

Château Montrose 2007

CSPC# 753650

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% 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	Apart from April being hot and dry, at the time the buds were opening, 2007 was notable for being warm and humid, with some rain, up until August. Autumn (September and October) was very dry and sunny, perfect for the ripening of the grapes. Again, this year, Montrose's unique terroir played its important part with both the soil and the microclimate. Also, the permanent breeze from the Gironde combined with aeration of the grapes by careful « effeuillage » (removal of part of the leaf canopy) and a moderate green harvest hindered the development of mildew and grey rot. Time spent in the vineyard was most important this year, but this work (green harvest, preventative measures, and treatments) was essential to ensure perfectly healthy vines. Thus, we followed the maturity of the grapes with great confidence and were able to make our selection from evenly ripened parcels, high in quality and maturity.
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 20th – October 11th
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 and profound colour. Complex nose delivering aromas of morello, blond tobacco and chocolate. Slightly wooded. Long and full on the palate with aromas of morello, raspberry, mocha. Supple and long finish on neat and coated tannins. Balanced and harmonious. The tasting was very homogeneous, soft and sil
Production	18,335 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2010-2025
Scores/Awards	88 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2010 87-90 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2008 91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188 - April 2010 89-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008 (no notes given) 90+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2011 91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2011 91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2008



Scores/Awards **88 points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July/Aug 2010
87-90 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/Jun 2008
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2010
16 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2011
16-17+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2008
18 points/4 stars - Decanter Magazine - April 2008
89 points/15.75-16 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2009
16 points - Farr Vintners - April 2008
16 points - Berry Bros. & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2008

Reviews *"Interesting aromas of blackberry and dried mushroom follow through to a full body, with chewy tannins and a slightly austere finish. Polished and stylish but needs some fruit midpalate to be outstanding. Best after 2012. 18,335 cases made"*
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Berry and citrus fruit on the nose and palate. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a soft-textured finish. Pleasant and fruity. Friendly and caressing. Just a touch hollow in the midpalate. Score range: 87-90"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"One of the stars of the vintage, the 2007 Montrose boasts a deep blue/purple color as well as a sweet bouquet of creme de cassis, crushed rocks, and spring flowers. Dense and opulent with silky tannins, a medium to full-bodied mouthfeel, a long finish, and no hard edges, this beauty should drink well for 15+ years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted blind at the 2007 Bordeaux horizontal in Southwold. The Montrose 2007 does not have the same complexity as its peers on the nose: quite subtle and demanding coaxing from the glass, eventually offering ripe blackberry, pomegranate and a touch of cedar. The palate is medium bodied with grainy tannins, quite cohesive but a little soft in texture towards the fleshy finish. Once it was revealed as Montrose, I must take into account that it rarely shows well in its youth and probably deserved more decanting, hence the plus sign."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the chateau after bottling, the Montrose 2007 has a fresh, lifted nose of stony black fruits, cold stones, nice and crisp, very focused with less 'leafiness' out of barrel. The palate is medium-bodied, fine tannins, well balanced and much more supple than I expected. Feminine and graceful, not a powerful Montrose of course, but dainty(!) and light on its feet, skipping across the palate on the finish. Tasted April 2010."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A limpid purple/garnet colour. I prefer this nose to the 2006 Montrose at en primeur last year. The fruit is clean, well-defined but tightly coiled. Unfurls nicely in the glass, some lovely ripe Cabernet Sauvignon here with a touch of tobacco. The Grand Vin displays a nice balance, good acidity, clean fruit, tight and perhaps rather linear. This is a Montrose not daring to take too many chances but succeeding in terms of creating a well poised, lighter wine that rather than being made to impress, is made to impart pleasure. Tasted April 2008."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Bright ruby-red. Currant, cherry, smoke, tobacco and camphor on the nose, with peppery and floral nuances emerging with air. Juicy, spicy and dry, with a silky texture to the red berry and spice flavors. Perhaps a tad undernourished but offers a subtle hint of sweetness and finishes with suave tannins and nice length."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Bright ruby-red. Subdued aromas of currant, licorice and tobacco leaf. Suave and sweet for St. Estephe, with a currant flavor complicated by olive, mocha, shoe polish, mint and a light saline nuance. Offers good volume and breadth for the year and expands nicely on the back end. Finishes with sweet, silky tannins, a light herbal element and decent cut."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

Reviews

"The most atypical Montrose I have ever tasted, but Jean-Bernard Delmas insists this is all part of the great update. 62% of the harvest went into the grand vin. Very dark purple. Light nose with some obvious Cabernet leafiness. Very soft tannins and then a little acidity and astringency on the finish. Lively fruit but terribly round and light. Unrecognizable from other more typical vintages of Montrose. Jean-Bernard Delmas is especially proud of the roundness of the tannins here there's everything you need and no excess. Certainly, no-one could accuse this wine of having an excess of anything it's almost a shadow! Drink 2012-18"
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"If you like green (and personally I'm definitely not allergic to it) then this is the wine for you. This has a firm green streak running through the aromatic profile, quite dominant in fact, with immediate suggestions of green peppercorn and smoked mint. The palate has a supple and quite nicely formed structure, with a fine seam of quite grainy tannins which are impressive for the vintage, perhaps becoming rather more coarse towards the middle, with much less prominent acidity than I was expecting after that impression on the nose. There is a perfumed red-fruit edge to it as well. Quite well integrated and elegant on the palate. There is some astringency here though. But overall, I would take it rather than leave it. From a 2007 Bordeaux tasting at four years of age. 16/20 (November 2011)"
- CK, The Wine Doctor

"... A dense hue, and on the nose little more than some smoky, brooding fruit. Very complete style on the palate, easy and approachable with some substance. The tannins are well covered, and there is some texture which is impressive for the vintage. It seems ripe, and impressive in terms of its dry structure. Fresh acids too. There is some potential here. From my 2007 Bordeaux en primeur assessment. 16-17+/20 (April 2008)"
- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Black-red, slightly smoky nose, very Cabernet and very fine concentration of ripe berry fruit, with fine terroir expression and masses of fruit in reserve to open up, backed by fine tannins. Drink 2015-25. 4 stars."
- Decanter Magazine

"Rated 89 in 2009-03 from barrel at the estate. Rated 89 in 2008-03 from barrel at the estate. After my disappointment regarding the 2006, (a vintage of transition, quite poorly mixing two very different ways of looking at things), the 2007 opens completely the new trend. Very intense color. Pure, fruity and a bit discreet nose, yet aromatic. Smooth, velvety, aromatic and caressing on the palate. To picture my thought, I would say that the wine is built more in a Saint-Julien style than a Saint-Estephe one. Good length without any square-shaped tannins."
- J-MQ

"Always powerful and backward, Montrose is one of the great traditional names of Bordeaux and is regarded as one of the finest terroirs of all Bordeaux - the Latour of St Estephe. Winemaking in the past has not exactly been "state of the art" and the property had a reputation of making truly great wine only when nature allowed (e.g. 1982, 1989, 1990, 2000 and 2003). Montrose has recently changed hands and the new owners know that they are buying a vineyard with the potential to regularly make one of Bordeaux's greatest wines. The legendary Jean-Bernard Delmas (formerly of Haut Brion) is now in charge of winemaking. ... Solid black colour. Fresh Cabernet, leafy blackcurrant, dried herbs, coffee and a hint of mint on the nose. Good sweet fruit on the palate showing blackcurrant, plum and dark chocolate intensity and finishing with earthy tobacco, spicy acidity and fine tannins. Medium length."
- Farr Vintners

"You don't make 40 vintages at Haut-Brion without picking up a thing or two along the way, so it's not overly surprising that Director Jean Bernard Delmas has made such a highly attractive, silky-textured 2007 Montrose bursting with potential. The sweet core of raspberry and blackberry fruit, ripe tannins and lively long finish make this a highly refined, complex wine while the high percentage of Merlot (30%) adds flesh and plummyess to the Cabernet Sauvignon (64%). This is not a Montrose powerhouse, but it is extremely well-integrated, very true to the vintage and will improve enormously as it matures. "
- Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants