

# Château Troplong Mondot 2021

CSPC# 831126

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc
<b>Appellation</b>	St. Emilion
<b>Classification</b>	Premier Grand Cru Classé B in 2006.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.chateau-troplong-mondot.com/eng/Actu.asp?NumCat=1">http://www.chateau-troplong-mondot.com/eng/Actu.asp?NumCat=1</a>
<b>Analysis</b>	3.44 pH
<b>Sustainability</b>	Sustainable soil valuation analyses by Lydia and Claude Bourguignon, since 2007 Preservation of the biodiversity for more than 20 years thanks to the hedges, the forests and the walls that shelter the fauna.
<b>General Info</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In 1850, Raymond Troplong took over Mondot and turned it into a 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 <i>Annuaire des Châteaux de Féret</i> 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.</p> <p>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 granddaughter, 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.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Aymeric de Gironde – Technical Director. Thomas Duclos consults.
<b>Vintage</b>	The 2021 vintage wasn't blessed by nice weather and was challenging for winemakers. Frost in the spring, hefty rains, coulure, mildew, you name it. In August 2021, everybody was prepared for a vintage similar to 2013. However, weather conditions improved considerably in September, and Bordeaux enjoyed sunny weather in mid-October. This turnaround truly saved the 2021 vintage! Little rain, no storms, and there was a time to harvest Merlot, Cabernets, and Petit Verdot patiently to collect them all with perfect ripeness. The initial prospect of the quality of red 2021 is, according to winemakers, a similar vintage to 2008 and 2014
<b>Vineyards</b>	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%).
<b>Harvest</b>	The harvest took place September 17 - October 19.
<b>Winemaking</b>	The grapes are hand-harvested and then fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless-steel tanks. The wine is then aged in oak barriques (65% new and 35% 1-yr-old barrels) for 18 months. It is bottled unfiltered.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Deep colour. Intense dark plum, blackberry, graphite, wax polish dark chocolate aromas. Beautifully concentrated wine with lovely dark berry, graphite notes, fine bittersweet slinky tannins and chalky/ mineral notes. Finishes chalky firm with saline nuances. Classical Saint-Émilion.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	10,000 cases made



**Cellaring  
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2027-2055

- 90 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2024
- 95 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024
- 93-96 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022
- 90-92 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - May 2022
- 95 points** - Zekun Shuai, JamesSuckling.com - January 2024
- 95-96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022
- 17 points** - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022
- 96 points** - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022
- 95 points** - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2024
- 95 points** - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022
- 95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024
- 94-96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022
- 93 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022
- 94-96 points** - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022
- 93-95 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022
- 96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024
- 95-97 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022
- 93 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024
- 18.5 points** - Matthew Jukes - August 2022
- 94 points** - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022
- 95 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022

**Reviews**

*"Fresh, if a touch on the skinny side, with bitter cherry and pomegranate notes carried by a chalky structure, while savory accents dart around throughout. Pretty, silky finish. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2025 through 2033. 10,000 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The 2021 Troplong Mondot unwinds in the glass with aromas of dark berries, cherries and plums mingled with violets, exotic spices, and smoke. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and complete, the wine is layered and complex, with all the depth and authority that one expects from this clay-driven terroir, its concentrated core of fruit underpinned by sweet tannins and lively animating acids, concluding with a long, resonant finish. A blend of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc with a remarkably low pH of 3.35, it's the first vintage produced in the estate's state-of-the-art new winery. Drink 2027-2055."*  
- WK, Wine Advocate

*"The 2021 Troplong Mondot shows considerable promise, exhibiting aromas of plums and wild berries mingled with notions of sweet spices, rose petals, vine smoke and raw cocoa, followed by a medium to full-bodied, seamless palate endowed with impressive intensity and texture. Built around beautifully refined, powdery tannins and lively acids, it concludes with a long, mouthwateringly saline finish. Macerations here were long but gentle, including a long cold soak before fermentation, and the blend, after much deliberation, is 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc. Tasted four times."*  
- WK, Wine Advocate

*"Elegant and refined nose with a classy touch of spices and mineral to the red currants and berries. Very sleek and linear on the palate with super polished, immaculate tannins and a very long finish. Not a powerful vintage for sure, but this is all about finesse and subtlety. Already drinkable but can hold for a decade."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Lovely density here with a solid center-palate of fruit and fine tannins. Medium body. Underlying salinity and oyster-shell character in the finish. Well-defined. Grows at the end."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc. 47 hl/ha. Cask sample. Deep colour. Floral notes with an attractive density of fruit. Finely structured, velvety tannins provide the framework. Minty freshness as well, the finish chalky. Balanced with all the components in place. (JL) 13.5%. Drink 2027 – 2042."*  
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

## Reviews

*"Bright purple rim to the wine. So many aromas on the nose, really captivating and full - dark chocolate, pink flowers giving a soft perfume, cinnamon, raspberries, black cherries and liquorice too - all intensifying over twenty minutes in the glass. Super bright and charged on the palate, this is off like a firecracker from the initial impact, giving tangy strawberry, red cherry, and raspberry fruit flavours. It's got power no doubt, but a delicate, light style, not so concentrated and intense more lifted and aerial with tension. So much energy here, the flavours come in waves on the palate, red fruits, cooling blue fruits, exotic spices, flowers, and fresh minty, stone notes with a real mineral salinity on the finish. It's perhaps not so weighty or full in the mouth like previous more opulent vintages, but there is clarity and definition of elements on show. I love the mineral finish, so Troplong. Extremely refined. First vintage in the new cellar facilities which helped with precision."*

- GH, Decanter.com

*"The natural density and power of Troplong is a huge benefit in 2021. Love the coiled power and the precision that is on display, damson and blueberry fruit, salted cracker, density through the mid palate, liquorice root and fennel signoff. A full month of harvest, and the first time with the new cellar. One of the few that may just need a 8 to 10 before really coming into its stride"*

- JA, janeanson.com

*"The natural density that they have at Troplong was extremely helpful in a vintage like 2021. This is a little more reserved than a typical year, but very much delivers signature power. Expect gunsmoke, fern and raspberry leaf alongside cherry pit and saffron salinity, black cherry fruits, rosebud, anis, fennel spice, all with the powerful and concentrated signature of limestone. I was here on the last day of harvest, and I remember how healthy the grapes were. This is the first vintage where the cellar has been completely finished, moving from 20 to 42 tanks. No chaptalisation (but the natural 13.5%abv is extremely rare at this late ripening property, and a real indication of how long it took for sugars to climb in this vintage)."*

- JA, janeanson.com

*"Medium-bodied, vibrant, crisp, and focused on its mineral essences, the wine is upbeat with freshness, energy, lift, and precision. The red fruits are expressive, clean, and salty with accents of smoke, mint, spice, flowers, and espresso. This is a finesse driven wine that is going to show well on release. The wine blends 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon. Drink from 2025-2050."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Deeply colored, the wine is rich, round, lush and fresh. Initially you notice flowers, chocolate, truffle, espresso, cocoa, and black plums. There is a silkiness to the tannins, sweetness along with freshness on the palate, and a finish with black, blue, and dark red fruits with a strong touch of chalk in the finish. The wine blends 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13.5% ABV%, 3.44 pH. The harvest took place September 17 - October 19. The harvest date here was the key to the success of the wine here. Drink from 2025-2055."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The 2021 is a blend of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc. The abv is 13.5% without chaptalisation thanks to the natural richness of the site here, which is to great advantage in a cooler, wetter vintage like this one. This is the lowest abv here since the 1999! The fruit will be 85% Grand Vin, rather than 95% as in most years. There is an inclusion of whole bunch Merlot for the first time this year to further freshen the character of this wine - a 50 hectolitre vat was fermented in this fashion. 60% new oak, with 15% in large foudres and 25% in second fill barrels. Deep ruby in colour. The nose has real weight, with smoky cherry fruit and iron coming through, though there are hints of green spice that suggest the whole bunch character starting to show through. The palate has real density for the vintage, with intense but fine red fruit bursting through. Floral tones of violet and cherry blossom build in tandem with woody herbs - though there is ripeness here the fine lift that the team clearly look for is in full evidence. Bright acidity cuts through the chalky, deep tannic structure. The whole bunch grip has added the backbone that press wine would normally add (and which has not been used this year). This is another excellent Troplong Mondot, a clever take on the vintage that takes advantage of the site's naturally advanced ripeness."*

- TP, Farr Vintners

## Reviews

*"The 2021 Troplong Mondot was bottled in February 2022, earlier than many estates. I tasted two samples, one decanted earlier and one freshly poured. The latter showed more fruité: black cherries, violet, touches of pencil shavings and dried roses, building in intensity with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with very fine tannins, fresh, vibrant, and spicy, with an insistent grip and dashes of black pepper and chalk toward the finish. Quite a vertical Troplong Mondot with an almost briny aftertaste, this deserves four or five years in bottle."*

- NM, Vinous

*"Aymeric de Gironde, who without exaggeration has revolutionized this Saint-Émilion estate, told me that in 2021, the Troplong Mondot comes exclusively from the heart of the original vineyard, mainly on molasse soils. It was picked from September 17 to October 18, unusually finishing with the Merlot, and has 13.5% alcohol without any chaptalization or saignée. The focused blackberry, raspberry and iris petal scented nose is very delineated, yet more reserved than recent vintages. (A second sample at the château had a little more chutzpah.) The palate is medium-bodied with firm, slightly chalky tannins and a fine bead of acidity that imports liveliness and verticality. This Troplong-Mondot is imbued with a palpably mineral-driven finish. I am full of admiration for this cerebral wine, though I wager that it will need several years in bottle."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2021 Troplong Mondot is fabulous. It offers up a rush of dark, red-toned fruit, crushed rocks, leather, menthol, cedar and blood orange. As always, Troplong Mondot is marked by a strong presence of Cabernet Sauvignon that seems to add brooding intensity, muscle, and power. I tasted it three times. A bottle given a brief decant of about 20 minutes showed best. The 2021 spent 13 months in oak (two months less than normal), in a mix of 60% new, 21% 20-hectoliter cask and 19% once-used. The 2021 is a Troplong Mondot of extreme purity and class."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2021 Troplong Mondot is shockingly raw and untamed, but in the very best sense of those terms. A wine of energy and pure power, the 2021 is going to need a number of years to be at its best, but it is certainly very impressive in the early going. The 2021 clocks in at 13.5%, which has not been seen here since the 1990s. The 2021 is not an easy wine to taste at this stage, as it is not fully formed. I won't be surprised if the 2021 turns out even better than this note suggests. It is a dazzling wine by any measure, and a far cry from the wines of a decade ago, when the malolactic fermentations were often not finished when en primeur samples were presented! Superb."*

- AG, Vinous

*"A blend of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Cabernet Franc, the 2021 Château Troplong Mondot was raised in 55% new oak, 21% in once-used, and the balance in foudre for 14 months. It's ruby, semi-opaque hue is followed by a beautiful perfume of smoky black raspberries, crunchy cherries, chalky minerality, rose, and spring flowers. It's medium-bodied, has ultra-fine tannins, nicely integrated acidity, and just a pretty, pure, seamless style. It clearly offers pleasure today but should be given 4-5 years, and it will evolve for two decades."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"It is a given that the Troplong sub-soil will provide structure and intensity in the wines from this distinguished property. But it is the diversity of the plots at this Château that brings in-built complexity. Add in a couple of percentage points of whole bunches chosen for their pinkish, ripe stems, and you have a fascinating cocktail of a wine. Every facet of 2021 Troplong is impressive, from the instantly pretty nose that segues into a lavish, deep-fruited mid-palate. There is balance throughout, and this results in a thoroughly civilised finish with refreshing tannins, crisp acidity, and elevated fruit notes. This is a beautiful wine and one that will gather complexity and silkiness as it ages. There is a very bright future ahead for 2021 Troplong Mondot. 18.5."*

- Matthew Jukes

*"Dark ruby brightens to purple at the narrow rim. Very floral on the nose, savoury notes of fennel pollen and cherries in various degrees of ripeness, herbal aromas. Dense, fine, grippy tannins, powerful but well-integrated alcohol, lots of juice and tremendous tactile minerality. Acidity and body merge seamlessly, the wine combines good concentration with elegance typical of this vintage."*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

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