivering profound depth, thrilling freshness, and a finish that seems to echo endlessly.

1er Cru Classé 2016

Bordeaux, France



Region and Vineyards

Château Mouton-Rothschild sits in Pauillac on the Médoc's Left Bank, where deep gravel croups excel at ripening Cabernet Sauvignon while preserving aromatic definition and structural freshness. The estate's vineyards are positioned on a gentle rise, an elevated "motte" that helps with drainage and contributes to the château's famed sense of finesse and line.

The vineyard surface totals around **75 ha** of classic Pauillac gravels laid over sand, clay, marl and limestone, a layered geology that encourages deep rooting and steady water supply in dry years. Vines are planted at high density (noted as 8,500 vines/ha in the estate material provided) and include mature parcels, supporting the wine's natural concentration, aromatic complexity, and the poised tannin profile that defines great Mouton in top vintages.

Winemaking

The 2016 blend is **83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot**, composed to amplify Pauillac's dark-fruited backbone while keeping Mouton's hallmark perfume and suave texture firmly in view. Harvest ran from 26 September to 14 October 2016, with grapes brought in under excellent conditions after a growing season that combined a very wet winter and spring with an exceptionally dry summer and autumn.

Vinification is conducted plot by plot and variety by variety, allowing each component to express its distinct character before final assemblage. Fermentation is described as taking place in large wooden vats (225 hL), with maceration lasting **15 to 25 days**, building colour, aromatic intensity, and finely layered tannins. Ageing follows in oak for up to **22 months** prior to bottling, a élevage designed to frame the wine's density with polish, spice, and long-term cellarworthiness.

Alcohol :13,20 %

Composition: 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Dark, intense cherry red, edging toward an opaque core.
- **Aroma:** Perfectly ripe blackcurrant and bilberry, floral lift, then pepper, warm spice, graphite and blonde tobacco as it opens.
- **Palate:** Full and dense with exceptionally rounded, silky tannins; waves of black fruit, cocoa and biscuity nuances, finishing long, resonant and profoundly persistent.

Did you know?

Since 1945, Château Mouton-Rothschild has commissioned a different artist for each vintage label, turning the bottle itself into a collectible intersection of **fine wine and fine art**, a tradition that has become one of Bordeaux's most celebrated cultural signatures.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Herb-crusted rack of lamb:** The wine's graphite, cassis and spice meet lamb's richness beautifully, while the tannins feel especially satin with roasted fat.
- **Roast duck with black cherry jus:** Mouton's dark fruit and floral tones echo the sauce, and the acidity keeps the pairing lifted and precise.
- **Beef rib with bordelaise sauce:** Pauillac structure and oak-borne cedar notes lock into the dish's savoury depth for a classic, cellar-worthy match.
- **Roasted pigeon with cocoa nib and mushroom:** The wine's cocoa and tobacco nuances amplify the dish's earthiness without overpowering its delicacy.

Robert Parker (RP) : 100 Points (2016)

Composed of 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 1% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, the 2016 Mouton Rothschild has an opaque garnet-purple color. WOW—the nose explodes from the glass with powerful blackcurrant cordial, black raspberries, blueberry pie and melted chocolate notions, plus suggestions of aniseed, camphor, lifted kirsch and the faintest waft of a subtle floral perfume in the background. Full-bodied, concentrated, bold and totally seductive in the mouth, it has very fine-grained, silt-like tannins, while jam-packed with tightly wound fruit layers, finishing in this wonderful array of mineral sparks. Magic.

James Suckling (JS) : 100 Points (2016)

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.

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Jeb Dunnuck (JD) : 100 Points (2016)

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!

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