

## La Dame de Montrose 2021

CSPC# 854987

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety** 53% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot, 3% Cabernet Franc  
**Appellation** Saint Estèphe  
**Classification** Second wine from Chateau Montrose.  
**Website** <http://www.chateau-montrose.com/en/la-dame-de-montrose/>

**Sustainability** 2018 marked an important step in the conversion of our vineyard to sustainable viticulture. The weather conditions resulted in strong pressure from parasites, requiring extreme vigilance. Vineyard management was complex, therefore, but the direction of our environmental approach was firmly maintained.

**General Info** Château Montrose appears in history during the 19th century thanks to Théodore Dumoulin. Château Montrose takes its name from the color of the heather that once covered the domain, whose pretty colour of wine lees is well known. This “young” estate is just a few years old in the 1855 classification and benefits from the most beautiful vineyard of the appellation. After the death of Théodore Dumoulin, the estate is sold and acquired by Mr. Dollfus. Nothing is too good for the Château Montrose, this visionary modifies the Castle, builds outbuildings, increases the technical potential. The castle looks like a real little village. At the end of the 19th century, the property joined the Charmolüe family for more than 3 generations.

In 2006, the Château was bought by Martin and Olivier Bouygues. The Bouygues brothers launched a vast renovation program for the site with environmental objectives. La Dame de Montrose is the second wine of this great Château of Saint-Estèphe.

Consistently reliable and reaching maturity sooner, the wine was created in 1983 in tribute to Yvonne Charmolüe, who ran Château Montrose single-handedly from 1944 to 1960.

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. It has 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.

**Winemaker** Vincent Decup

**Vintage** Marked by contrasting weather conditions, 2021 is proof, yet again, of the importance of the quality of our terroir and its incredible ability to mitigate the excesses of “Mother Nature”. This vintage required all the experience, energy, and vigilance of the estate’s teams.

A mild and dry start to the growing season was followed by a rainy and cool spring, which caused mildew to develop from the month of May. Pressure on the vineyard from disease was high, but efficiently contained within the framework of our environmental approach. A pleasant improvement in the weather at the beginning of June (5th to 10th June) provided good conditions for swift and successful flowering. The cool and dry summer reduced pressure from disease but caused a slight delay in veraison, which was slow and uneven. In September, there was a welcome rise in temperatures and plenty of sun, which helped our four grapes varieties to reach full ripeness.

**Vintage** This year, it was complicated to acquire a clear understanding of the vintage from tasting the berries. The intra-plot specificities were not as explicit as usual and the teams’ experience and extensive knowledge of our terroir were called for more than ever before; when it came to harvesting and pre-blending the plots, collective memory was crucial to every decision.

Even though the bunches were smaller, the quality of the grapes was undeniable. Despite the weather conditions, all four grape varieties have been included in our Grand Vin, and that is always the hallmark of a successful vintage at Château Montrose.

Produced in conditions similar to 2014, the 2021 vintage displays freshness and fine tannins. This is one of the estate’s classic wine and will, without a doubt, be ranked among the great successes of this vintage.



<b>Vineyards</b>	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. It's 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.
<b>Harvest</b>	Harvest September 26 to October 6
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The 2021 vintage wasn't an easy one for second wines, but this really delivers. The fact that St Estèphe received less rain at the end of September than further south in the Médoc seems to have helped the property gain a very homogenous maturity across the board. That shines through in this wine. It is sapid, but with intensity and a fine, spicy, charcoal edge. It captures the linear appeal of the appellation but without any weak points. As with the <i>grand vin</i> , at its own level, this is rather special. Drink 2024-2034.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	unknown
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2025-2040
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>90 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p><b>88-90 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2022</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"The 2021 La Dame de Montrose is a worthy counterpoint to the grand vin, shedding a touch of youthful reduction in the glass to reveal aromas of dark berries and plums mingled with exotic spices, orange zest and petals. Medium to full-bodied, suave, and sensual, it's layered and complete, with a lively, charming profile. This large estate overlooking the Gironde in Saint-Estèphe produces some of Bordeaux's greatest and longest-lived wines, and the last 15 or so years have seen it benefit from sustained investment. There's a brand-new winery and cellars, of course, but there's a lot of work going on in the vineyards too. When Olivier and Martin Bouygues acquired Château Montrose from the Charmolüe family in 2006, the estate included fully 17 hectares of pre-clonal vines dating back to the early 20th century, and a massale selection program has since identified 80 viable individuals, mainly Cabernet Sauvignon, for use when replanting (the same efforts are currently being lavished on Merlot, drawing on a block behind the château acquired from Phélan-Ségur). Now cover crops are being trialed, and the soils are being cultivated more superficially to avoid disrupting the microbiome. Winemaking is rather classical, with maturation in some 60% new oak. In 2021, the estate's first year in organic conversion, technical director Vincent Decup opted for three-week macerations and paid particular attention to the quality of press wine included in the blend."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Representing some 40% of the estate's production, the 2021 La Dame de Montrose offers up aromas of sweet berries, black truffle and burning embers, followed by a medium to full-bodied, seamless and elegant palate that's pure and precise. It's a fine effort that will likely take on additional depth with élevage."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p>

**Reviews** *"A fine and silky St.-Estèphe with medium body and supple, fine tannins. Fresh. Pretty blue and purple fruit with stone and some ash notes. Refined and elegant. 53% merlot, 38% cabernet sauvignon, 6% petit verdot and 3% cabernet franc."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Cocoa dusted blackberries and strawberries, you get that deep core, the baked fruit with aromatics touches - more herbal than the grand vin. Quite high-toned, verging on sharp with a real brightness and vivacity to the red cherry and strawberry fruit. Fruit forward, smooth and direct, with mouthwatering acidity to the fore. You salivate such a lot here - and then get the wet stone mineral notes cleansing the palate. Pierre Graffeuille replaces Hervé Berland here, having arrived in March and taking over fully in October. 3% Cabernet Franc completes the blend. Drinking Window 2024 – 2036."*

- GH, Decanter.com

*"One of the few truly successful 2nd wines in the vintage, this is inky in colour and even visually you can see it has a gorgeous texture. Clear graphite, pencil lead and blueberry notes set the tone on the palate. Cool vintage character, this is extremely elegant. There is a natural structure and power in Montrose soils, meaning the austerity of the vintage was on full display at harvest, and they chaptalized just four tanks of Merlot to add a little weight through the mid palate to this 2nd wine, but it also means there is less of a departure from the classic Montrose signature than you can find in other estates. Harvest September 26 to October 6, after less rain in September than the more southerly sections of the Médoc."*

- JA, janeanson.com

*"Espresso. flowers, spice, wet earth, and cocoa with a hint of pepper fill up the perfume. The medium-bodied palate is soft, sweet, and vibrant, with a refreshing hint of orange, and black pepper that adds to the chocolate-accented cherries in the finish. Enjoy this while waiting for the Grand Vin to develop. Drink from 2025-2037."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Tobacco leaf, currants, forest floor and cherries on the nose move you quickly to the medium-bodied, soft, fresh palate, finishing with all of its sweet, polished, red fruits with touches of peppery cherries in the finish. The wine is a blend of 53% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2023-2038."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The 2021 La Dame de Montrose, which represents 40% of the total production this year, has a perfumed bouquet with blackberry, raspberry coulis, and light graphite scents. It needs a little more encouragement than previous vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with a fresh, saline entry. Modest depth, quite open and citrus-fresh, this conveys a sense of joie-de-vivre even at this prenatal stage. Good "bite" on the finish. This should drink well for a decade, possibly more."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2021 La Dame de Montrose is a very serious second wine. Dark, pliant, and super-expressive, the 2021 possesses notable depth and class to burn. Dark red/black fruit, graphite, spice, new leather, and incense build as this deep, beautifully resonant Saint-Estèphe gains volume in the glass. This is impeccably done."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2021 La Dame de Montrose offers lovely immediacy in a plump, juicy style that will offer plenty of near and medium-term appeal. Technical Director Vincent Decup chose gentler extractions, which comes through in the wine's forward, supple personality. Press wines were blended back later to add structure. In 2021 La Dame is not terribly complex, but it is absolutely delicious."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The second wine of unquestionably one of the leaders in the Northern Médoc, the 2021 La Dame De Montrose is 53% Merlot, 38% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Petit Verdot. This juicy, medium-weight, elegant second wine shows the fresher style of the vintage, has good acidity, and supple tannins."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

**Reviews** *“Merlot behaves as Cabernet here’ according to H  l  ne Brochet, Communications Director at Montrose. This is a strong vintage for Montrose, and with no fewer than 62 parcels picked over 11 days, this is a labour-intensive patchwork all of its own. Firm and strict, with great tension and acidity, this wine needs time to blossom, but all of the ingredients are here for outstanding success. The Merlot plays a vital role here with plum and redcurrant notes, and yet the other varieties bring structure and gravitas to the finished wine. 17.5+.”*  
- Matthew Jukes

*“Dark ruby core, purple reflections, subtle brightening on the rim. Delicate floral aromas support black cherries and a hint of tangerine zest. Medium complexity, red berries, freshly structured with integrated tannins and a salty, elegant minerality on the finish.”*  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is fresh, elegant and reveals some discreetly restrained power, good definition, silkiness, depth and racy. There are notes of fresh blackcurrant, lily, fresh lilac and, to a lesser extent, clove, combined with hints of smoke, pulpy raspberry, discreet hints of vanilla and a fine touch of toasted almond. The palate is fruity, fresh, nicely conducted and reveals freshness, accuracy, precision, tension, a nice accuracy, freshness, a racy minerality. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fresh/juicy blackberry, fresh cherry and more slightly fresh/juicy wild currant combined with hints of saline minerality, sweet blond tobacco, nutmeg, a discreet hint of liquorice and a subtle touch of clove. The tannins are racy and finely mellow. Good length.”*  
- Vert de Vin

*“(translated) The Lady of Montrose reveals herself step by step. The bouquet, initially somewhat restrained, displays nuances of peppermint, licorice, and dark berries. The wine combines finesse and precision in the mouth. The tannins act behind the scenes, form a beautiful base, and offer dimension to the wine while the acid structure takes care of the freshness. A wine that will be of all beauty after breeding. The milestones have been set!”*  
- Yves Beck

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