
Château Tour Saint Christophe 2018

CSPC# 790377

750mlx12

14.7% 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>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!</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</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	September 25th to October 15th
Vinification	<p>After a meticulous selection process on the vines and in the winery, the sorted grapes are filled into concrete tanks or directly into Bordeaux barrels (about 25% of the harvest). This follows the method of Vinification Intégrale, particularly well-suited for Chateau Tour Saint Christophe. Our team is always present at the opening and closing of barrels by our cooper partners for better quality control. In 2015, the cellars were renovated and redesigned to best serve the expression of our terroir. The aim of the renovation focused not only on preserving the best of our berries but also on facilitating our team's processes. The main winery is fitted with advanced,</p>

Vinification	varietal sized, and thermal-regulated concrete vats. With these vats, our team can separate the different plots of the vineyard and facilitate the pigeage. Two additional cellars have been devised for vinification in barrel and for malolactic fermentation through climate-control systems.
Maturation	40% new barrels, 40% 1-winebarrels, 20% 2-wines for 15months
Tasting Notes	Scents of tar, black cherry, chocolate, spice, and leather. Juicy black fruit character with hints of ground pepper and chalk. Full-bodied, polished with fantastic texture and length. Vibrant with ripe, rounded tannins, freshness, and savory finishing. Approachable from an early age but cellaring it for a couple of years is necessary to let it bloom and appreciate it at its fullest potential.
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 2021</p> <p>94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>92-94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>16 points - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p>95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019</p> <p>95+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p>93-95+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p>17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p>15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Bright raspberry and blackberry purée notes stream through, laced with anise and floral notes and backed by even-handed toast on the polished finish. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2026. 3,750 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, aged for around 18 months in oak barrels, 40% new, the 2018 Tour Saint Christophe weighs in at 14.6% alcohol. Deep garnet-purple in color, it comes barreling out of the glass with bold notions of baked black cherries, plum preserves, and blueberry pie plus underlying suggestions of Christmas cake, Chinese five spice and dusty soil. The full-bodied palate packs in the black and blue fruit preserves layers, framed by velvety tannins and lively acidity, finishing long and spicy. In 2012, Hong Kong-based Peter Kwok purchased this vineyard located in Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes, with fruit coming from the Cassevert lieu-dit, which has an average vine age of around 30 years old."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"In 2012, Hong Kong-based Peter Kwok purchased this vineyard located in Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes. The average age of vines is 30 years old. The wine is aging in 40% new oak barrels, 40% one-year-old and 20% two-year-old barrels and is expected to run 18 months. The blend is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, with fruit from the Cassevert lieu-dit, and the wine has 14.6% alcohol. Deep purple-black in color, the 2018 Tour Saint-Christophe bursts out of the glass with wonderfully pure blackberry, blueberry, and boysenberry scents with an undercurrent of plum preserves, star anise and cinnamon stick with wafts of charcuterie and dried herbs. Full-bodied, the palate is packed with vibrant, juicy black fruits with a ripe, rounded tannin texture and fantastic freshness, finishing savory."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *“Currant, red-tea, chili, chocolate and lemon-zest aromas. Chalk and crushed gravel, too. It’s medium-bodied with tight, fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity. Sleek and tight with crunchy berry, mineral and zesty notes on the finish. Complex. Pretty center palate to this. Extremely polished”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Blueberry and blackberry character with hints of white pepper and chalk. Salty, too. Full-bodied, tight, and polished with fantastic texture and length. Very closed and tight with gorgeous tannin quality.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is good quality but powerful and feels a little less tamed than some. The tannins are a touch rustic and there is high alcohol, but it's still an enjoyable wine with evident oak that feels purposeful rather than overpowering. Drinking Window 2026 - 2038.”
- JA, Decanter.com

“The color of dark ink with purple accents, the wine explodes from the glass with fresh brewed espresso, black cherry, licorice, smoke, menthol and chocolate. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, concentrated, rich, supple, and vibrant. The fruit balances power with elegance, sweetness, and purity. The finish is all about the non-stop layers of fruit. The wine is made from blending 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Franc. This is a contender for the finest vintage or Tour Saint Christophe and should age with ease for at least 20-25 years.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Inky with purple accents, the minerality, licorice, espresso, dark red fruits and luscious, velvet-like textures really work this year. There is concentration, supple textures, fruit, and vibrancy. The wine is made from blending 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Franc.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep ruby colour, with rich, ripe and juicy cherries, frangipane and sweet vanilla. The palate is ripe and exuberant, bursting with fleshy black fruits that are tamed by waves of fresh acidity. Chalky and rich through the mid-palate, this is a plush and modern wine, but one with good restraint and vibrancy. Long and spicy on the finish.”
- Farr Vintners

“The 2018 Tour Saint Christophe is a lovely Saint-Émilion. It has retained the floral aspect that I remarked on in barrel, iris and peony infusing the black fruit, but now displays a more conspicuous marine element. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, wonderful definition, and perfectly judged acidity. Quite classic in style and reassuringly sophisticated, this is a wonderful Tour Saint Christophe that oozes class.”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 Tour Saint Christophe has a delineated and focused, almost clinical bouquet with pretty red cherry and blueberry fruit intermixed with peony and iris flower. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, good acidity and poise with really quite superb tension and energy on the finish. This could have been pushed in the winery - it’s not - it’s succinctly judged and really utterly delicious. So silky that it will probably drink early, but I would advise cellaring for five years if possible. 2024 – 2045.”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 Tour Saint Christophe represents a new level of elegance, precision and finesse for this estate in Saint-Émilion's Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes district. Silky and exceptionally polished, the 2018 oozes class. Moreover, the heavy extraction and strong torrefaction notes that marked previous vintages of the recent past have been replaced by beautifully precise, vibrant fruit. Tour Saint Christophe is one of best values in Saint-Émilion. I haven't always loved Tour Saint Christoph, but I love the 2018. It's a fabulous effort from Technical Director Jérôme Aguirre and his team. Don't miss it.”
- AG, Vinous

Reviews

"The 2018 Tour Saint Christophe is a wine of real depth and intensity. Black cherry, chocolate, licorice, spice, and leather build through to the creamy, resonant finish. There is plenty of the density and volume readers have come to expect, but also less extraction than in the past, and that is a good thing. Consulting winemaker Michel Rolland really seems to have dialed it in here. The blend is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Tasted three times."

- AG, Vinous

"Emerging from a beautiful, terraced vineyard on the eastern side of Saint-Emilion, the 2018 Château Tour Saint Christophe is based on 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc that was brought up in 40% new French oak. Its vivid purple color is followed by a great nose of blackcurrants, blueberries, tobacco leaf, chocolate, violets, and chocolate. Hitting the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, it has this wonderful sense of purity and elegance, a touch of chalky minerality, flawless balance, and a great finish. This beautiful, elegant, seamless Saint-Emilion needs 4-5 years of bottle age but will evolve for 20-25 years. You won't regret having this in the cellar. 95+"

- Jeb Dunnuck

"This tiny, picturesque vineyard on the east side of Saint-Émilion has turned out another brilliant wine with their 2018 Château Tour Saint Christophe. The vineyard covers 6.5 hectares of terraced slopes sitting just across from Château Barde-Haut and consists of old vine Merlot and Cabernet Franc. The 2018 is a tentative blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, harvested from September 25 through October 15, that hit 14.6% alcohol and is aging in 40% new French oak, with the balance in second- and third-fill barrels. Its deep purple color is followed by a medium to full-bodied, ripe, brilliantly concentrated Saint-Émilion that has terrific purity of fruit, classic minerality and graphite characteristics, good acidity, and building tannins. In short, it's a classic wine from this cooler terroir that's going to benefit from short-term cellaring and cruise for two decades. It well worth a multiple case purchase!"

- Jeb Dunnuck

"(80 Merlot, 20 Cabernet Franc) | 40% new oak & 40% barrel fermented | 14.7% alc | 37 hl/ha | 70000 bottles produced | Harvested between 25th September to 15th October Another wine with immense potential and the colour is the deepest purple and the fruit is bold and ripe. The limestone soils here bring amazing tension to the finish and while the tannins are relatively discreet it is the limestone and the freshness on the finish which makes this wine so successful. There is a huge volume of fruit here and the balance is spot on. It will be approachable from an early age, but it will also age extremely well."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
