

Château Montrose 2005

CSPC# 753650

750mlx12

13.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 3.5% Cabernet Franc, 0.5% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint Estèphe
General Info	Second growth classified in 1855. With its terroir of big gravels located by the river Gironde, its classic and powerful style, Montrose is often called the Latour of Saint Estèphe. Montrose needs time to express its incomparable delicacy. In the first decade, its fantastic potential is hidden behind a certain austerity. In the second decade, the wines open themselves. In the third decade, they explode, and the terroir expresses itself. In the hands of the family Charmolle from 1896 to 2006, it is now run by Martin and Olivier Bouygues.
Vintage	2005 was known as the year of drought. The water deficit was constant and alarming: by the harvest, the volume of rainfall was less than half the average quantity of the past 30 years. Once more, the clayed sub-soils of Montrose played an important role. On the other hand, the temperature was significantly good, particularly during the summer with a profitable alternation of hot days and cool nights, sign of a very good ripening of the grapes. 2005 impresses by its exceptional power, the amazing pure fruit, and the extraordinary engaging elegance without having the overwhelming charm of the 2003. Stylistically, very classical and very Bordeaux-like, without austerity.
Vineyards	At Chateau Montrose, the terroir's potential is optimised on the basis of a very simple winemaking philosophy, summarised by Jean Bernard Delmas as follows: "Wine is made in the vines and not in the winery". The Bordeaux vineyard of Chateau Montrose is planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot with vines that are on average 40 years of age. In 2010, Chateau Montrose purchased 22 hectares of Bordeaux wine vineyards from Phelan Ségur. The vines consisted of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. This purchase increased the land owned by Montrose from 67 hectares to 89 hectares.
Harvest	Period of harvest: September 23rd – October 9th
Vinification/ Maturation	The alcoholic fermentation take place in stainless steel vats and last about 20 days. Several pumping-over are done each day in order to speed up the thin layers / grape seeds/ and juice exchange. Before the malolactic fermentation, and as soon as the running off starts, samples of a same grape variety and identical quality are blended. 60 % of new french oak barrels, supplied by several carefully- selected coopers are used in Montrose, and 40 % in one-year old barrels. The average ageing period is 16 to 18 months.
Tasting Notes	Dense purple colour, almost black. Complex nose still shut delivering fragrances of black fruit, spices, chocolate. Long, full, powerful complex on the palate offering up intermixed aromas of morello, cocoa, liquorice, brown tobacco, and prune. Great wine. Full and very structured. Beautiful length with neat and straight tannins. Great ageing potential.
Production	25,555 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2015-2045
Scores/Awards	94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008 92-94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2006 95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008 94-96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007 92-94+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006 96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012 95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2011 93+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2009 95-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2006



Scores/Awards **93(+?) points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/Jun 2008
18.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2010
15.5 points/3 stars - Decanter Magazine - April 2008
19 points/5 stars - Decanter Magazine - April 2006
91 points/16.75 points - Jean Marc Quarin - September 2010
93 points - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - January 2012
18 points - Berry Bros. & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2008
Review Only - Mike Supple, JJBuckley Wines - April 2006
2 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2009
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)
18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"Black licorice and blackberry aromas, with hints of mineral, lead to a full-bodied palate. Very chewy, with loads of tannins, yet this follows through with beautifully ripe fruit, mineral and mint. Fascinating. Best after 2012. 25,555 cases made."*
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Raspberries, currants and spices on the nose. Full-bodied, with a very focused palate of fruit and fine tannins. Fresh finish. Long. Racy wine. Score range: 92-94."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"The 2005 Montrose is an exceptionally tannic, broodingly backward offering displaying a dense ruby/purple color along with a provocative perfume of crushed rocks, flowers, cassis, black raspberries, and blueberries. It continues to add weight and richness, good traits considering the substantial, forbiddingly high tannin levels and zesty acidity. If you are over the age of fifty, this backward, powerful wine will probably be more enjoyable to your descendants. Anticipated maturity: 2020-2040+."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"... 2005 Montrose exhibits huge tannin, powerful floral, blueberry, and cassis flavors, and more weight as well as richness than last year. While surprisingly high in alcohol (13.2%) for a Montrose, that component is nicely balanced by the high tannin and decent acidity. This blockbuster will need a decade or more of cellaring."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"The big news in Bordeaux is the potential sale (it had not been finalized at the time of publication) of Chateau Montrose. The 2005 Montrose does not quite measure up to the 2003, but it is a beautiful effort. it possesses an inky/blue/purple color in addition to a sweet, provocative nose of creme de cassis, crushed rocks, graphite, and subtle wood. Medium to full-bodied, elegant yet powerful, fresh, and nuanced, the acids are higher and the pH lower in 2005 than in 2002. The 2005 should be a long-lived classic, but patience will be required despite the relatively high alcohol (13.2%), which is counterbalanced by some of the highest tannins ever measured."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"This has a superb nose with redcurrant, cranberry, limestone, a hint of cedar and graphite all very finely tuned. Intense rather than powerful. The palate is medium-bodied with a chalky entry, good acidity and tension, a firm masculine structure typical of Montrose with a terse grippy finish, sous-bois lingering beautifully in the mouth."
- NM, Wine Journal

"The Montrose 2005 is a gem of a wine that gets better every time I come back to it. Here, it has a nose that is packed with blackberry, cedar, cigar box, dark plum and strawberry with wonderful definition. The palate is full-bodied and very harmonious, crisp acidity with a little more sous-bois than a year ago, leading to a structure, off-dry finish that suggests it will need another decade before it truly reaches its drinking window."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A bit of a bruiser at this early stage. It has a focused sweet ripe plum-scented nose with touches of cassis and strawberry - perhaps just a little overdone but pure. Then a dense, ripe palate; rounded texture; clean with good acidity and an attractive grainy texture. Certainly, very backward, but nicely poised towards the finish."
- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews *"A very focused nose with blackberry, cherry and raspberry - superb delineation and refinement. The nose adopts a wild strawberry note with aeration in the glass. The palate is very concentrated, quite toasty and more supple than usual. Very harmonious with blackberry and a touch of tobacco. Relatively feminine and approachable with a lovely fresh finish. Very long. Excellent. Tasted April 2006."*

- NM, Wine Journal

"Good bright ruby-red. Very ripe aromas of plum, flint and nutty oak. Large-scaled, rich and explosive, offering impressive volume and a sensation of power. The ripeness here verges on syrupy and this lush, round wine may well need a decade to lose some of its baby fat and assume its adult shape. The big, ripe tannins coat the teeth."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Dark and chewy and much sweeter and less rigorous than usual. Perhaps because the tannins are so exceptionally ripe. Deep and dense with very fine depth- more lift than the samples of Cos tasted, though perhaps not the sheer density and solidity. Very fine dry mouthful. Fine tannins. Quite sinewy. Very fine and the power is relatively well hidden. The infamous IPT (tannin index) was apparently even higher here than a Cos- though perhaps we don't want to get into competition in this respect. Drink 2017-30."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Huge colour and huge natural extraction of dense, clear Cabernet fruit, the real essence of Saint-Estephe from one of its greatest vineyards. Drink 2015-50."

- Decanter Magazine

"Savoury, berry nose and generous mouth-feel. Fruit closed and chewy tannins. Lots of promise and a big finish. Drink from 2011. Awarded 3 stars."

- Decanter Magazine

"The colour is slightly evolved, the nose quite shy. On the palate, the wine is pleasant, tight and without harshness but not terribly bouncy. The average length on finish is definitely below my expectations - given the year and my comments on the wine as a future. From 2015 and before 2035. When I tasted it at the château in April 2010, I only granted it a 16.5 // 90 score due to tannins I thought too sharp. The potential score has gone down since the wine was bottled - from 17.5 // 94 to 16.5 // 90. That particular vintage was the transition year between two owners, which could explain a lot."

- J-MQ

"Sweet, pure black cherry, blackberry and plum nose with some firm, spicy, tarry notes. The palate is ripe but has a grippy, gravelly structure. Firm but quite elegant with ripe expressive fruit. Still taut and a bit closed."

- JG, Wineanorak.com

"As big as ever, Montrose has made a real tour de force in 2005, although it is very much an iron fist in a velvet glove. It is a dense wine with enormous tannins, but the latter are cloaked by sweet, concentrated, ripe cassis and plum fruits. It is only on the incredibly long finish (a real feature of the 2005s) that they really reveal themselves, but even then, they are very fine. This is not just a brute though; it has great charm and grace. The 65% Cabernet Sauvignon really comes through and helps give the wine that wonderful earthy St Estèphe personality."

- Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

"65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 3.5% Cabernet Franc, and 0.5% Petit Verdot. Black/purple in color. Aromas of plum, raspberry, Bing cherry, sage, and violets. Very complex wine with a long aftertaste. Cassis and vanilla on the palate. The tannins are abundant and sharp, so be forewarned, this will need some time but will probably last for 50 years. Nevertheless, a great wine that merits your attention that appears to be one of the top wines in St Estèphe."

- MS, JJ Buckley Wines