

## Château Troplong Mondot 2016

CSPC# 813908

750mlx12

15.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

89% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc

**Appellation**

St. Emilion

**Classification**

Premier Grand Cru Classé 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.

**Winemaker**

Guru oenologist Michel Rolland has been a consultant since the mid-1980s.

**Vintage**

2016 St. Emilion did not get off to a good start. Frankly, the initial part of the growing season started off wet, and cloudy. The massive amount of water in the vineyards and cooler temperatures set things back. Vignerons already knew 2016 Saint Emilion would be a late vintage. Bacchus must love Bordeaux because at the beginning of June, the rain stopped, the sun came out and the flowering took place during one of the few breaks in the rain. At least now, growers had a glimmer of hope. The quantity was going to be there, but would the quality come as well?

The official start of summer changed everything. The rains were gone and sunny, warm summer days with the all-important shift to cold, nighttime temperatures arrived. Now, growers needed to decide how much, or even if they should deleaf. The vignerons that were careful not to remove too many leaves, for fear of too much sun made the right choice. Indian summer conditions continued. But as the summer wore on, the extreme dryness of the 2016 Saint Emilion vintage began to have an effect on the vineyards. Young vines shut down or died. The older vines were in danger of shutting down their growth cycle as well, to avoid starvation. But September 13 and September 14 brought about 44mm of rain, the perfect amount of moisture was delivered to the thirsty vines, and at the exact, opportune moment! The continued cold nighttime temperatures kept everything in check and growers were able to wait as long as they wished, for the grapes to achieve full maturity. Another shot of rainfall took place the night of September 30, or the morning of October 1, (depending on your point of view) and it was off to the races! The 2016 St. Emilion harvest conditions could not have been better. Some growers reported 125 days of hang time. Other produces reported spending 4 weeks picking their fruit. And why not as conditions were perfect with warm sunny weather and an extended growing season.



**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 October 3-27

**Maturation** The grapes are hand-harvested and then fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. The wine is then aged in oak barriques (77% new) for 18 months. It is bottled unfiltered.

**Tasting Notes** This is a hugely rich and heady wine with mouth-filling volumes of buoyant fruit, a lavish texture and intense limestone minerality on the finish.

**Serve with** Chateau Troplong Mondot is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Troplong Mondot is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese.

**Production** 10,000 cases made

**Cellaring** Drink 2022-2047

**Scores/Awards** **95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019  
**94-97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017  
**95+ points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018  
**93-96 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2019  
**92 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019  
**96-97 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017  
**94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019  
**96-98 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017  
**16 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018  
**16 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017  
**95 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017  
**97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019  
**97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018  
**97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017  
**92 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017  
**15.5+ points** - Farr Vintner - February 2017  
**85-87 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017  
**93 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019  
**96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019  
**94-97 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017  
**97 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017  
**98 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2017

**Reviews** *"Ripe and focused, with a pure, unadulterated beam of raspberry and cherry preserve flavors that is both wide and deep, gilded prettily with a lilting violet note and infused with subtle chalky minerality through the finish. Beautiful. Best from 2023 through 2038."*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"Beautifully pure and expressive, with creamy-textured cassis, raspberry and boysenberry puree notes streaming through, gilded by a violet note and backed by refined minerality on the finish. There's a backdrop of alluring spice-infused toast, but the fruit takes center stage here. Score range: 94-97"*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"Aged in 77% new and 23% one-year-old French oak barrels and composed of 89% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, the 2016 Troplong Mondot has a deep garnet-purple color and comes bursting out of the glass with bold preserved plums, Black Forest cake and Indian spices scents plus suggestions of espresso, black olives, cigar box and tilled soil. Full-bodied, rich, plushly textured and oh-so-decadent, it packs in the spiced black fruit layers and finishes with fantastic persistence."*  
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2016 Troplong-Mondot is a blend of 89% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc cropped at 48 hectoliters per hectare between 3-27 October, matured in 77% new oak. It has a decadent bouquet that seems to carry more alcohol than its peers, very pure and floral and miraculously managing to maintain satisfying delineation. The palate is underpinned by enormous tannins! This is a massive Troplong Mondot that is very dense and sinewy, a*

**Reviews** *bit of a "bruise" in its infancy. It exerts a vice-like grip in the mouth with layers of fruit laced with black pepper on the prolonged finish. What's the Spinal Tap quote about turning everything up to eleven? This is a Saint Emilion that will either transform into a legend or will topple over by the sheer weight of the tannins, which is why I gave a slightly enlarged banded score. I'll be fascinated to re-taste this in bottle*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"Love the aromas of redcurrants and cherries with flowers. Full body and tight, finely chewy tannins that impress. Linear and focused young red. Try from 2021."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Tar and blackberries here on the palate with very polished tannins and dense, beautiful fruit. Tight and centered. Wow. Can it be better than the 2015? We will see."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"In a style that this estate has made its own, this is a lush, super-ripe wine. There is a sense of high alcohol, although the fruit and the tannins are so generous that all is forgiven. An immensely rich wine, it should have a long cellaring future. (RV)"*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Bright healthy crimson. Lively, relatively muted nose – no obvious sign of too much alcohol. Although the slightly drying finish suggests some pretty aggressive extraction and there is a bit of warmth on the end – presumably thanks to the 15.5% alcohol! Not the most relaxed wine – a tad forced – but this could please if served relatively cool"*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com  
*"Dark glowing purple. Really taken to the limit of ripeness! Some gaminess and a velvety texture with a strong green streak running through it. Not a comfortable whole. As though exceptional sugar levels were the be all and end all. Not fun to drink, alas."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"This is stunning. Troplong never has trouble conjuring up wonderfully rich fruit, but here it is plump and dense without being pumped up. The tannins are chewy rather than chalky, but the elegance of the vintage is unmistakable, and the rich chocolate flavours are dusted with mint. There is a very pretty salinity on the finish that lasts for minutes. I had a fascinating visit here at the start of the week and re-tasted several times as this is a wine that I sometimes have trouble understanding. My main takeout is that the majority of the richness here is found naturally in the terroir - limestone on the plateau but with cool clay over the top, which explains why they are such late harvesters. But there are always winemaking and viticultural choices coming into play in any wine, and here there are adjustments being made to bring out a more finely wrought version of what is always a high impact and successful wine. Yields are higher this year, up at 48hl/ha, which helps, as does the style of the vintage and quieter extraction in the cellar, but Troplong remains true to itself. 90% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050"*  
- JL, Decanter.com

*"The inky, dark color shows dark purple accents in its sheen. On the palate, the wine is rich, hedonistic, unctuous, and mouth-coating. The fruit is ripe, dense and intense with layers of black cherry, jammy, sweet plums, hints of fig, licorice, smoke and dark chocolate that offers its charms for over 40 seconds. This is not a shy wine, and thus, it needs at least a decade to settle down and start strutting its stuff. It is also the vintage made in the style preferred by the previous owner, Christine Valette."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Inky in color, the wine opens with smoke, espresso, dark chocolate covered plums, cherries and wet earth, Lush in texture, opulent in character, the non-stop, unctuous finish serves up layers of ripe, black fruits and licorice. This is the last vintage produced by the Valette family and the last in the rich style we have become accustomed to. Things changed radically in subsequent vintages."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

## Reviews

*“Commanding, powerful, dark and intense, this wine is unfathomably deep, concentrated and juicy. While sizeable, there is a loveliness in the purity of the fruit and no heaviness on the palate. Instead, it’s balanced and harmonious. The velvet textured, opulent finish offers chocolate-covered plums and blackberry with licorice and a beautiful, multifaceted earthy character. This will take some time to come around. The wine was made using 89% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, reaching 15% alcohol. The harvest took place October 3 through October 27.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“Consistently among the later pickers, with a preference for rich, opulent super ripe flavours, even Troplong-Mondot has made a more balanced wine in 2016. It’s still ripe and a little figgy, with marked alcohol and lots of new oak, but there’s more freshness and poise than usual here. 2022-30”*

- TA, [timatkin.com](http://timatkin.com)

*“The very well situated Troplong Mondot vineyard produces concentrated St Emilions 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. 90% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, and 8% Cabernet Sauvignon with 80% new oak. As we have come to expect from this Chateau, it is a concentrated, inky wine with menthol, camphor and damson on the nose. The tar-like concentration brings liquorice, star anise and exuberant blackcurrant fruit. Bracing, mouthcoating tannins add to the ripe extraction on the palate. This is a big wine but is impressive rather than over-extracted. Of its style, but still in balance.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The nose is firm the start of the palate tight with fresh fruits in the middle. There is underlying sweetness a mix of red and black fruits, but the back palate is firm and lacking in generosity. 2025-36”*

- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2016 Troplong Mondot has a very pretty bouquet of black cherries, boysenberry, crushed stone and light violet aromas that gains vigor with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied and a little fresher than I recall from barrel, with fine tannin and gentle grip on a poised, lightly spiced finish that just feels a little heavy. While I thoroughly enjoy this Troplong, it carries all the remnants of the style of winemaking under Xavier Pariente where everything it is turned up too high. I suspect it will be surpassed by the 2017. 15.5% alcohol. Drink 2021-2045”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2016 Troplong Mondot is fabulous. Powerful, dense and explosive, the 2016 has a lot to say. Super-ripe dark cherry, raspberry jam, chocolate, spice and new oak give the wine much of its lush, exotic feel. The chateau has moved in a totally different stylistic direction since this wine was made, but there is no denying the 2016 is striking. (AG)”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2016 Troplong Mondot is one of the most intense, primary wines I tasted this year. At this early stage, the 2016 tastes like it was just drained from tank, as the flavors and textures are remarkably intense. The malos are not fully finished, which is quite normal here. Even so, the purity of the flavors is striking. Plush, sensual and inviting, the 2016 is shaping up to be a jewel of a wine. Super-ripe dark purplish fruit, chocolate, new leather and spice overtones build into the huge, dramatic finish. As always, Troplong Mondot is one of the most flamboyant Saint-Émilions readers will come across. Macerations lasted between 21 and 35 days, with a portion of the wine vinified in 600-liter barrels. Jean-Philippe Fort is the consultant. Tasted three times.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“I was able to taste the 2016 Troplong Mondot at the estate and it looks to be a perfect wine in the making. Offering an incredible bouquet of black and blue fruits, violets, espresso and graphite, this monster hits the palate with full-bodied richness and depth, yet just glides over the palate with ultra-fine tannin. With awesome purity of fruit and perfect balance, it’s a drop-dead gorgeous barrel sample.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

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