

Château Tour Saint Christophe 2020

CSPC# 790377

750mlx12

14.7% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	St. Emilion
Classification	St. Emilion Grand Cru Classé
Website	https://www.vignoblesk.com/includes/entites/4315/2141/product%20sheet%20chateau%20tour%20saint%20christophe%202020.pdf
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	2020 begins with a mild and wet winter and a spring with lots of rain. The vines therefore begin to bud early. The summer is hot and dry which allows the grapes to reach a very good maturity quickly.
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	The 2019 Tour Saint Christophe was picked from September 14th to 28th.
Vinification	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.
Vinification	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, 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	<p>From the very beginning of the tasting of this very fine vintage, we find the identity of Château Tour Saint Christophe. Elegant aromas of blackberry and blueberry are combined with delicate floral notes and small chalky touches.</p> <p>The powerful structure is carried by a beautiful acidity which brings a fresh and sappy side. Aromas of stewed fruit and black pepper complete the palate, which extends to saline notes.</p>
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	85,000 bottles



**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2025-2040

- 93 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023
- 93-95 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021
- 95 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2023
- 96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023
- 94-95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021
- 16 points** - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021
- 93 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021
- 93 points** - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - February 2023
- 93 points** - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - February 2023
- 95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023
- 95-97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021
- 89 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021
- Review Only** - Farr Vintners - May 2021
- 91-93 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021
- 93 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023
- 93-95 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021
- 96 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023
- 93-96 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021
- 88 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2021
- 94-96 points** - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2021
- 92-94 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021
- 94-95 points** - Vert de Vin - May 2021

Reviews

"The 2020 Tour Saint Christophe opens in the glass with aromas of sweet cherries, raspberries, and petals, followed by a medium to full-bodied, lively and pure palate that's rich and fleshy, with generously extracted tannins asserting themselves on the finish. It's a modern, crowd-pleasing wine from clay-rich soils opposite Troplong Mondot in the commune Saint Christophe des Bardes."
- WK, Wine Advocate

"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2020 Tour Saint Christophe stampedes out of the glass with powerful scents of baked blackberries, stewed black plums and boysenberries, followed by suggestions of cedar chest, mocha, tar, and fertile loam, with lifted wafts of licorice and cardamom. The full-bodied palate is rich and densely packed with juicy black fruits, supported by velvety tannins and fantastic freshness, finishing long and opulent. In 2012, Hong Kong-based Peter Kwok purchased this vineyard located in Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes. The blend this year is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, aging in French oak barriques, 40% new. It has an alcohol of 14.7% and a pH of 3.6."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2020 Tour Saint Christophe has a fabulously spicy nose of cinnamon stick, nutmeg, and powdered cloves, giving way to a core of juicy black and red plums, fresh blueberries, and fragrant earth, plus a waft of cedar. The full-bodied palate is fruity and beautifully poised, offering soft, elegantly played tannins, and finishing with bags of persistent, bright, pure berry layers."
- LPB, Wine Independent

"So much black fruit, black walnuts, blueberries, wet earth, black truffles, and some graphite. Medium to full body with lots of tension and focus. It runs very long with a salty undertone and some bitter, burnt lemon. Yet ever so subtle and refined."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Full-bodied and creamy with lots of spice and walnut character. Lovely softness and purity. Black fruit at the end. Very fine tannins. Well-integrated."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc. Cask sample. Almost jammy fruit but cool and minerally as well. Stays appetising on the palate backed by finely honed tannins. Saline note on the finish. Oak present but should integrate. (JL) 14.7%. Drink 2026 – 2035."
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews *“There is a high proportion of Cabernet Franc for this wine, because the Merlot was more impacted by the season conditions. Chalky tannins really feel the sense of place, 40hl/h yield, 30% new oak. An excellent wine that has a touch of peat and spice, a ton or dason puree, raspberry coulis, fresh and zingy, and the mandarin peel, an edge of bitterness on the finish. Black chocolate, cocoa shavings.”*
- JA, Decanter.com

“Clean and precisely-spliced black fruits, austerity in the tannins and a mocha, grilled coffee bean edging through the finish. Good quality and well balanced, intense to the point of slightly bitter on the final moments. Drinking Window 2025 – 2040”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Powerful blue and black fruits, exuberant with layers of cocoa bean, espresso, smoked almond and mocha. A touch of bitterness on the finish turns into oyster shell freshness as it relaxes. Clay limestone vineyard located in St Christophe de Bardes, 20% vinified in barrel, the rest on cement tanks, 40% new oak, harvest September 14 to 28.”
- JA, janeanson.com

“Dark black fruit, licorice, chocolate, espresso, smoke, and wet earth nuances create complex aromatics. On the palate, the wine is lush, fresh, fruity, and layered with black, red, and blue fruits that feel as good as they taste while nuances of chocolate and spice show up in the finish. Drink from 2025-2045.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep, and dark in color, and equally dark and deep in its fruit, the nose pops with perfectly ripe dark red and black fruits, licorice, smoke, cherry blossoms, crushed rocks, and stones. The wine has depth, sensuality, luscious textures, and layers of ripe, opulent fruits. The finish lingers with layers of black and red fruits with dark chocolate that feel as good as they taste. This could be the finest vintage of Tour Saint Christophe ever produced, and that is really saying something. The wine is made from blending 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Franc. You can age for 20-25 years. Or if you like, you can also enjoy this on the young side.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2020 was harvested between 14th-28th September and comprises 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. The abv is 14.7%. It will be aged in 40% new oak, 40% second-fill oak, and 20% third-fill oak. 85000 bottles will be produced this year.”
- Farr Vintners

“The 2020 Tour Saint Christophe was picked September 14–28, fermented without SO2 and matured in 40% new oak. My sample bottle was more reduced compared to its peers and required more aeration. Leaving it aside for 30–40 minutes, it unfolded to reveal a mélange of red and black fruit and hints of wild mint and boysenberry, all nicely focused, with floral top notes. The medium-bodied palate features sappy black fruit intermingling with orange peel and subtle marmalade notes. There is a core of sweet plummy fruit toward the finish, and a hint of brown sugar lingers on the aftertaste. This is a fine Saint-Émilion, but one where I hope to see a little more terroir expression on once in bottle.”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2020 Tour Saint Christophe has grown into an elegant, sophisticated Saint-Émilion. Red/purplish berry fruit, hard candy, mint, blood orange, pomegranate and spice all run through the 2020. Medium in body and polished, the 2020 has maybe a bit less explosive intensity than recent previous years, but plenty of class. Today, I find Tour Saint Christophe a bit subdued.”
- AG, Vinous

“Tour Saint Christophe just keeps getting better with each passing vintage. The 2020 is marked by vibrant red/purplish fruit, beams of minerality, sweet floral notes and a touch of savory intensity on the close. What impresses me most about the 2020 is the purity of flavors. The creamy, resonant finish is a thing of beauty.”
- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2020 Château Tour Saint Christophe showed spectacularly well, and based off past vintages, this shouldn't surprise anyone. Based on 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc raised in 40% new barrels (the balance is in second- and third-fill oak), it offers a full-bodied, incredibly pure, balanced style revealing subtle oak, terrific darker, almost blue fruits, lots of chocolate, leafy herb and mineral nuances, and gorgeous tannins. It's worth pointing out that this will be the last vintage made by the talented Jérôme Aguirre. This terrific Saint-Emilion will evolve for two decades.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck

“A wine I continue to buy in every vintage, the 2020 Château Tour Saint-Christophe looks to be another no-brainer for the Saint-Emilion lovers out there. Coming from a gorgeous, terraced vineyard on the eastern side of the appellation and based on 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, it has a perfumed, elegant, pure style in its darker cherry and cassis fruits as well as classic cedarwood, earth, and forest floor aromatics. Medium to full-bodied, balanced, and just beautiful on the palate, with terrifically integrated acidity and tannins, it's going to round into form nicely with just short-term bottle age and have two decades of prime drinking. This wine is still resting in 40% new French oak and has an alcohol of 14.7% with a pH of 3.6.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Deep ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, faint brightening on rim. Delicate tobacco hints on the blackberry fruit, delicate fig and plum, subtle herbal savouriness, candied orange zest. Complex, juicy, ripe dark cherry, integrated tannins, lively structure, mineral-salty finish, has good length.”
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fresh, elegant and offers power (in finesse), concentration (In control) as well as a certain delicacy. It reveals notes of bright cassis, fresh/quite ripe blackberry, small notes of quite ripe strawberry associated with touches of blueberry, small bright black berries, hints of sense of the place (local biotope/Mediterranean), aromatic herbs as well as fine hints of Tabaco Badiane an imperceptible hint of nearly eucalyptus. On the mouth it is fruity, balanced and offers juiciness, freshness, a good definition, gourmandize, and acidulous frame, a fine tension, a small straightness, an airy power, a very nice multi-layer side in the density as well as a certain intensity. A nice freshness and concentration all in balance. Power in finesse and balance. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/bright cassis, small pulpy/bright black berries, small notes of raspberry associated with touches of bright redcurrant, hints of purple acidulous plum, fresh tabaco, star anis, cardamom as well as a fine hint of Cuban pepper and an imperceptible hint of nearly torrefaction and aromatic herbs. The tannins are massive, elegant, powerful, and soft. A little chew at the end of the palate/persistence.”
- Vert de Vin
