

# Château Montrose 2012

CSPC# 753650

750mlx12

13.2% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Estèphe
<b>Classification</b>	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.chateau-montrose.com/en/home/">http://www.chateau-montrose.com/en/home/</a>
<b>General Info</b>	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.
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>The winter of 2011-2012 saw a severe lack of rainfall and ended with mild weather with the first buds already on the vines. This mildness did not last long, and temperatures were cool in the Bordeaux region from April onwards. It was far too early to be making any predictions, but this changeable spring weather had the effect of slowing down growth and causing an uneven bud break. The start of flowering was late. From mid-July, there was a dramatic change in the weather. As the old saying goes, <i>c'est août qui fait le moût</i> ("August makes the must")!</p> <p>August 2012 will be remembered as being the hottest August since 2003, and also as being drier than the summer of 2010. Temperatures were particularly high during the second half of August.</p> <p>We observed that despite a wet spring, there was a marked shortage of rain during the summer. The water stress during the summer of 2012 was accompanied by a substantial variation between day and night temperatures (around 13° between 15 August and 15 September), without excessively high temperatures when the grapes were ripening.</p> <p>To some extent this was reminiscent of 2010. These conditions were very favourable for the synthesis of anthocyanins and the preservation of aromatic freshness. They also enabled the vines to do some catching up after the late flowering.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	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.
<b>Harvest</b>	Cabernet Sauvignon harvested between October 13 and 20, Merlot, Cab Franc & petit Verdot picked during the third week of September.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	There's a deep dark tannic structure filled with minerals and fruit and building tannins. Black cherry, damson, a real sense of thick skins with fine ripe tannins. Hervé Berland says the skins were thick on the Merlot too, remarking that for him it is between the 2008 and 2010, but not as massive or as dry as the 2010 - more fleshy.
<b>Production</b>	18,333 cases made



**Cellaring  
Scores/Awards**

Drink 2022-2048

- 92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015
- 90-93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013
- 92+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015
- 92-94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013
- 90-92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013
- 94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015
- 93-94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013
- 95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2015
- 94-96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2013
- 89-91 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2013
- 17.5+ points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013
- 18.25 points** - Steven Spurrier, Decanter Magazine - April 2013
- 95 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2013
- 95 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
- 93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 15, 2015
- 91-93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 23, 2013
- 88-90 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013
- 17 points** - Farr Vintner - March 2013
- 92-95 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - May 2013
- 90 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013
- 16.5 points** - Mark Pardoe, Berry Bros. & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2013
- 93-95 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
- 17 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
- 16.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)
- 17 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

**Reviews**

*"Features lively and pure blackberry, fig and plum fruit, lined with enticing singed mesquite, bramble and tar accents. The muscular, tarry finish shows a twinge of austere chalkiness, but there's ample flesh for balance. Best from 2017 through 2025. 18,333 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Delivers a solid core of black cherry and tobacco leaf, with a briary backdrop on the finish. A bit chewy overall, but this maintains good intensity and a mouthwatering chalky edge. Backward, displaying fine length. Score range: 90-93"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"The 2012 Montrose (57% Cabernet Sauvignon and 37% Merlot), is rich, broad, and dense ruby/purple, with substantial tannins still to shed. It is a rather masculine, medium to full-bodied Montrose, with cassis, crushed rock and spice. This wine will need bottle age because of the tannin profile, should hit its prime in another 7-8 years, and last for another 20-25. This is another wine with the alcohol pushing an impressive 14% and a finished pH of 3.7 – two characteristics of a very ripe, high-quality vintage."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The inky/purple-colored 2012 offers up scents of white chocolate, creme de cassis, acacia flowers, crushed rocks and forest floor. The tannins are surprisingly soft as the pH is about 3.7, which is slightly higher than the 2010's 3.6. This dense, full-bodied wine is still somewhat monolithic, but it is loaded with concentration and power as well as a long finish. While not totally formed, all the component parts are present. The 2012 will not match the level of the 2009 and 2010, but it should stand out as one of the highlights of 2012. Only 52% of the production made it into the 2012 Montrose, a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon (harvested between October 13 and 20), 37% Merlot (picked during the third week of September) and a tiny amount of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. The pH was 3.7 and I suspect the alcohol level pushes 14%. It is one of the top successes of the vintage. As new administrator Herve Berland indicated, the severe six-week drought caused the Cabernet skins to become very thick, thus resisting the huge rainfall that fell between October 7 and 9. The late harvest dates suggest very ripe Cabernet Sauvignon, which appears to be exactly what has occurred."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

## Reviews

*"Tasted as a barrel sample at the chateau. The Grand Vin, representing 53% of production, is a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. It is being matured in 60% new oak. The nose offers plenty of fruit, perhaps even more than Cos d'Estournel with ebullient dark cherries, dark chocolate and black plum scents, although at this stage it does not have the complexity of a top Montrose. The palate is medium-bodied with fleshy ripe tannins that are obviously fully ripe. It is not a complex Montrose, perhaps just a little one-dimensional compared to others. But there is certainly good volume, soft in the mouth (some prudent pumping over here in the winery) with plenty of primal black fruit to enjoy on the finish. It will probably constitute a more approachable Montrose, but it is well made. Tasted April 2013."*

- NM, Wine Journal

*"Fascinating aromas of blackberries with cacao and buttery notes. This is a full-bodied red combining well-rounded tannins, lovely acidity and a mouth-watering finish. Yet turns firm and powerful. Drink in 2020. "*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This shows a lovely finish with ultra-fine tannins and pretty fruit. Refined and long. Plenty of ripe and clean fruit. Tangy and fresh. Shows careful viticulture and winemaking. "*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Produced in the magnificent new cellars at Montrose, this big, tannic wine is powerful and concentrated. It has something of the classic severity of a wine from this estate, but that's mitigated by the ripe, generous blackberry fruitiness and the final freshness of a 2012. A great success, to drink from 2022."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"94-96. Barrel sample. This is a big, powerful, fruity wine that has restraint from its dense tannins. It's foursquare, chunky in character, already balanced, the tannins merging with the acidity. There is great aging potential. "*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Deep ruby-red. Floral, mineral nose hints at fresh blackcurrant, but this sample seems tight and closed down currently. On the palate, somewhat strict and linear flavors of blackcurrant and wet stone are lifted by a repeating note of violet. The finish is long and clean but could use more flesh. This classic Bordeaux reminded me of a wine made in the 1970s, but it's easier to drink and less green. Picking took place as late as October 13 for the cabernet sauvignon in the estate's effort to find the ripest possible grapes. About 52% of the estate's total production went into the grand vin, similar to the percentage at Cos but much higher than at Calon-Segur."*

- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"Bright deep crimson. Exciting, 'pointed', rather sharply etched impact on the nose. Almost shrill but with great density and definition. Very vibrato! A long-distance runner like Cos d'Estournel."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Superb colour, wonderful expression of graphite, almost Pauillac Cabernet Sauvignon fruit, terrific density yet almost satiny texture, very good structure and Latour-like depth, a great classic that needs time."*

- SS, Decanter Magazine

*"This is not as rich and powerful as the celebrated 2010, nor is it quite as good as the 2011 in my view, but it is still a firm, thick-skinned red with impressive concentration. The wine certainly needs time in the barrel and bottle to come together, but the component parts are all there: black fruits, firmish tannins, subtle oak and a lift of refreshing acidity. A classic Montrose. Drink: 2022-40"*

- TA, timatkin.com

*"Earth, cedar wood, lead pencil, black licorice, cassis and blackberry open the nose. On the palate, the wine is polished, the tannins are soft, but the concentration and complexity found in the top vintages is not available. The wine is also shutting down and needs to be cellared, like any good vintage of Montrose for at least 8-10 years."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

**Reviews**

*"From a blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, the wine sported deep colors. Earth, coffee, stone and blackberry notes require effort to find. Cassis and black fruits share the stage with minerality and a tannic backbone. With time, this should come together nicely. 91-93 Pts"*  
- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*"Deep and dense looking; very dark and saturated; tight to the edge; vibrant meniscus; strong nose; full and deep; feels pretty profound for 2012; great depth; little new oak resin at the back; dense; big structure and lots of material here; chew and real density; somewhat taken aback at the lashings of fruit and material; lots of chew and density; and lots of length. Pretty big wine. Real success. Seems late picked Cabernet has triumphed here. 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. 13.2% alc. 53% of production. Tasted at Chateau Montrose Monday April 8, 2013. 94-96 drink 2020-2040"*  
- JW, [winewordsandvideotape.com](http://winewordsandvideotape.com)

*"This great second growth vineyard is majestically situated overlooking the estuary in the Southern section of St Estephe. Recently purchased and re-energized, Montrose is now on top form. Only 53% of the crop will be used for the Grand Vin. For Montrose the percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon is quite low at 57%. There is also 37% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Nevertheless this has a black colour and impressive density of cassis fruit. The palate is full bodied and mouth-coating with big bold tannins at the finish. This will need some time, as is traditional with this great Chateau."*  
- Farr Vintners

*"Black fruits dominate the nose rich deep brooding with the mix of black cherry and sloe packing out the palate. Ripe black plum gives flesh in the middle a lovely suppleness with the fleshy ripe fruit underpinned by fresh bilberry. 2020-35"*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*"Great density and depth in this serious Montrose made from small berries. There is 37% Merlot in this vintage, about 3% more than average. The wine has good structure, plushness and density with lovely tannin profile and long finish. A successful wine for Montrose with potential to age and evolve over the next 20 years. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (06-Apr-2013)"*  
- JCL, [asianpalate.com](http://asianpalate.com)

*"In 2010, Ch. Montrose purchased 22ha of prime land from their neighbours, Ch. Phélan-Ségur. The vineyard exactly borders Montrose on its western side and is planted with 2/3 Merlot and 1/3 Cabernet Sauvignon. According to who you speak with, this may be Phélan's best parcel and the Merlot is especially prized. This has given the Montrose team a short-term puzzle, resulting in a higher than usual proportion of Merlot in the blend for the Grand Vin. This will be adjusted over the coming years as existing Montrose Merlot on excellent Cabernet land near the river is replanted to the latter, but in the meantime there is an embarrassment of fine Merlot on the estate. Not that this is a problem: in 2012 the Merlot excelled. This wine, with 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, is dense and spicy, with the very low-yielding Cabernet fully ripe and giving an earnest backbone to some high quality Merlot. This is perhaps not a traditional Montrose, but it is certainly a beguiling one"*  
- MP, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

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