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## Château Tour Saint Christophe 2015

CSPC# 801701

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

St. Emilion

**Classification**

St. Emilion Grand Cru

**Website**

<http://www.vignoblesk.com/en/propriete/chateau-tour-saint-christophe/domaine>

**General Info**

Chateau Tour Saint Christophe, like many Bordeaux chateau, takes its name from the location of its vineyard. The vines are situated in the commune of Saint Christophe des Bardes which is due east of the St. Emilion village, not far from Valandraud and Chateau Fleur Cardinale . The property was purchased by Peter Kwok in 2012 from the Castel group. By the time Peter Kwok obtained Chateau Tour Saint Christophe, he already owned Chateau Haut Brisson , located in the Vignonet sector of Saint Emilion, not far from Chateau Monbousquet or Chateau Teyssier . Peter Kwok purchased Haut Brisson in 1997. Peter Kwok has continued adding to his portfolio of estates in the Right Bank with vines in Pomerol . The property in Pomerol is sold under the name of Chateau Enclos Tourmaline .

In November 2015, Peter Kowk purchased Chateau Tourans from Petrus Wolter. The 12.6-hectare vineyard that formerly belonged to Chateau Tourans was divided into both of the estates owned by Peter Kwok. 8 hectares were added to Tour Saint Christophe, as they share a similar terroir. This increased the size of their vineyard to its current 19 hectares. The remaining vines were placed into Haut Brisson.

**Vintage**

2015 St. Emilion has it all going on. Frankly, I could sum this article up rather quickly by just saying, "2015 Saint Emilion Rocks!"

Across the board, 2015 St. Emilion was lucky. Vineyards in the cool clay soils that harvested late made stunning wines. But so, did the estates on the limestone plateau, in the gravel soils and properties on the more sandy terroir were also quite successful. That does not mean buyers do not need to be choosy. Some estates pushed the pedal to the metal a bit too far. There are overly extracted wines, and wines that are aging in too much new oak. But generally speaking, the level of quality here is homogenous. 2015 St. Emilion is the product of a hot, dry summer, with drought conditions. April was hot. June was hotter. July was scorching, and the lack of water exacerbated those conditions. What made this unique was that this level of heat is usually experienced later in the growing season. That was not the case with 2015. Fortunately, the rains in August arrived in the nick of time, providing enough nourishment to allow the growth cycle to continue.

**Vintage**

forced regarding harvest and there's a greater chance of dilution, dry tannins and green edge. The other key element was the quality of Cabernet Franc (and Cabernet Sauvignon) throughout St-Emilion. Those with a good percentage have used a maximum in blends producing wines with greater aromatic complexity, length and finesse of tannin.

**Vineyards**

The 19-hectare St. Emilion vineyard of Chateau Tour Saint Christophe has a terroir of clay and limestone soils. The vineyard is planted to 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc . The vines are planted to a density of 6,500 vines per hectare on the older plots. New parcels are being planted to a higher vine density of 7,500 vines per hectare. Once the new owners took charge, one of the first decisions they made was to replant a large section of the vineyard which is at that higher level of density. They also terraced a portion of the vineyard and completely modernized their entire winemaking facility and cellars. All the vineyard management work is done using only organic, biodynamic, sustainable vineyard farming techniques.

<b>Harvest</b>	Harvest dates vary by vintage and we adapt our harvest plan down to the plot or even to the parcel based on the optimum ripeness of the berries. Our team determine when to harvest through a combination of several physiological and subjective criteria, and even tasting berries by mouth is an important step in the decision-making process. Our team select which parcel block to pick by-hand only the night before.
<b>Maturation</b>	To produce the wine of Tour Saint Christophe, a lot of work takes place as the wine is made using micro vinification techniques. For the Grand Vin, the grapes are whole berry fermented, using micro vinification techniques, meaning that the wine is vinified in 60% new, French oak barrels. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. The wine is then aged in 60% new, French oak barrels for an average of 18 months before bottling. Michel Rolland consults on the wine making.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>Château Tour Saint Christophe 2015 has a deep red color nearly approaching the black. The first notes show minerality, sitting on very ripe red fruit. Then, spicy wood notes somewhat reminiscent of a cigar box / which are not unlike the nose of a box cigar. After airing the spicy part grows to almost camphorated notes. The fruit focuses on a black fruit jam.</p> <p>On the palate, the attack is fruity with an evolution on roundness and the chalky side, typical of Tour Saint Christophe's terroir. Endowed with a nice balance and an impressive aromatic delicacy, the freshness and tension are there. The mid-palate has the same notes of the cigar box. The saline finish characteristic for Tour Saint Christophe, explodes with fruit.</p>
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Tour Saint Christophe is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Tour Saint Christophe is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese.
<b>Cellaring Scores/Awards</b>	<p>Drink 2020-2036.</p> <p><b>92+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - November 2017</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p><b>91-94 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, matured for 18 months in oak, 40% new, the 2015 Tour Saint Christophe is deep garnet-purple in color with notes of wild blueberries, plum preserves and fruitcake plus touches of dried flowers and underbrush. The concentrated, full-bodied palate is packed with ripe blue and black fruits, supported by a solid foundation of plush, velvety tannins and finishes with wonderful length."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Tour Saint-Christophe, owned by Peter Kwok since 2012, is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc cropped at 33 hl/ha between 3-16 October and matured in 40% new oak. It has an intense nose, perhaps slightly on the alcoholic side due to the Merlot (14.8%). The palate is more controlled and refined. There is still some new oak to be absorbed, but the tannins seem fine, and it is endowed with blood orange and citrus fruit lending freshness and tension on the long, sensual finish. Bottle-age will temper the nose and it should ultimately turn into a very impressive Saint Emilion."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Intense aromas of blackberries, blueberries and spices. Hints of limestone and a graphite edge also come out now. Full-bodied, structured and muscular. Layered and intense. Dark berries and hints of sea salt on the finish. Steely minerality and freshness. Wow. Drink in 2024 but so interesting to taste."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

**Reviews** *“Extremely firm and silky. Dark berry, violet, salt and mineral. Full body. Energy, vibrant and verve. Layered and compressed. Best ever here. 80% merlot and 20% cabernet franc.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This is a perfumed, minty wine, attractive and freshly fruity. It has great acidity and fine, firm tannins, ripe and potentially with a generous, full texture. Barrel Sample: 91-93”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Dark in color, with a smoky, truffle, earthy, licorice and black cherry nose, the wine is supple, silky, concentrated, long and fresh. There is length and complexity in the finish. This is probably the best value in all of Bordeaux today for high quality wine at a fair price.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“This just keeps getting better with age. The wine is now, silky, supple and sensuous. The licorice, black cherries, wet earth, smoke and espresso stand out in the crowd. The finish is all about its softness. If you're looking for a contender for the best QPR from Bordeaux in the 2015 vintage, this your wine. Drink it young for the fruit, or age it for more secondary nuances.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Round, supple, sensuous textures, layers of licorice coated, black cherries, wet earth, smoke and espresso, with a polished, round, forward finish. And it sells for a song! What's not to like here? If you're looking for a contender for the best QPR from Bordeaux in the 2015 vintage, this your wine. Drink it young for the fruit, or age it for more secondary nuances.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“From a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, there is a good depth of color in the glass. Oyster shell, boysenberry, espresso and cherry blossoms create the nose. The wine is fleshy, fat and rich with density and opulent textures. This showy wine is the best example produced since the new owner, Peter Kwok, took over the estate.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2015 Tour Saint Christophe was impressive from barrel and is equally impressive from bottle. Red cherry/raspberry jam, exotic spice and floral notes fill out in a sumptuous, racy Saint-Émilion loaded with personality. Even with all of its overtness, the 2015 retains a good bit of freshness as well. This is a fabulous showing from a property that continues to improve under the stewardship of owner Peter Kwok and consulting winemaker Michel Rolland. (AG)”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2015 Tour Saint Christophe is the most beautiful wine I have tasted off this property. Dark, sumptuous and yet also strikingly vivid, the 2015 possesses superb nuance to balance its natural intensity. Cloves, new leather, crème de cassis and sweet spices give the 2015 much of its unctuous feel and overall texture. This is a superb showing from Tour Saint Christophe and the team led by proprietor Peter Kwok and consultant Michel Rolland.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“A total blockbuster from new owner Peter Kwok, who purchased the estate in 2012, the 2015 Château Tour Saint Christophe is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc brought up in 40% new wood. It boasts a deep purple color and sensational notes of ripe currants and crème de cassis, as well as background graphite, cedar, and spice nuances. Full-bodied, deep, layered, and perfectly balanced, with sweet tannin and integrated acidity, it's one of those wines where everything is in the right place, it has no hard edges, and a beautiful finish. It needs short-term cellaring to come together, but you shouldn't miss this beauty. It's worth mentioning the estate is managed by the talented Jérôme Aguirre and utilizes Michel Rolland as a consultant.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck