

# Château Clerc Milon 2021

CSPC# 866062

6x750ml

13.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety** 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 1.5% Carménère, 1.5% Petit Verdot

**Appellation** Pauillac

**Classification** Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

**Website** <http://www.chateau-clerc-milon.com/>

**Sustainability** Viticulture is practiced in 'integrated' mode, respecting the environment and strictly limiting the use of phytosanitary products. The vineyard is subject to careful monitoring and a strict selection of plots, which have nothing to envy to those practiced at Château Mouton Rothschild.

**General Info** Château Clerc Milon, classified a Fifth Growth in 1855, is located in an exceptionally favorable situation adjoining Lafite Rothschild and Mouton Rothschild, both First Growths. Now owned by Baroness Philippine de Rothschild and her children, Château Clerc Milon was bought in 1970 by her father, Baron Philippe de Rothschild, at a time when the estate had become very much run down. The property was entirely reorganized and renovated and, under the expert guidance of its new owners, Château Clerc Milon has become one of the most sought-after wines both in Bordeaux and throughout the world. The Château Clerc Milon label is illustrated with a pair of dancing clowns made of precious stones (the work of a 16th century German goldsmith) from the Museum of Wine in Art at Château Mouton Rothschild.

When the Rothschilds purchased this Fifth Growth estate in 1970, they began pumping money into the property, and Clerc-Milon now consistently outperforms its rank. With its fairly substantial percentage of Merlot, the result of a recent gradual shift away from Cabernet, this Pauillac often displays an exotic aromatic character, with rich if sometimes rather medicinal-scented fruit and smooth tannins. These wines are ultimately closer in style to its big brother Mouton-Rothschild than to Armailhac, which is also owned by the Rothschild family. Baroness Philippine de Rothschild passed away in August 2014 at the age of 80 years, from the effects of a serious operation.

**Winemaker** Jean Emmanuel Danjoy

**Vintage** After a mild and wetter-than-average winter, budbreak took place early and evenly in late March. This was followed by a very dry April, including a significant cold spell, fortunately without incidence on our vineyards thanks to the influence of the nearby Gironde estuary.

May brought cool and damp weather which slowed vine growth. Flowering consequently took place within the average dates and in excellent conditions resulting from a marked rise in temperature.

Unsettled and stormy conditions from mid-June to mid-July activated mildew, which remained virulent until the end of veraison. Fortunately, drought in August and early September halted the disease, while the resulting water stress improved the quality potential of the grapes grown on our gravel soils. This period was crucial for the maturity of the pips, the development of the tannic structure and the appearance of fruit aromas and flavours.

Despite a severe threat of disease at the approach of harvest, the quality of our terroir combined with an alert, responsive and cohesive team of pickers working at a sustained pace enabled us to bring in a healthy crop at optimum maturity.

The 2021 vintage, having matured in conditions more typical of northerly latitudes, shows a return to the classic equilibrium of vintages from a generation ago, yielding fresh, well-balanced and well-structured wines that will reveal their full complexity with time.

**Soil** The soil is a mixture of two-thirds sandy gravel, with a deeper seam of clay-limestone. This clay comes to the surface towards the east, nearer the river, accounting for the remaining one-third. The slope of the land aids drainage, as well as improving the aspect of the vines.



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| <b>Vineyards</b>     | Château Clerc Milon today has 43.6 hectares of vines, located in the north-eastern part of the Pauillac appellation. 8450 feet of vines per hectare. The average vine age 40 years. It mainly occupies the beautiful croup of Mousset, which overlooks the Gironde. This slight slope favors both natural drainage and sunshine, while the proximity of the river creates a microclimate that protects the vines from spring frosts, reduces the risk of hail and brings freshness in summer. Two thirds of the soil is made up of deep sandy gravel, sitting on a clay-limestone base that outcrops on the eastern part of the estate.  |
| <b>Harvest</b>       | Harvested from 22 September to 6 October,  |
| <b>Maturation</b>    | 50% in new barrels during 16 month/s   |
| <b>Tasting Notes</b> | The wine is a deep, garnet-hued red. The distinguished and elegant nose expresses cherry, blackcurrant and liquorice aromas mingled with floral notes of violet. The rich and powerful attack reveals a precise and elegant tannic structure on the mid-palate. Refined touches of pepper and cedarwood round off a radiant array of flavours. The beautifully balanced finish lingers long on the palate, heralding excellent ageing potential.   |
| <b>Serve with</b>    | Chateau Clerc Milon is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Clerc Milon is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.  |
| <b>Cellaring</b>     | Drink 2025-2045  |
| <b>Production</b>    | unknown  |
| <b>Scores/Awards</b> | <p><b>93 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>88-90+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jane Anson, Inside Bordeaux - May 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>89-92 points</b> - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>  |
| <b>Reviews</b>       | <p><i>"The 2021 Clerc Milon has turned out very well indeed, offering up aromas of dark berries and minty cassis mingled with hints of violets and pencil shavings. Medium to full-bodied, velvety, and concentrated, it's impressively deep and layered, with an ample core of fruit, lively acids and sweet, chalky tannins."</i><br/>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Clerc Milon is a success, bursting with aromas of blackberries, cassis and plums mingled with violets, tobacco leaf and nicely integrated new oak. Medium to full-bodied, layered, and seamless, it's deep, fleshy and complete, with a rich core of succulent fruit, beautifully polished tannins and a long, sapid finish, it's a compelling, characterful wine that transcends the vintage."</i><br/>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Clerc Milon is a blend of 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 1.5% Carmenère, and 1.5% Petit Verdot, harvested from 22 September to 6 October, and aging in 55% new oak. Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, it struts out of the glass with confident blackcurrant jelly, ripe plums, and blackberry pie scents with touches of cedar chest, damp soil, and Provence herbs. Light to medium-bodied, the palate has a solid backbone of grainy tannins and seamless freshness supporting the vibrant, youthful black fruits, delivering great length. pH 3.73. IPT 57."</i><br/>- LPB, Wine Independent</p> |

**Reviews** *“Polished and well-structured red with a medium body and firm but creamy and broad tannins. Perfumed already, with sandalwood, blackberry, and currant character. Crushed stones. Tea leaves, too. Firm and solid to the end. Very solid for the vintage. 59% cabernet sauvignon, 28% merlot, 10% cabernet franc, 1.5% Carmenère and 1.5% petit verdot.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“More restrained aromatically than some this year. Dark fruit and savoury nuance. The palate is solid and firm with plenty of freshness. Tannins present but well rounded, tightening on the finish to give some persistence. Pleasantly dry finish. Pauillac muscle but in a low-key form.”*  
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

*“Bramble and hedgerow notes, some smoke, tobacco, chocolate, liquorice-laced black fruits, and graphite on the nose. Seriously captivating with the complexity continuing on the palate, comprising coffee, cedar, clove and cinnamon alongside plump and plush layers of succulent and concentrated blackcurrant and black cherry fruit and racy acidity. The 59% Cabernet Sauvignon influence is in sharp focus, right to the fore, wanting all the attention, but at the same time this has a beautiful and generous fragrance to it from 10% Cabernet Franc. Refined and elegant, I love the presentation and the structure, giving such length and freshness on the long finish. An excellent Clerc this year which really stands out. 1.5% Carmenère and 1.5 Petit Verdot complete the blend. 3.73pH.”*  
- GH, Decanter.com

*“Sappy, concentrated, powerful, this is a wine that has a lot of power naturally and in a vintage like 2021 (and with higher Cabernet Franc and higher Carménère than the past few years), it runs the risk of being austere. Certainly, you feel a sterner character than over the past few years, but there is flexibility in the tannins, and well-worked blackcurrant and blackberry fruit. Will benefit from fattening up through the mid palate over ageing, because all the elements are here. 55% new oak. 57IPT. 3.73ph. Caroline Artaud technical director as of this vintage. Strong candidate for up score in bottle. Drink 2025 – 2040.”*  
- JA, janeanson.com

*“Wet earth, cigar box, flowers, spice, espresso and red with black currants define the aromatic profile. On the palate, the wine is refined, elegant, fresh, and energetic with a soft-textured, finish that blends its red fruits, minty-freshness, and olive characteristics. The wine blends 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 1.5% Petit Verdot and 1.5% Carmenère. Drink from 2026-2045.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“You already find tobacco leaf, espresso, black plum, cigar box, and currants on the nose. On the palate, the wine is medium-bodied, fresh, elegant, and polished. There is a fabulous sense of purity, gentleness in the tannins, and a slight, savory-edge in the finish that accompanies all those ripe berries. This is so good now; it is going to be quite easy to enjoy in its youth. The wine blends 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 1.5% Petit Verdot and 1.5% Carmenère, 13% ABV. Drink from 2024-2045.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2021 is 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 1.5% Carmenère and 1.5% Petit Verdot. Much of the Merlot was relegated to the 2nd wine - Pastourelle - which will be sold en primeur this year. Mid ruby colour. Softly spicy, with peppery plums and roasted red peppers on the nose. The palate is very savoury, full of cedar, hedgerow, and juicy red berries. High acidity offers as much structure as the chalky tannins. This is a compact and classic style that will appeal to traditional claret fans. The dry, savoury, earthy finish lingers with accents of sweeter spices.”*  
- TP, Farr Vintners

**Reviews** *“The 2021 Clerc Milon was bottled in mid-June. As reported from barrel, there is a slightly savory note on the nose, hints of brown spices infusing nicely with the black fruit. There is a little more “airiness” compared directly with the d’Armailhac. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy red fruit, a little fresher and more tensile than its aforementioned stablemate, with ample depth and a peppery finish. This has kicked on in barrel and has its nose out in front.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2021 Clerc Milon, aged in 55% new oak, contains a little more Cabernet Franc than usual. It has a slightly savory nose displaying moderate vigor and black fruit infused with touches of brown spice. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, and quite broad and fleshy. The plush finish makes me think this will drink well in its youth. Fine, though I lean toward the d’Armailhac this year. 13% alcohol). Drink 2027 – 2039.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2021 Clerc Milon is gorgeous. Beams of tannin lend energy and direction to an alluring Clerc Milon that marries fruit density with a classic sense of structure that is quite appealing.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2021 Château Clerc Milon is based on 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Carmenère and Petit Verdot. It has more pure cassis and graphite as well as medium bodied richness, ripe, polished tannins, remarkable purity of fruit, and a great finish.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“There is no break in the action when you taste this wine, and I felt I had to type at double-speed to get all of the information down because this is a first-class Clerc Milon. Super-attractive from start to finish, the nose, palate and finish are in perfect harmony, and there is generosity and gregariousness about this wine that puts a smile on your face. After the stunning fruit intensity and amazingly forward air, the tannins come in, and the finish is firm and commanding and unlike any Clerc Milon I can remember. The incremental changes made at this property over the last decade are staggering. Is this the most-improved label in the region? It seems that the vineyard, which has been invested in hugely over the last few years, is eternally grateful. In more challenging vintages, like 2021, it works even harder to repay the efforts made by the viticulture team. This is a new high for Clerc Milon with stunning proportions and exceptional class. 18”*

- Matthew Jukes

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