

Château Troplong Mondot 2015

CSPC# 790271

750mlx12

15.5% 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 Féret* 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.

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.

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

The harvest took place September 30 through October 21



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	This 2015 vintage marks a Château Troplong Mondot with the qualities of the greatest vintages, reflecting the original and innovative reasoned cultural approach put in place almost ten years ago by Xavier Pariente, in collaboration with Claude and Lydia Bourguignon. This Troplong Mondot 2015 has a silky and elegant material, with a complex nose of black fruits, liquorice and spices, accompanied by a nice freshness, a powerful and full-bodied wine.
Production	10,000 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2040.
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>16.5+ points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>93 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>16 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>93-96 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>99 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>92-94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>15 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Offers a gorgeous, caressing, velvety feel, with waves of warmed plum, fig compote and blackberry reduction gliding through, inlaid with notes of graphite, sweet tobacco and black licorice. A light loamy echo adds a pleasant tug of earth at the very end. Best from 2022 through 2040. 10,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This has some exotic ripeness, with açai berry and loganberry fruit pumping through, carried by substantial brambly tannins and backed by a long, spice- and black tea-infused finish. Shows power and range. Score range: 93-96"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Blended of 90% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc aged in French oak, 85% new, the deep garnet-purple colored 2015 Troplong Mondot is redolent of warm plums, blackberry tart and blueberry pie with suggestions of underbrush, bay leaves, cedar chest and lavender plus a waft of baking spices. Full-bodied and full-throttle in the mouth, the palate is decadently packed with a solid core of black and blue fruit layers, supported with firm, grainy tannins and finishing with loads of spicy layers. This pedal-to-the-metal beauty is the ultimate indulgence for the hedonists!"</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Troplong Mondot is inky black in color. The nose was initially arresting with a carapace of toasty new oak, but it only takes several swirls of the glass for that to dissipate and leave scents of intense black fruit, crème de cassis, spice box and violets. It is verging on "heady" in style, powered along by that Merlot. The palate is medium-bodied with succulent ripe tannin, layers of ripe, sensual, lavish black fruit interlaced with black pepper and clove. The acidity binds everything together, maintains control through to the finish that fans out nicely. It leans towards the hedonistic style of Saint Emilion, but it is not pushed over the edge as I have found in previous</i></p>

- Reviews** *recent vintages. What it needs to develop is just the charm and personality of the finest Saint Emilion wines this vintage.*
- NM, Wine Advocate
- “The 2015 Troplong Mondot has a powerful, quite lush bouquet with black cherries, raspberry and hints of kirsch developing, just a slight smudge of alcohol but I feel that it will calm down with time. The palate is medium-bodied with cassis, strawberry pastilles and a touch of spice. There is moderate depth here and it shows commendable refinement on the finish when it could have spun out of control. If you want a more hedonistic yet still well-crafted Saint-Émilion, come here.”*
- NM, Wine Journal
- “Expressive, ripe dark plums swathed in aromas of mocha, toasted baking spices, graphite, blackberries and mulberries. The flavor-soaked palate arrives on suave, velvety tannins, delivering flavors of vibrant, concentrated dark plums, mulberries, dark chocolate and cocoa in a youthful, fresh style. Terrific wine with ultra-long finish. An essay in power and elegance. Essence-like. Best from 2020.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “A luscious and rich red with blackberry, chocolate and walnut aromas and flavors. Full body, very harmonious and super bright. All about clarity. A majority of merlot with some cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “95–97. Barrel Sample. Rich and smooth, this is a powerful and concentrated wine. The wine is perfumed and fragrant, with fine dusty tannins and a fresh edge that provides a nice lift to the finish.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Deep crimson. Highly scented, even a touch of violets on the nose entwined with ripe but fresh damsons. Chewy, deep and generous yet still with a firm but rounded tannic structure. Just enough freshness to balance all the chocolate-smooth richness. The alcohol is not too obvious. (JH)”*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “Ripe and powerful with an unusual 8% Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend (90% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc). Dark cherry, blueberry and spice notes. Richly concentrated with sturdy but refined tannins. Freshness of the terroir lends balance. Just a touch of grainy oak which has not yet been fully integrated.”*
- JL, Decanter.com
- “If sexy, sensuous textures, a wall of ripe and very ripe fruit, truffle, licorice, black and blue fruits with chocolate that are delivered with palate staining intensity is your thing, you need this wine!”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “With a beautiful, inky hue, this wine explodes with smoke, blackberry liqueur, dark chocolate, truffle and cherry blossoms on the nose. Liquid silk does not begin to describe the texture, but it's close. If that does not work, molten velvet is my next stab at describing this wine. Powerfully concentrated with density and opulent textures that really bring this to a new level. For my delicate friends across the pond, do not let this scare you off. Everything is in balance. But be prepared for a grand carnival of true self-indulgence. Produced from a blend of 90% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, the wine reached 15.5% alcohol. The harvest took place September 30 through October 21.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Deep and saturated look; lots of ripe, sublimated fruit tones on the nose; black fruits, liquorice notes; kirsch; palate is sweet and ripe; black fruits; extremely concentrated palate; liquorice and mocha notes on the palate; very big indeed; chewy finish and dry on the end. A super extracted, extremely ripe rendition of St Emilion. It's big. It's point scoring. It's Troplong's style – just not quite mine. Others will score even more highly I'm sure. [90% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc, 15.5% alc]. Drink 2022-2035. 93-95”*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

Reviews *"If you're a fan of big wines in the Pavee mould, this is a much better-balanced example of the style. It's ripe, oaky and a little pruneey, with plush tannins, sweet figgy fruit and considerable concentration. Drink: 2022-30"*
- TA, timatkin.com

"The very well situated Troplong Mondot vineyard produces concentrated St Emilion under the control of consultant wine-maker Michel Rolland. The black coloured wines made here are not for those who prefer the more traditional, subtle style of St Emilion. Inky blueish purple in the glass, with black fruits and notes of wood smoke, tar and licorice. The palate is dense with thick layers of slightly raisined black fruit and damson. Despite all the concentration there is freshness of acidity which lightens the weight on the palate and leaves an intense, impressive and balanced finish."
- Farr Vintners

"A ripe, exuberant, full bodied Troplong Mondot that is rich and sumptuous, almost Californian-like in its texture and flavors. I prefer more precision and lifted character. This is a big, massive wine with big body."
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"One of the stars of the vintage, the 2015 Troplong Mondot has come together beautifully over the last year and half. Rich and sumptuous to the core, it is a classic wine from this property, built on serious fruit density and textural richness. Dark red cherry, plum, chocolate, new leather and spice are some of the many notes that build as the 2015 shows off its irrepressible personality. A viscerally exciting, resonant wine, it just needs a few years to shed some of its baby fat. Tasted two times. 2025 – 2040"
- AG, Vinous

"A stunning wine with serious bass notes and even some black olive and spice appearing on the palate, this is an exotic Troplong with heroic weight and length. The oak is perfectly well-judged, and the fruit is admittedly very rich but not over the top. The finish here is one of the longest and most intensely fruity of all. Sublime."
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"A wine I was able to taste on multiple occasions, the 2015 Troplong Mondot is a tour de force that readers need to snatch up. This cuvee comes from the cool, clay and limestone soils on the upper plateau (it's the highest point in the appellation) and is a blend of 92% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, harvest between September 30th and October 21st, that was brought up in 85% new French oak. Sporting a deep, inky color as well as a sensational bouquet of creme de cassis, blackberry, toasted spice, licorice and spring flowers, it's another huge wine from this estate that has perfect balance between its fruit, oak and tannin, a stacked mid-palate, and an incredible finish. I wrote "crazy good" more than once in my notes. It has enough fruit and texture to drink nicely even today yet needs 4-5 years of cellaring and will keep for two to three decades. It's one of the great wines of the vintage. 2022 – 2052"
- Jeb Dunnuck
