

Château Montrose 2017

CSPC# 801720

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 3% 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	Nicholas Glumineau
Vintage	There was hardly any frost at Château Montrose this year, because of the vineyard's proximity to the estuary. Harvest took place from September 12 to September 29. These final blends were finished in January. "We've been working towards more precision, in the vineyards and with the blending," communications manager Hélène Brochet commented. "It was a shorter maceration this year with softer extraction. This vintage we were able to put what we wanted in the wines, using 82 different blending components. Now we have smaller vats and more of them to be able to separate and create more blending material for a more complex 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 12 to September 29.
Vinification/ Maturation	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. Matured for 18 months in 60% new oak barrels, the premium wine accounts on average for 55% of the estate's total production.
Tasting Notes	The result of rigorous selection at each stage of production, in both the vineyard and the winery, this great, predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon wine is typical of the Saint-Estèphe appellation. Structured and tannic but with all the elegance and refinement of a Grand Cru Classé, with time it develops a delicate and complex bouquet.
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.
Production	Approx. 15000 cases annually
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2038
Scores/Awards	94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020 91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018 98 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020 96-99 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018 97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020 96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018 95 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020 94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018 16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2018



Scores/Awards **17.5 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018
96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018
98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018
91-93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018
16.5 points - Farr Vintner - April 2018
92-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018
95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020
94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018
95+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020
92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018
95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020
93-95+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018 (score only)
18+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018

Reviews *"This is well-built for the vintage, featuring a core of red and black currant fruit that is pure and focused, supported by a racy iron spine. Exhibits ample length, with bay leaf, lilac and warm stone notes peeking through on the finish. Should develop nicely in the cellar. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2022 through 2038"*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This has nice breadth, with cherry and cassis notes moving through atop light tobacco and warm earth flavors. Very bright savory and iron elements add lift and cut through the finish. Tight, but everything is in place."
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Composed of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and a 1% splash of Petit Verdot, the 2017 Montrose wine was run off into 60% new and 40% one-year old barrels where it was aged for 18 months. The grand vin represented 37% of the estate's total production. Deep garnet-purple in color, the nose takes some time to unfurl before revealing an impressively flamboyant core of black cherry preserves, warm cassis and baked plums with hints of red currant jelly, dark chocolate, licorice, cardamom and chargrill plus a gentle waft of candied violets. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has fantastic intensity with a very elegant, modest weight, featuring super-ripe, finely grained tannins and tons of freshness to lift and show-off a stunning array of gorgeous black fruit and fragrant sparks, finishing very long and refined. This is an incredibly classy, poised and sophisticated Montrose! Drink: 2022-2060"
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2017 Montrose is a blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Deep purple-black in color, the nose is a little closed at first, but with coaxing, it opens to reveal remarkable earth and exotic spice notes of crushed rocks, black truffles, star anise, cassia and fenugreek over a core of crème de cassis, blackberry preserves, violets and blueberry pie with touches of cigar box, charcuterie and black soil. Medium-bodied with a rock-solid frame and an exquisitely ripe, very fine-grained texture, it has wonderful freshness with electric energy and a very long, minerally finish. Possessing great poise and intensity, this is one of the greatest Montrose's I have tasted!"
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Extremely aromatic with currant, wild-herb and fresh-violet aromas. This is regal cabernet sauvignon at its finest. The palate has unwaveringly long and defined tannins that carry such fresh, piercingly pure, redcurrant and cassis flavors. A twin to the superb 2015?"
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is pure and tight with gorgeous cabernet sauvignon character of blackcurrants, blueberries and crushed stones. Full-bodied, yet compacted and polished. It shows a long and beautiful tannin texture at the end. Just rolls off the palate."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A well-structured wine, this is rich in tannins and in density. The tannins show firmness, a dry edge that runs with the black-currant fruits to give a wine that will be well balanced and serious. Drink 2024.onward"
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *“This wine is powered by its tannins, creating a concentrated texture, dry at the core and solid. It is a serious, complex wine that is likely to develop slowly. Weighty & dense, it is impressive and intensely rich at the end.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Good, deep crimson. High-toned nose with lots of life but not aiming for concentration. Still pretty inky without a real middle of flesh. Does a good job of the framework but it needs to take on quite a bit of flesh to be a really alluring prospect. Competent rather than thrilling. Though I appreciate the transparency. Bone-dry, stony St-Estèphe finish. Drink 2027-2040”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Deep crimson. Sober but intense black fruit. On the palate, elegant and attractive dusty character, incredibly fine tannins, so supple, refined, juicy and long. Not opulent but not at all dry. Should have a long drinking window. Drink 2025-2045”
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“This has more Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend this year, the highest level since 2006, because the Merlot didn't quite make it through the September rains unscathed. The wine is correspondingly powerful with a robust accompanying acidity that promises a long life. The fruit character is savoury, succulent and extremely persistent, with fleshy blackberry alongside touches of redcurrant and a pulsating freshness that keeps on coming. Harvested 12-29 September with twelve days spent actually picking, compared to sixteen days over the last few years, with more hands-on deck. They have never been affected by frost, as far as they can remember, and 2017 was no exception. The wind is always such a benefit here. A normal yield of 45hl/ha, 37% of which was for the grand vin. 60% new oak. Drinking Window 2025 – 2040”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Deep and shiny in color, tobacco leaf, cedar wood, pencil shavings and dark fruits appear with no effort at all. Full bodied, lively, vibrant and juicy fruits, this wine is long and intrepid with a strong tannic backbone. The tannins are perfectly polished and there is an established purity of fruit and a structure to age for decades. Like all the top vintages of Montrose, you will need to allow it time in the cellar, at least 10 to 15 years, which in the world of Montrose is almost forward. The wine was made from blending 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, reaching 13.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.65. The Grand Vin was made from 37% of the harvest, which took place September 12 to September 29.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Inky purple black colour. Lots of warm oak mocha scents. Powerful black fruit. Some thyme and garrigue-like complexity. Excellent acid balance, and powerful tannic structure, good fruit extraction, classic in an elegant style. Just a tiny bit green and leafy on the mid-palate. Tannic finish.
Barrel Sample: 91-93”
- TA, timatkin.com

“There was no frost here next to the estuary. They feel that it's a strong vintage for their Cabernet and the wine is made from 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Much of the Merlot was put in the second label - Dame de Montrose. Deep ruby-purple in colour with an inky, graphite and blackcurrant fruit nose, layers with notes of espresso and star anise. The palate is intense and brooding, with elegant ripeness from fresh acidity that restrains the riper cassis and bramble notes on the palate. The tannins are plentiful, chalky and chewy. This structure, typical of Montrose, will provide great ageability, and the lingering black fruits on the finish assure this potential. Complexity comes from creamy vanilla and exotic nutmeg and clove on the finish from powerful, but well-managed oak.”
- Farr Vintners

“Concentrated flavours rich black fruits the nose has depth the palate brooding black fruited power. There is balance the rich mix underpinned by bilberry, but it fills out at the back with generosity dark chocolate richness. 2026-41”
- Derek Smedley MW

Reviews

“The 2017 Montrose was so impressive from barrel and now, bottled since July, it continues to put in a strong case for being one of the best Left Bank wines. It has a very pure and intoxicating bouquet with intense blackberry, light cassis, juniper and violet aromas, almost Margaux-like in terms of personality. Although there is a patina of new oak after bottling, it is in sync with the fruit. The palate is medium bodied with gentle grip on the entry. Tightly wound at the moment but supremely well focused, this is a classic Montrose, “cool” and reserved, demonstrating impressive tension and precision towards the finish. It will require less time in bottle than the 2016 for example, so broach this superb Saint-Estèphe after five or six years and then it will give 25 to 30 years of drinking pleasure, and knowing Montrose, probably longer. Tasted twice with consistent notes. Drink 2024-2050.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2017 Montrose represents 37% of the total production this year and it was cropped at around 45hl/ha. It has a little more volume and intensity compared to the Cos d’Estournel that was tasted immediately prior to my visit. Blackberry, raspberry, cedar and pressed flowers bloom in the glass, though there is a noticeable change with aeration after 20 minutes – hints of juniper and bay leaf, rendering a more nuanced and complex array of aromatics. The palate is medium bodied with edgy tannin and it feels a little chalky in the mouth, yet also tensile and certainly extremely focused. There is already a palpable sense of energy in situ, well-structured and vivid, though not as complex or as nuanced as the 2016 Montrose on the finish since the growing season forbade that. I appreciate the pastille-like purity on the aftertaste and the potent tang of cracked black pepper and graphite that hang around for 45 seconds after the wine has departed. It is a fine, very classic Montrose and I suspect more approachable than those of yesteryear. Tasted twice at the château. Drink 2022 - 2045.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2017 Montrose is a very pretty, polished wine that speaks much more to finesse than power. Expressive floral and spices notes add an attractive inner sweetness to a Montrose that in 2017 leans more into the red fruit spectrum. Gracious yet deep, with terrific overall balance, the 2017 Montrose is a total winner. What impresses most about the 2017 is its freshness and sophistication. I won't be surprised if Montrose turns out to be even better than this note suggests further down the road. Graphite, licorice, menthol and sage lead to a finish with real grip and freshness. The 2017 is such a classy and promising wine. Drink 2025-2047”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2017 Montrose is wonderfully polished and nuanced. Silky tannins and mid-weight structure confer finesse to a Montrose that possesses superb harmony from start to finish. All the elements fall into place effortlessly. Because of the late season rains, Montrose has more Cabernet Sauvignon than is typically the case. The winemaking team opted for a large number of smaller-lot vinifications (82 instead of 50-ish, to be exact), in order to optimize picks according to ripeness. Although alcohol alone can never tell the whole story of a wine, at 13.5% alcohol, Montrose has a very attractive freshness to it. The Grand Vin represents about 37% of the chateau's production. The 2017 is all class.”

- AG, Vinous

“Tasted on two separate occasions, the 2017 Chateau Montrose is a brilliant effort based on 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot. This full-bodied, beautifully concentrated Saint-Estate offers classic Cabernet Sauvignon notes of creme de cassis, blueberries, crushed violets, and ample tobacco, with some underlying damp earth and spice notes developing with time in the glass. Balanced and beautifully textured on the palate, with both good acidity and building tannins, it reminds me of the 2012 with its classic style yet still has plenty of texture and ripe tannins. Give bottles 4-5 years of bottle age and enjoy over the following 30 years or more.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Very commanding and linear on the nose, this is a focused and direct wine with masses of intent, and it takes no prisoners on the nose and palate. There is a chiseled feel to Montrose with enormous length and determination and no trace of fat or glycerol to be found on its lean, taut frame. It is interesting to see here what happens when there is no disease pressure, no particular hydric stress and also a dry and temperate summer. The organic viticulture at this Château allows the soils to express themselves fully through the vines and so this is perhaps one of the most ‘naked’ and unadorned Montrose vintages in a long time. It will mature slowly and always retain a degree of drama and minerality, reflecting its elevated position in Saint-Estèphe.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
