

Château Montrose 2010

CSPC# 832570

750mlx6

13.75% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	53% Cabernet-Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint Estèphe
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.chateau-montrose.com/en/home/
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.
Winemaker	Vincent Decup – wine director
Vintage	2010 was particularly dry and relatively hot- climate data characteristics of great Bordeaux vintages (1929, 1945, 1947,1959,1961,1989, and 2009). From Spring to Fall, this climate imposed itself, allowing the berries to grow and reach perfect maturity. We thus waited to grape harvest with confidence and serenity, always benefitting from the homogenous single block vineyard of great quality. Perfect maturity and tannins of the grapes brought a balance between power and elegance, abundance and finesse. The tannins are silky and smooth with complex aromas, all qualities of a great Montrose wine.
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	September 27th – October 15th
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	The robe: black with ruby hues. Dense and deep. The nose: complex with notes of mocha, zan, blackcurrant, raspberry, and violet. The palate: blackcurrant, morello, redcurrant, and cocoa give to the palate a rich touch of mellowness. Long, ample and homogeneous wine. The after taste is neat, and the mid-palate complex and balanced. The soft tannins are neat and straight on a lingering finish. Splendid wine. Classic of Bordeaux, elegant and noble.
Serve with	Chateau Montrose is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Montrose is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese.
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2060
Scores/Awards	97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013 95-98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011 99 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - March 2020 99 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - March 2017



Scores/Awards

- 100 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #214 - August 2014
- 99 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013
- 96-99+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #214 - May 2011
- 97 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - November 2013
- 95-96 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011
- 96 points/Cellar Selection** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2013
- 95-97 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2011
- 94+? points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - August 2013
- 17.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2020
- 17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2001
- 95 points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - May 2019
- 18 points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011
- 98 points** - Decanter.com - April 2011
- 100 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018
- 97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2014
- 97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2013
- 95-96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2011
- 97 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)
- 94-97 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2011
- 94 points** - Stephen Tanzer, Vinous - July 2013
- 91 points** - Anthony Gismondi, Gismondionwine.com - April 2015

Reviews

"Rock solid, displaying a dense core of plum, steeped currant and braised fig fruit, with racy charcoal and ganache notes. Intensely chalky, offering flesh and refinement to match the bracing minerality, this shows hints of grilled savory, iron, warm paving stone and bitter orange on the riveting finish. Should age very slowly. Best from 2019 through 2038."
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Dense and dark, with a massive core of roasted fig, blackberry, espresso and bittersweet cocoa flavors followed by rapier tannins that drive through the finish. This has both richness and austerity. When it all comes together fully, this should be a superb wine. Score range: 95-98"
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Deep garnet colored, the 2010 Montrose opens with classic notions of warm blackcurrants, plum preserves, cedar chest and pencil shavings plus touches of menthol and underbrush. Full-bodied, concentrated and built like a brick house in the mouth, the densely packed, muscular black fruit is superbly supported by firm, ripe, grainy tannins, finishing with great length and depth."
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the Montrose vertical in London, the 2010 Montrose was the youngest vintage by some 115 years, but it is undeniably one of the best. It is a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot picked from 27 September until 15 October. Deep, almost opaque in color, it has a tightly wound, arresting nose of blackberry, bilberry, crushed violets and graphite all with quite brilliant delineation. The palate is medium rather than full-bodied, laden with plenty of fruit, grippy like many 2010s with a structured, masculine and tannic finish that wards you away for another 10-15 years. However, it is still possible to admire the purity and delineation of this long-term Montrose, a wine that comes with a compulsory cellaring. Patience will be handsomely rewarded. How long can you wait? Tasted June 2016."
 - NM, Wine Advocate

"This is considered to be among the greatest vintages ever made in Montrose, right up with the 1929, 1945, 1947, 1959, 1961, 1989, 1990 and 2009. Harvest was October 15 to 17. The wine has really come on since I last tasted it, and it needs at least another 10 years of cellaring. The blend was 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. The wine is opaque black/blue, with an incredible nose of blueberry and blackberry liqueur, with hints of incense, licorice, and acacia flowers. Tannins are incredibly sweet and very present. The wine is full-bodied, even massive, with great purity, depth and a finish that goes on close to a minute. This is a 50- to 75-year-old wine that will repay handsomely those with good aging genes. (Note: The Chateau Montrose website gives an aging potential of 2020-2100.)"
 - RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews

"The 2010 Montrose is a fabulous wine, and I was leaning toward giving it a three-digit score, which it may ultimately merit after it resolves some of its very sweet tannin. It is not as soft or flamboyant as the 2009, but it is a great classic, coming in at 13.9% natural alcohol. Representing 64% of the total production, the final blend is 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot (which is one percent different than the barrel sample blends that were presented). Inky bluish/purple in color, with classic blueberry, black currant, crushed rock and floral notes, hints of graphite, and lots of wild mountain berry fruit, this wine is extravagantly rich, has very sweet but noticeable tannin, laser-like precision, a massive, full-bodied mouthfeel and a finish of close to 50+ seconds. This remarkable wine will probably tighten up somewhat in the bottle and need most of a decade to shed some tannin and its rather grapy, primary personality. The finish blew me away, and the overall power, richness and balance of this wine are virtually perfect. Look for it to drink well for half a century or more. Although Jean Delmas remains a consultant at Montrose, he has yielded his primary responsibilities over to a younger staff, but he still believes the 2010 Montrose is one of the all-time great wines ever produced at this estate, equaling or exceeding the quality of the 1929, 1945, 1959, 1961, 1989, 1990 or 2009."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Jean Delmas believes this is one of the all-time great wines of Montrose, comparable to the 2009, 1990, 1989, 1959, 1947, 1945 and 1929. The 2010 harvest took place between September 27 and October 15, and the final blend is 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot that achieved 13.75% natural alcohol, a fraction above the 2009's 13.7%. Somewhat reminiscent of the 1989, only even inzier and richer, the 2010 boasts a dense purple color along with glorious aromatics of blueberries, boysenberries, black currants and a crushed chalk-like minerality. The tannins are less intrusive than I would have suspected for such a young Montrose, but they are unquestionably ripe and well-integrated. Deep, full-bodied and massive, this beauty should be at its finest between 2018-2050."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"A perfumed and pure Montrose, with lots of currants, berries and spices that evolve to chocolate and light coffee. Full body, with super racy tannins and bright and clean finish. Very fine and structured. A balance and freshness to it all as well as beautiful form and tension."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is really integrated and polished, with a full body and super layers of cashmere-like tannins. Goes on and on. 53 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 37 percent Merlot, 9 percent Cabernet Franc and 1 percent Petit Verdot"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is such an elegant wine that has all the structure of the vintage. Surrounding the tannins, the wine is sweet and ripe, with smokiness from the wood. It's powerful, elegant and sophisticated with a strong sense of poise. The tannins promise long-term aging."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"95-97 Such a powerful wine, although with rounded flavors, very ripe in character. The wine has chocolate and dark coffee flavors to go with the juicy fruit. The acidity gives just the right balance"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright, deep ruby-red. Super ripe, deep aromas of black raspberry, cassis, plum, minerals, licorice and bitter chocolate. Densely packed, elegant and classically dry, with creamy depth of dark fruit and mineral flavors given definition and cut by terrific vinosity. This compellingly pure, extract-rich wine showed increasing energy as it opened in the glass. Finishes with big, dusty tannins and outstanding length and perfume. A great vintage for Montrose, in a modern style. Following the first couple vintages made under the direction of Jean Delmas, the '09 and '10 have shown considerably more stuffing. I would not be at all surprised if my score proved to be overly conservative. 94 (+?) points"

- ST, International Wine Cellar

Reviews

"Deep inky crimson colour. Fine, not that concentrated but very much of the commune. A pure expression. Stony and inky on the end but with good honest fruit too. Dramatic and admirable. 14%. Drink 2020 – 2045"
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"53% Cabernet Sauvignon (75% last year! And expected to increase), 37% Merlot, 9% Malbec, 1% Petit Verdot. 64% of total production and remarkable for the unusually high proportion of Merlot in the grand vin blend - because of the purchase of vineyard from Phelan Ségur last year (did this help the Phelan purchase of restaurant Taillevent in Paris?) Very deep crimson. Quite different from most of these northern Médoc wines - much rounder and less fresh (presumably because of the Merlot). Very different from classical austere Montrose's but soft and charming. As a wine, it is extremely well made with just a little furriness on the finish. As a Montrose it's a bit disconcerting but my mark ignores this. Rather unusual lack of freshness. Just a bit plodding, astringent and sweet on the end. 13.8%"
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"And on to the tighter, more intellectual vintage of the two sparring partners of 2009 and 2010. You can feel the quality, the intensity, the more cerebral aspect of 2010 where the tannins are matched step for step by acidity and fruit. A wonderful wine, it will run and run and even now it floats somewhere on your palate, keeping itself hidden from view. If you want to understand why acidity can be a good thing, get to know Montrose 2010. There is an abundance of autumnal black fruit, certainly, even touches of bitter dark chocolate and dark pepper spicing, but this is going to unfurl at its own pace."
- Decanter Magazine

"This structured wine is like a mirror-image of 2009, cerebral rather than super sensual, with tannins balanced by dark black fruit and racy acidity. The year was very dry and hot, with characteristics of great Bordeaux vintages."
- Decanter Magazine

"I certainly dropped the ball on this wine in its youth. But I get it now. Holy Cow! The wine is black, almost opaque in color. There is so much concentration, you can almost eat it with a spoon. The wine is powerful, yet clearly refined. It's dense, intense, full bodied and rich, simultaneously remaining in perfect balance and harmony. With mouth coating levels of intensity, the finish must last 60 seconds. Not as flashy or fleshy as the opulent 2009, yet it's at the same level of quality in a different style."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"From a blend of 53% Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, the wine is inky color. With a nose of smoky tobacco leaves, cassis, blackberry, cocoa, the wine has no trouble establishing its presence. Big, rich, packed with fruit, ripe tannins, freshness and the structure to age for decades, this demands time and is going to be well worth the long wait!"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Inky in color, this is shutting down quickly. Incense, cedar, cassis, creamy vanilla and a minor hint of licorice come forth, after intense swirling. Concentrated, rich, full bodied and deep, the wine is packed with sweet, ripe, dense, black fruits that remain and continue to expand on your palate for at least 40 seconds. Clearly this is one of the great vintages of Montrose. But only patient consumers should consider buying this wine. It could take 20 years to develop and come around."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Montrose - From a blend of 53% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and a smidgen of Petit Verdot, this represents 64% of the production. Opaque in color, with a nose of coffee, blackberry liqueur, cassis and spice, this is a powerful, dense, massive, tannic wine. Firm and structured, the wine paints your palate with a wall of fruit, tannin and acidity. This big wine will require decades to develop."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The very classy 2010 Montrose is a deep ruby purple, offering up notes of ripe blackberries, plums, blackberries, cedar and tobacco, supported by a seductive array of blackberry, tobacco and tealeaf flavours, and lovely full ripe tannins that are fine and seamless. Another fabulous vintage for Montrose, this is a more classic and restrained style compared with the 2009."
- JCL, asianpalate.com

Reviews *“Bright, deep ruby-red. Super ripe, deep aromas of black raspberry, cassis, plum, minerals, licorice and bitter chocolate. Densely packed, elegant and classically dry, with creamy depth of dark fruit and mineral flavors given definition and cut by terrific vinosity. This compellingly pure, extract-rich wine showed increasing energy as it opened in the glass. Finishes with big, dusty tannins and outstanding length and perfume. A great vintage for Montrose, in a modern style. Following the first couple vintages made under the direction of Jean Delmas, the '09 and '10 have shown considerably more stuffing. I would not be at all surprised if my score proved to be overly conservative. (ST) 94+ points”*
- ST, Vinous

“The Montrose is wound tight despite a well-balanced 53/37/9/1 mix of cabernet sauvignon, merlot, cabernet franc and petit verdot but in the end was more old school than exciting. Expected to be one of the greatest Montrose it was not showing that well on the day. It’s a very good wine but licorice, leather and resin is dominating the fruit at the moment and the tannins of St. Estèphe were pushing hard through the back end. There’s more merlot than ever in the blend but this wine like most preceding vintages needs two decade in the bottle before its ultimate potential can be assessed. Wolf Blass Master Blend Classification Tasting Vancouver 2015.”
- AG, GismondionWine.com
