
La Dame de Montrose 2017

CSPC# 785922

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

49% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Petit Verdot, 42% Cabernet Franc
Saint Estèphe

Second wine from Chateau Montrose.

<http://www.chateau-montrose.com/en/la-dame-de-montrose/>

Chateau Montrose is known today for its powerful, full bodied Bordeaux wine. But that is not what the property was originally known for. In fact, before Bordeaux wine was produced at the estate, it earned fame for being a hunting area.

That all changed when Alexandre de Segur, who also owned numerous, other illustrious Bordeaux properties such as Chateau Mouton, Chateau Lafite and Chateau Latour, gave the property to his son, Nicolas Alexandre. Alexandre did not keep the property long. In 1778, he sold it to Etienne Theodore Dumoulin. During the early 1800's what we know of today as Montrose was actually part of the large Calon Segur estate. It was Etienne Dumoulin who created Chateau Montrose, due to its unique, gravel terroir. What Etienne Dumoulin noticed in those days is thought of as one of the best terroirs in all of Bordeaux. At that point in time, the true birth Chateau Montrose takes place. The Dumoulin family eventually sold Chateau Calon Segur and retained Chateau Montrose.

Next, under the direction of the son of Etienne Dumoulin, Theodore Dumoulin, the vineyards for Chateau Montrose were fully planted. The Dumoulin family built the chateau that is in use today, added modern wine making facilities and by 1815, Chateau Montrose was already on its way to being well-known for their unique St. Estèphe wines. That makes Chateau Montrose the youngest of all the 1855 Classified Growths.

In 1861, Chateau Montrose was sold to Mathieu Dollfus. Credit goes to Mathieu Dollfus for rebuilding Chateau Montrose from top to bottom. He constructed apartments for the estate workers and erected new farm buildings too. By 1880, a small village was created on the grounds of Chateau Montrose.

In 1896, the next major chapter in the history of Chateau Montrose took place when the estate became property of the Charmoule family. The new owner, Louis Victor Charmoule had a long history in the Bordeaux wine trade as he was born at Chateau Figeac in St. Emilion. By marriage, he acquired Chateau Cos d'Estournel and Chateau Pomys, also located in the St. Estèphe appellation. The Charmoule family sold Cos d'Estournel in 1917 to Fernand Ginestet. Chateau Montrose remained in the Charmoule family for three generations. During the ownership period of the Charmoule family, Chateau Montrose became one of the first Bordeaux estates to bottle their own wine. An old sales catalog from the early 20th century shows offerings stating the 1904 Montrose was bottled by the chateau.

Winemaker
Vintage

Jean Bernard Delmas & Herve Berland

The year started with a mild and dry winter, marked by 2 weeks of cold at the end of January. The temperatures remained mild in the spring, allowing uniform bud burst as from 29 March. An early vintage seemed likely, but the growth cycle slowed down at the end of April under the influence of cooler temperatures. The Gironde estuary then played its essential role of thermal regulator during the 3 consecutive days of frost, which spared our vineyard.

The summer-like conditions in May and June favoured uniform flowering. (Full flowering on 29 May).

The vine calmly continued its development, without any particular pressure from disease, an undeniable advantage in the management of our 45 hectares under organic viticulture.

The rainy spell at the end of June led to the start of veraison on 21 July. After a dry and temperate summer, the September rains accelerated the ripening process. Full



Vintage	ripeness of the 4 grape varieties was therefore achieved in a very short time. Harvest took place under ideal conditions. The team of around a hundred pickers worked within the plots, in a very smoothly run operation. This precision work was reflected in the cellar, recently equipped with more than 90 small-capacity vats. Extraction was gentle and maceration slightly shorter than last year. For our blends, we have a rich aromatic palette of 82 batches of classic free-run wines, fully expressing their terroir, along with 9 batches of press wine giving us the possibility to adjust the tannic density of our wines with extreme precision. The climate of 2017 was particularly favourable for our Cabernet Sauvignons. This year they make up 76% of the Grand Vin blend, giving this vintage a very classic profile.
Vineyards	Made to the same rigorous standards as the first wine, from grapes grown in the same vineyard, La Dame de Montrose is the estate's second label. Supple and silky Merlot generally predominates in the varietal mix. Its very pronounced red fruit aromas and flavours reflect another expression of the terroir in a distinctive style which is less elaborately complex than that of the first wine.
Harvest	From September 12 th to September 29 th
Vinification/ Maturation	In the cellar, each vat has its own identity and the custom vinifications allowed the extraction of the best potential from each of them. This ultra-precise work resulted in a large palette of 50 different lots for the blending.
Tasting Notes	The colour is on a deep red. The nose, very expressive, is slightly woody, dominated by black fruits aromas (blueberry, blackberry, and black cherry). It also reveals subtle notes of cedar and tobacco leaves. Tension and length in mouth are combined with a good balance. Tannins are precise and silky. The aromas purity brings finesse and elegance. A wine whose personality should assert itself in the coming years.
Serve with	Best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Cellaring Scores/Awards	Drink 2022-2029 88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2020 92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020 89-91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018 94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2020 91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018 92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2020 91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2018 16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018 90 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018 91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018 91-93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018 90 points - Farr Vintner - April 2018 87-89 points - Derek Smedley, MW - May 2018 89 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020 88-90 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018 91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2020 87-89 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2018 92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - January 2020 90-92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018 17+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018 90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2018 91 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2018 15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021 15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2018
Reviews	<i>"Bright and fresh in feel, featuring a stream of lilac and red currant aromas and flavors, backed by light chalky minerality on the finish. Moderate in scale, but pure and balanced. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2022 through 2029."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator

Reviews

"The 2017 La Dame de Montrose is a blend of 49% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot, aged in 30% new and 70% one-year old barrels for 12 months. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it leaps from the glass with warm red currants, black cherries, and black raspberry scents, followed by earthy/underbrush notions plus hints of violets, dark chocolate and pencil lead. Medium to full-bodied and firm, with loads of mouth-coating juicy fruit, it has a velvety texture and long, mineral-laced finish. It should be approachable pretty much from the get-go, although don't let its precociousness make you underestimate its aging potential. Nicely done!"

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2017 La Dame de Montrose is deep garnet-purple colored with a very fragrant nose of violets, lavender and dark chocolate over a core of cassis, Provence herbs and smoked meats. The palate is medium-bodied and very refreshing with ripe, very soft tannins, elegant and refined with a perfumed finish."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Very pure and attractive red cherries, plums and wild herbs on the nose here. Impressive polish and poise on the palate. The cabernet fits really beautifully into the merlot, delivering cassis, ripe red plums and spiced mulberries. Second wine of Château Montrose. Drink or hold. Better after 2022."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A juicy and savory second wine with blackberry, blueberry and wet-earth character. Medium-bodied, tight, and silky. Fresh finish."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The second wine of Montrose shows tannins and great freshness from the black-currant flavors and succulent acidity. Drink from 2022"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Deep crimson. Much more scented than the Tronquoy-Lalande, lovely dark fruit on the nose. But still with that savoury graphite quality of the grand vin. Fully ripe but not sweet. Even a touch floral. Silky texture, tannins are so supple. Lightish but juicy on the mid palate and with a good balance between fruit and freshness even in this lighter mode. Drink 2022-2030."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"A good year for Dame de Montrose, showing extremely well-balanced plum and damson fruits, and a lovely texture. There was no frost here, as you would expect from a vineyard so close to the Garonne river. Harvest took place between 12-29 September. 4% Cabernet Franc makes up the blend given here. The cellar is now equipped with over 90 small-sized vats, and this is matured in 30% new oak. 40% of production."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Cedar and tobacco leaf on the front end, this is all about juicy, bright, crisp cassis. There is suitable spice and a hint of green olive with soft tannins and even more fruit on the back end. This should drink well with just one to three years of age. "

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Some spices and earthy wood aromas, deep fruit. A little muted. Rounded juicy fruit, but with a slight hollow edge in the mid-palate. Some pyrazines. Big tannic extraction and a little dry-edged. Very serious and traditional for a second wine. Barrel Sample: 91-93."

- TA, timatkin.com

"An enticing, smoky, cedar and camphor nose with plenty of dark and rich cassis fruit. The palate is pure and precise, with quite a powerful core of ripe black fruits. This pairs well with the muscular and robust tannins, which are bracing for a second wine. They are ripe however, and melt away through the finish, making the wine surprisingly approachable. What remains in the aftertaste is pure cassis, at a perfect point of ripeness. "

- Farr Vintners

Reviews *“The nose is firm closed the palate has structure obvious tannins. Black cherry gives richness in the middle the sweeter fruit underpinned by freshness and although tight at the back the black fruits on the finish have a richer feel. Drink 2023 - 2035.”*
- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2017 La Dame de Montrose is attired in a newly redesigned label embossed with the roses that represent those cultivated at the end of vine rows. It has a very composed bouquet with blackberry, bilberry, and briary aromas, nicely focused and with satisfying freshness. The palate is really all you could wish for in a second wine: approachable, fresh, well balanced with a slightly grainy texture. The fruit appears very clean and precise and the harmony on the finish encourages another sip. It is more approachable than some of the previous vintages, insofar that after a 12 to 18 months in bottle, this will be ready to go. Worth seeking out.”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2017 La Dame de Montrose represents 40% of the total production this year. The Merlot, which constitutes nearly half the blend, occupies the driving seat on the nose with copious black cherry, raspberry and cedar scents that blossom in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with a ripe, almost confit-like entry. It feels harmonious with fine tannin, perhaps not the length of say the 2014 or 2016 La Dame de Montrose, a little more compact in style at the moment, loosening up and gaining more harmony by the time of my second visit in mid-April. It certainly has pleasing purity and it should drink well over the next decade.”
- NM, Vinous

“The 2017 La Dame de Montrose has come together well during its élevage, but it remains a bit burly in feel and in need of more time in bottle to soften some of the edges. Sweet tobacco, cedar, grilled herbs, chocolate, menthol, and licorice add pretty savory and earthy top notes. I would give the 2017 another few years in bottle. It finishes with terrific depth, in the understated style of the year. Tasted two times. Drink 2022-2037.”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2017 La Dame de Montrose is powerful, dense and also a bit rough around the edges. This is an especially hearty vintage for La Dame. In 2017, the Merlots were really affected by the early September rains. Much of the fruit was either bulked out or put into the generic Saint-Estèphe. As a result, Cabernet Sauvignon plays a larger role in the blend than it usually does. It will be interesting to see if the 2017 acquires more finesse in aging. Today, I have my doubts it will. La Dame is 40% of the chateau's production. The blend is 49% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot.”
- AG, Vinous

“The second wine of the estate, the 2017 La Dame Montrose checks in as a blend of 49% Merlot, 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 4% each of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. It's one of the top second wines out there and would easily pass for most estates' top cuvee. Terrific notes of creme de cassis, crushed flowers, graphite, and plenty of Montrose minerality and earthy notes all emerge from the glass, and it's medium to full-bodied, has polished tannins, and a great finish. It tastes like a mini-Montrose and will evolve for 15 years or more.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Looking at the second wine of the estate, the 2017 La Dame De Montrose is a Merlot-heavy blend that includes 43% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% each of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. This deep, inky-colored effort boasts textbook sweet black cherry, damp earth, tobacco, and hints of flowers in a dark, medium-bodied, impressively concentrated package. It's impressive.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“A long and savoury style of La Dame de Montrose in this vintage and it has some sour tannins running along the flanks of both the Merlot and the Cabernet Sauvignon. There is a tart character which dampens the exuberance of the fruit and I expect it will always wear this edge of coolness and reluctance.”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
