

Château Troplong Mondot 2014

CSPC# 790271

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classe B in 2006.

Website

<http://www.chateau-troplong-mondot.com/eng/Actu.asp?NumCat=1>

General Info

Château Troplong Mondot is a St. Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé property that has in the last decade been producing wines that are the equal of many 1er Grand Cru Classé estates. Its handsome château dates back to 1745 and Troplong-Mondot was originally part of one sizeable domaine which included the vineyards of Château Pavie.

In the 17th century, the vineyard belonged to the Abbé Raymond de Sèze, who built the chateau as it stands today in 1745. The Sèze family was one of the most prestigious of the Bordeaux area's landed gentry and owned many other estates. It was particularly illustrious in providing Louis XVI with his personal lawyer, Raymond de Sèze. Under the aegis of the Abbé, Mondot won its place among the best Saint Emilion wines.

In 1850, Raymond Troplong took over Mondot and turned it into the 33-hectares estate, unchanged to this very day. A peer, a famous jurist and a lover of art and literature, he became president of the Senate in 1852 and held this office until his death in 1869. In spite of his state duties, he operated the rich Mondot estate with remarkable success, producing a highly prized wine classed by the renowned *Annuaire des Châteaux de Férêt* as Saint-Emilion's second finest wine in 1868. Edouard Troplong, his nephew and successor, added the name Troplong to the estate before he sold it.

The château entered the modern age with the Valette family. Alexandre Valette, a Parisian vintner, bought the estate crafted by Raymond Troplong. He already owned Château La France in Fronsac and would soon acquire Château Pavie. In 1980 Alexandre's great grand daughter, Christine, took over the estate and was joined, 10 years later, by her husband, Xavier Pariente. Together they continued to improve and embellish the vineyard, cellar and chateau. This hard work and their efforts proved worthwhile when in 2006 Troplong Mondot was awarded 1er Grand Cru Classé status. Guru oenologist Michel Rolland has been a consultant at Troplong Mondot since the mid-1980s.

Vineyards

Troplong Mondot has 30 hectares of vineyards well-sited alongside the hill of Mondot to the north-east of the St-Emilion appellation. The soils are rich in limestone clay and are planted with Merlot (90%), Cabernet Franc (5%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (5%). Yields 41 hl/ha.

Harvest

October 9-23

Maturation

The grapes are hand-harvested and then fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. The wine is then aged in oak barriques (75% new) for 18 months. It is bottled unfiltered.

Tasting Notes

Dark purple red with violet hue and black centre. Elegant and persistent nose with dark berries, blackberries, blackcurrants and hints of ripe plums, toasted flavours. On the palate opulent and elegant with good structure, weight and convincing length. A very high level elegant wine.

Production

5,583 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2040

Scores/Awards

94 points - James Molesworth, *Wine Spectator* - March 31, 2017

92-95 points - James Molesworth, *Wine Spectator* - Web Only 2015

94 points - Neal Martin, *Wine Advocate Interim* - March 31, 2017

91-93 points - Neal Martin, *Wine Advocate* #218 - April 29, 2015

95 points - James Suckling, *Wine Spectator* - February 2017



Scores/Awards **93-94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015
92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015
17.5 (91) points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2015
94-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
92-94 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015
90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015 (score only)
94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015
96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"Solidly built, with some heft to the core of raspberry, blackberry and boysenberry confiture flavors. Delivers ample cut and drive thanks to the racy graphite beam. Hints of ganache and Turkish coffee add a bass line without taking away definition or purity. Best from 2022 through 2035. 5,583 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Solid, with plum, anise and blackberry notes allied to an ample but polished structure. Features prominent toast, but the fruit seems to be soaking it up. A lingering graphite hint adds positive vibes. Score range: 92-95"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2014 Troplong-Mondot performed to my expectation now that the wine is in bottle. It has a refined bouquet with black cherries, raspberry preserve and mineral scents that gain intensity in the glass, but never get carried away. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, tensile in the mouth but surprisingly linear and conservative, at least in the first half. It is fresh and precise, then delivers the weight and concentration as it fans out on the finish, a residue of white pepper tingling on the aftertaste. This is a delicious Troplong Mondot that should age with style and grace. Drink date 2020 – 2040"
- NM, Wine Advocate

"The Château Troplong Mondot 2014 is a stylish wine this year. The nose is well defined and elegant with pure blackberry and red plum fruit, fine mineralité and poise here. The palate is medium-bodied with fine, grainy tannin and well-integrated oak. There is a touch of dark chocolate coming through on the finish, but it is lightly sprinkled over the fresh black fruit that possess less fatness than recent vintage, but in my opinion allow the terroir to be expressed. This is a fine Troplong Mondot that should drink well over 15 to 20 years. (Incidentally, another sample was showing not quite as well, but I have used my note taken from the UGC poured by someone at the property). Drink: 2019 - 2035 - RP, Wine Advocate"
- NM, Wine Advocate

"The dark, savory, earthy and plum aromas plus the serious tannins here give this wine a lot of character, but it really needs a couple of years to open up. The finish packs a big tannic punch. For the long term. Try in 2024."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a big and juicy Troplong. Full-bodied, chewy and rich with fresh sliced plum, chocolate and berry character. Long finish."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"92–94. Barrel Sample. This wine is rich and concentrated, with great weight and personality—every element seems larger than life. The ripe plum flavors are forward and juicy. The finish has a subtle warmth of alcohol."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Rich and intense with chocolate, liquorice and dark fruit notes. Sweet but poised on the palate. Modern extraction but with restraint. Firm, long finish."
- JL, Decanter.com

Reviews *“Licorice, dark chocolate, coconut, smoke and black cherry liqueur pack the nose, making this is no wallflower of a wine. On the palate, this wine is full-bodied, rich, lusty and eager to show off its dusty, sweet, fruit-filled finish. There is a touch of heat in the endnote but there is so much fruit that the warmth is barely noticeable. The wine was produced from a blend of 90% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.65. 94-95 Pts’*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Black and dark looking; colour tight to rim; saturated fruit on the nose; layered; sublimated black cherries and plums; nice entry on the palate; lots of fruit; saturated and full; sublimated; boatload of extract and matter – this is a big mouthful but tannins [plenty of them] caressing. [90% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc, 14% alc]. Tasted UGC 1st April ’15. Drink 2020-2035. 92-94”
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“A seductive wine with notes of plum, cocoa and savory spices. Velvety and plush on the palate with generous tannins and long finish. A great Troplong Mondot that is in top form in 2014.”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2014 Troplong Mondot is super-impressive. Dark cherry, plum, smoke, chocolate and dark spice notes meld together in this stunningly beautiful, opulent Saint-Émilion. Large-scale, ample and totally flamboyant in style, the 2014 is going to need time to fully come together, but it is striking even today. The blend is 90 % Merlot, 8 % Cabernet Sauvignon and 2 % Cabernet Franc.”
- AG, Vinous
