
Château Tour Saint Christophe 2017

CSPC# 801701

750mlx12

14.3% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	St. Emilion
Classification	St. Emilion Grand Cru Classé
Website	http://www.vignoblesk.com/en/propriete/chateau-tour-saint-christophe/domaine
General Info	<p>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 .</p> <p>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.</p>
Winemaker	Jerome Aguirre. Michel Rolland consults on the wine making.
Sustainability	All the vineyard management work is done using only organic, biodynamic, sustainable vineyard farming techniques.
Vintage	<p>Clearly, 2017 Saint Emilion will always be remembered as the year of the frost. The nights of April 27 and April 28 hit temperatures of below -4 Celsius. The Right Bank has not experienced this much damage from frost since 1991.</p> <p>Second generation fruit, the grapes that start growing after the frost, was successful to varying degrees. The results depended on the vineyard, terroir and good luck. The problem with those grapes is, if they reached maturity, it was not at the same time as the main harvest, so the berries needed separate vinifications. It was a lot of work especially since the percentage of second-generation grapes used is quite low.</p> <p>Another difficulty, or opportunity, depending on the situation was that first-generation grapes are the product of a cooler, dry growing season and the second-generation grapes received more sun, inheriting riper characteristics and higher degrees of alcohol, giving you 2 different wine styles. This is where the magic of blending comes in. Part of the reason the frost struck with such ferocity was that it hit just after bud-break, when the plants are at their most delicate stage of development. The vineyards which survived the frost were still looking for an early, and hopefully successful harvest.</p>
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.
Harvest	from October 3 to 17
Maturation	40% new barrels - 40% 1-wine barrels - 20% 2-wine barrels for 15 months
Tasting Notes	Cassis and spices on the nose. The juicy acidity drives the wine' structure. Refined, elegant with a beautiful texture. The word minerality takes its full meaning here. Some cocoa notes along with hints of currant.

Serve with	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.
Production	3,750 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink now-2024
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2020</p> <p>92+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p>89-91+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020</p> <p>93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p>16 points - Farr Vintner - April 2018</p> <p>89-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018</p> <p>92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p>93.5 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018</p> <p>17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A friendly style, with soft, forward plum and cherry fruit flavors, infused with moderate vanilla, tea and anise hints. A toasty edge lingers on the finish. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2024."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Tour Saint-Christophe (blended of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc) charges out of the glass with bold notions of dried mulberries, fruitcake and baked plums plus hints of tobacco, iron ore and tilled soil. Full-bodied, the palate is undeniably rich and opulent, yet the freshness injects vibrance and a sense of decorum, supported by plush tannins, finishing on a compelling mineral note. The alcohol here is knocking on 15%, but you wouldn't know it. 2020 – 2037"</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The tentative blend of the 2017 Tour Saint-Christophe is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple in color, it's purely scented of fresh blackberries, blackcurrants and mulberries with touches of pencil shavings and lavender. The palate is medium-bodied, finely crafted and refreshing in the mouth with firm, fine-grained tannins and an herbal lift on the finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A spicy, fresh and intense red on the nose with chocolate. Medium to full body and very fine tannins that give a creamy texture. Juicy and long. A blend of 80% merlot and 20% cabernet franc. Want to drink it now, but better after 2022."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Dense and layered red with dark berry, volcanic ash and white pepper. Full-bodied, layered and chewy. Muscular."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Caliginous in color, the wine is full bodied, concentrated, intense, fortified and satisfying. There is good flesh, freshness and length. Limber with crispy red fruits, cocoa, espresso, licorice and a boundless finish, the wine is made from blending 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Franc. The wine reached 14.3% alcohol."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"There was no frost here on the St Emilion slopes. The yield was 35 hl/ha and the wine will be aged in 40% new oak. Production 45,000 bottles. Deep ruby colour with rich cassis and bramble on the nose - this has great purity and only subtle spicy undertones. The palate is generous, with polished but plentiful tannins gently framing a juicy, expansive core of forest fruits. The acidity is still vibrant and serves to lift the ripest notes of damson and blackberry. Spices and smoke linger in the background, but are subtle, integrated and fine. The finish is long and pure in its black fruit character. The refinement of tannin suggests this wine will start to drink well 3-5 years after bottling."</i> - Farr Vintners</p>

Reviews *“Fragrant fresh the nose has spring violets the palate bright at the start with blackberries and red fruits. Sweet and ripe in the middle a rich mix of flavours all backed by fine tannins. Sweet and ripe at the back the finish is lighter freshness length. 2024-34”*

- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2017 Tour Saint Christophe has a well-defined bouquet with black truffle tinged black fruit with hints of cassis surfacing with aeration. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins, very lithe in the mouth, not the most complex Tour Saint Christophe that I have tasted in recent years, but I appreciate the saline finish. Very fine. Drink 2022-2038.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2017 Tour Saint Christophe, owned by Peter Kwok, showed much more delineation and terroir expression compared to Bellefont-Belcier tasted alongside. The aromatics are packed with black cherries, cassis and bilberry, just a light touch of the sea emerging with time. The palate is medium bodied with succulent ripe tannin, plush black cherry and boysenberry fruit laced with orange rind and quince towards the fresh and focused finish. Very fine. Drink 2022-2040.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2017 Tour Saint Christophe is a dense, richly constituted wine loaded with tremendous energy and pure power. It is also a bit shut down; so, I would prefer to give it a few years in bottle to be at its best. Black fruit, chocolate, leather, licorice and spice build into the potent, virile finish. This is a wine with tremendous promise.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2017 Tour Saint Christophe is another in a series of brilliant wines from proprietor Peter Kwok and consultant Michel Rolland. The 20% Cabernet Franc adds striking brightness to play off the dense, dark Merlot in this plush, beautifully nuanced Saint-Émilion. Already impeccably balanced, the 2017 appears to have a very promising future. Mocha, espresso, wildflowers and mint add the closing shades of nuance. Tasted three times.”

- AG, Vinous

“From a picturesque vineyard on the east side of Saint-Emilion, not far from Chateau Barde-Haut the 2017 Chateau Tour Saint Christophe checks in as a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc that was brought up in a mix of new and used barrels. This inky purple-hued beauty boasts stunning notes of blue fruits, crushed rocks, violets, and spring flowers. Medium to full-bodied, beautifully concentrated, and with remarkable purity as well as finesse in its tannins, this is another remarkable wine from this estate, which has been turning out brilliant wines in every vintage now. Don't miss it. Tasted twice.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“I tasted the 2017 Château Tour Saint Christophe on two separate occasions and it never failed to impress. A rough blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc that hit 14.3% natural alcohol, it has a rocking sense of minerality to go with big, broad, expansive aromas and flavors. Blueberries, black raspberries, flowers, and violets characteristics, medium to full-bodied richness, fine tannin, and excellent purity all make this a terrific 2017 that will drink nicely for 10-15+ years. Barrel Sample: 91-93”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“This is a structured and firm TSC with energy and active tannins and there are some sour notes here which make the mouth water. This is a younger and firmer style and it is super-clean on the nose with epic oak integration coming from the barrel-fermented portion. Classy, long, cool and purple-fruited this is a superb wine.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com