
Château Monbousquet 2018

CSPC# 848998

750mlx6

14.38% alc./vol.

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| Grape Variety | 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon |
| Appellation | St. Emilion |
| Classification | Grand Cru Classé |
| Website | http://chateaumonbousquet.com/eng/p/vins |

General Info

Chateau Monbousquet is another St. Emilion estate with a long history in the appellation that can trace its history all the way back to 1540. At the time, Monbousquet belonged to François de Lescours, before it became the property of the well-established De Carles family.

In fact, Monbousquet remained in the hands of the de Carles family for almost 150 years. The beautiful, classically styled chateau was built in 1648 by Jacques de Geres. The chateau is now the private home of Gerard Perse and Chantal Perse along with the rest of the Perse family.

In 1993, the Querre family sold Chateau Monbousquet to Gerard Perse and Chantal Perse for \$9,000,000. Chateau Monbousquet was the first vineyard purchase by Gerard Perse. Little did he, or we know, it was not going to be his last purchase. The first vintage of Chateau Monbousquet for Gerard Perse was the difficult 1997. I have never seen a bottle, but I have been told that at best, there was only 1 or 2 barrels produced out of the entire harvest! To keep that in perspective, that means somewhere between 300 and 600 bottles were made that year.

Shortly after Gerard Perse obtained Chateau Monbousquet, he began renovating the estate. The entire 32-hectare vineyard of Monbousquet was analyzed and drained. This limited rises in the water table during prolonged wet spells in future vintages.

Next, they completely rebuilt the winemaking facilities and cellars at Chateau Monbousquet. Gerard Perse also constructed an entirely new barrel aging cellar for his Right Bank estate.

In February 2013, Gerard Perse sold a portion of Chateau Monbousquet to a large, anonymous, French, pension fund. The sale was motivated by French tax laws. This allowed his daughter Angelique and her husband, Henrique Da Costa to eventually take over all the Perse owned wineries which include Chateau Pavie, Chateau Bellevue Mondotte and Chateau Pavie Decesse. as well as their estates in the Cotes de Castillon appellation.

Winemakers

Michel Rolland

Vintage

2018 Saint Emilion was not an easy vintage for producers. The winter months were easy, but the spring is one of the wettest in history. Depending on where you located in St. Emilion, during the initial 6 months of the year, between 550 mm to 600 mm (21"-24") of rain soaked your soils. This is more than the normal amount of rain the region experiences in a year!

From there growers fended off violent attacks of mildew, which struck fast and furious. 2018 Saint Emilion was saved by the hottest, driest, sunniest vintage conditions since 2003. Barely any rain fell from July to harvest.

Picking took place under warm, sunny, and dry conditions. On average, production was down 10-20% for many vineyards. Conditions were so good between late September and mid October; vigneron were able to pick at their chosen level of maturity. Harvesting took place from mid September to mid October.

Vineyards

The 32-hectare Monbousquet Saint Emilion vineyard is planted to 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. This shows a change in the vineyards since it was first purchased by Gerard Perse, with more Cabernet Franc, and less Merlot in the vineyard. The vines are planted to a density of 5,500 vines per hectare. The average age of the vines is 40 years. The terroir of sand, clay and gravel soils is not the best in St. Emilion.



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| Vineyards | The vineyard can be divided into three sections. For the red wines, you find more sand and clay in the north and more gravel with sand in the south. However, Gerard Perse gets the most out of their terroir. In part, intentionally striving for low yields is one method to increase concentration and improve quality. For example, in 2009, the yields were only 28 hectoliters per hectare. |
| Harvest | Harvested September 27 to October 9. |
| Vinification/ Maturation | To produce the wine of Chateau Monbousquet, vinification takes place in a combination of small, temperature controlled stainless steel vats and French oak tanks. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. The wine of Chateau Monbousquet is aged in 60% new, French oak barrels for 18-24 months. 18-24 months in new oak barrels with racking every 3 months. Not fined nor filtered. |
| Tasting Notes | The nose is fruity, elegant and offers a small richness as well as concentration. It reveals notes of blackberry, cassis and small notes of violet combined with small touches of crushed raspberry, hints of caramelization, tonka bean as well as very slight hints of vanilla, subtle hints of cornflowers and a hint of cardamom. The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers good definition, Gourmandise, an acidulous frame, a good finesse of the grain, density, fleshiness, a small creaminess as well as tension. On the palate this wine expresses fleshy/juicy blackberry, crushed / juicy cassis and small notes of fleshy / juicy raspberry associated with small touches of violet, vanilla as well as subtle hints of chocolate, cardamom, and a very discreet hint of tea. Tannins are elegant and a bit firm. |
| Serve with | Chateau Monbousquet is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Monbousquet is also good when matched with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta. |
| Production | 8300 cases |
| Cellaring | Best from 2022 through 2038 |
| Scores/Awards | <p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021</p> <p>94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>93+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2021</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>15.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p>91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>89-91 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p>96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p>90 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2019</p> <p>94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> |
| Reviews | <p><i>"Espresso crema and melted black licorice aromas give way to a lush range of cassis, plum reduction and blackberry confiture flavors that roll through with authority. Long finish is carried by a buried graphite note and hint of smoldering earth. An amped in style but if you like muscle and panache, you'll dig this. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2022 through 2038."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Lushly fruited, with creamy boysenberry and plum preserve flavors gliding through, this is going to be for the hedonist crowd. Extra anise and spice notes fill in, revealing steady grip through the finish."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2018 Monbousquet is a blend of 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine has a pH of 3.78 and 14.38% alcohol. Deep garnet-purple colored, it comes bounding out of the glass with energetic notes of baked blackberries, kirsch, and Black Forest cake, following by suggestions of Chinese five spice, iodine, unsmoked cigars, eucalyptus, and crushed rocks with a waft of lavender. The palate is full-on full-bodied, possessing tons of rich, spicy black fruits and a velvety texture, delivering impressive tension for this level of ripeness, finishing long with a lifted savouriness. Give it 3-4 more years in bottle and drink it over the</i></p> |

Reviews

next 20+

years. Rating: 93+.”

- LPB, Wine Advocate

“The 2018 Monbousquet is composed of 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, harvested September 27 to October 9 with yields of 39 hectoliters per hectare. The wine has a pH of 3.78 and 14.38% alcohol. Deep purple black in color, it sashays out of the glass with beautiful, flamboyant red roses, chocolate box and molten licorice scents over a core of crème de cassis, plum preserves and Morello cherries plus fragrant wafts of underbrush, lavender, and cloves. Full-bodied, rich and wonderfully elegant, the palate delivers layers of black fruits and spices, wrapped in a cashmere shawl of tannins, finishing very long and incredibly perfumed.”

- LPB, Wine Advocate

“Really attractive aromas of crushed berries and black cherries with some violets and stones. It’s full-bodied with layers of ripe fruit and ripe tannins that give it density and intensity. Classy, polished tannins. Try after 2026.

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Very refined and savory with a lovely core of dark fruit and round tannins. Silky and oozing with finesse and class.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Black core, narrow purple rim. Ripe and yet savoury dark fruit. Highly extracted and very dense. Needs a lot of time but I am not sure the fruit will outlive the oak and tannins.”

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“A successful Monbousquet, although still with the tell-tale wide tannins and expansive mid-palate that threaten to overtake the whole structure. It takes a heartbeat to kick in, which is enjoyable, and the tannins certainly have walls and flexibility to them, with juice running through the fruit. It retains the signature style, with a nod to softening things up. 39hl/ha yield in 2018.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Round, full-bodied, ripe, and fruity, the wine is fleshy, chewy, round and concentrated. Oaky at the moment, with coaxing you also find blackberries, plums, cherries, fennel and espresso on the nose, palate and finish. It will take time for the oak to become fully integrated into the wine even though the percentage of new oak has dropped to 50%, placing the fruit center stage.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Round, juicy, concentrated and loaded with licorice, smoke, espresso, black cherry and blackberries, the wine offers more volume than usual but there is more energy in this vintage, so you’ll find lift in the finish. The wine is a blend of 60% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2018 Monbousquet is inky purple in colour. It has a much more delineated bouquet than its Deuxième Vin: black cherries, blueberry jam, iodine, and crème de cassis. The oak here is nicely integrated. The palate is medium bodied with rounded, saturated tannin, notes of black cherries, soy and blackcurrants. There is firm grip on the finish with just a touch of aggressiveness that will hopefully be addressed by the time of bottling.”

- NM, Vinous

“Another brilliant vintage for this estate, which has been going from strength to strength over the past decade, the 2018 Château Monbousquet reveals a dense purple, opaque color as well as a rich yet lively bouquet of cassis, chocolate covered currants, new leather, and graphite. With sumptuous levels of fruit, full -bodied richness, and ample mid-palate depth, it's the purity of fruit as well as the quality of the tannin's that have brought this cuvée up another notch. Readers are going to love this cuvée, and it should keep for 15-20 years.”

- JD, JebDunnuk.com

