

# Château Montrose 2018

CSPC# 801720

750mlx6

14.7% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 2% 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>Winemaker</b>	Nicholas Glumineau
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>« Nature can give you everything, just as it can take it all back and surprise you at the end... »</p> <p>2018 marks an important step in the conversion of our vineyard to sustainable viticulture. The weather conditions resulted in strong pressure from parasites, requiring extreme vigilance. Vineyard management was complex, therefore, but the direction of our environmental approach was firmly maintained. The fine weather and the heat at the end of summer, comparable to 2009, made the vintage, which expressed incredible potential in the cellar.</p> <p>The year started with a very rainy winter. Spring was wet and warm and bud burst came late. Early flowering came just before some rainstorms in early June, leading to slight problems with poor fruit set. The very strong pressure from mildew did not distract us from our move towards sustainable viticulture and we accepted the prospect of a significant drop in yields.</p> <p>The hot and dry summer was marked by strong water stress as from the end of July. These weather conditions tended to limit berry growth but strongly increased their concentration.</p> <p>The first tastings show the signs of a very great vintage, a subtle combination of the fruity aromatic profile of the 2009 and the precision of the 2016.</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>	Harvested 17 Sept to 5 Oct. Harvest took place under perfect conditions. In the cellar, given the small size of the grapes (20% below average) the ratio of skins to juice was definitely in favour of skins. The first extractions more carefully controlled than ever, quickly yielded very concentrated juices of exceptional richness. Our meticulous work on the press wine continued: 6 very high-quality batches supplemented the 61 batches of free-run and enriched the base for our blends.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The colour is dark, a deep and intense ruby colour with incredible density. The nose is delicate and very complex. With aeration, the nose reveals aromas of black fruit and white flowers accompanied by subtle smoky notes. On the palate, the attack is full with exceptional aromatic richness. Powerful and silky, it offers incredible length and finesse. A classy, elegant, and very precise wine that perfectly reflects the signature of our terroir.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	Approx. 15000 cases annually
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2028 – 2042
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2021</p> <p><b>98+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p><b>98-99 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>97 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2021</p> <p><b>96-98 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019</p> <p><b>18+ points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p><b>95-98 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p><b>97-99 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p><b>19+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>19 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>“Dark and winey, with a well-built core laden with cassis and dark plum puree while flashes of anise, lilac and charcoal fill in throughout. Finish has hints of chestnut and warm earth for a burly edge, but there's ample fruit for balance. Plenty grippy in the end too; cellaring required.”</i></p> <p><i>“- JM, Wine Spectator</i></p> <p><i>“The 2018 Montrose is a blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Very deep garnet-purple in color, it needs a good amount of air to unlock the vibrant scents of crushed blackberries, preserved plums and cassis with suggestions of star anise, cedar chest, underbrush, Indian spices and iron ore, plus an emerging waft of violets. The full-bodied palate features the most exquisitely ripe tannins, offering a rock-solid backbone with tons of freshness lifting the taut, muscular fruit, finishing long and mineral laced. Going back to this wine over a period of hours and then days further reveals a Montrose of great opulence, richness and depth. Incidentally, the IPT level this year is 82, which indicates a very high level of tannins, and yet they are so, so ripe. The alcohol is around 14.5%. But sit back, close your eyes and forget the numbers—this is pure hedonism in its youth with a fantastic 40+ years of cellaring ahead of it, during the course of which do not be at all surprised if you are blown away by a three-digit experience. (LPB) 98+.”</i></p> <p><i>- LPB, Wine Advocate</i></p> <p><i>“Composed of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, harvested from September 17 to October 5, the 2018 Montrose has a very deep purple-black color and opens with tantalizing notes of crème de cassis, Black Forest cake, hoisin and mocha with nuances of molten licorice, fertile loam, cast iron pan and incense. Big, rich, full and powerful in the mouth, the voluptuous fruit has a rock-solid backbone of very firm, very ripe tannins to match with tons of freshness and an epically long, exotic spice finish. A magnificent monster of a Montrose!”</i></p> <p><i>- LPB, Wine Advocate</i></p>

**Reviews** *“Purity and beauty on the nose with blackberry, blueberry, raspberry, crushed-stone and violet character. A full-bodied red with masses of polished tannins and intense flavors of currants and blackberries. Juicy finish. Super depth to this. Goes on for minutes. Try after 2027.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This is a big and muscular wine with great structure and depth of fruit. Blackberry and blueberry character. Hints of fresh leaves. Cool earth. Incredible depth, yet so polished. Concentrated.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This wine confirms the place of Montrose among the top Bordeaux estates. With its rich tannins and powerful structure, it exudes concentration and density. But the wine also shows a sense of style. Fruit purity will make it impressive and allow it to age for many years. Drink this wine from 2028. \*Cellar Selection\*.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“This superb wine offers intense, spicy tannins and rich black fruits that yield an impressive, age worthy bottling. Its black plum flavor and juicy acidity are enhanced by the firm tannins, with a touch of nutmeg on the finish. Barrel Sample: 96-98”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot. Harvested 17 Sept to 5 Oct. Barrel sample. Black core with narrow purple rim. More obvious oak than on La Dame de Montrose but still with hints of violets alongside pure cassis intensity. Almost a mintiness in the ripe (but not in the least overripe) black fruit. Oak spice and fruit spice. Amazingly juicy even with the density and concentration of both fruit and tannins. Needs lots of time but has great harmony and length. Powerful without being aggressive. Very oaky at the moment but has the stuffing and the wonderful fruit to hold its own. (JH)”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“Rich and deep with beautifully nuanced dark chocolate, mocha, cocoa bean and liquorice. Just full of understated power and silky tannins. This is gorgeous and among my top wines of the Left Bank. As it opens in the glass you get sweet black cherry and cassis flesh, and a sense of lilting sappiness. Great stuff from Montrose.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“This is wonderfully rich, with the precision of 2016 but the seductive quality of 2009. It feels architectural in the way that truly great vintages do in the Médoc, and it seems to have consumed its alcohol rather effortlessly. There's plenty of liquorice and exuberant but well buttoned-down brushed damson and cassis pit notes that maintain the signature of Montrose. You can see the concentration in the legs and in the depth of the colour. 20% press wine was added, which is typical here, but the vintage yielded an extremely low 25hl/ha, due partly to drought, partly to mildew and partly to coulure - with drought accounting for most of that/ The Cabernets were affected more than the Merlots because of the later harvesting (which ran from 17 September to 5 October), which meant careful sorting was essential. A good 3.7pH has definitely helped it maintain its balance and sense of minerality, but for me the 2016 remains the one to beat. 2% Petit Verdot makes up the blend. Phenolic count of 81IPT. Drinking Window 2028 – 2042.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“Inky in color, the wine is opaque. On the nose, spice box, smoke, espresso, roasted black and red fruits, flowers and 5 spice come through. On the palate the wine is intense, full-bodied, rich, dense, opulent, sweet, fresh, long and concentrated. The depth of flavor is impressive. Black and red fruits build and expand. The tannins are ripe, round and refined. With a depth of flavor, a flamboyant character and a nonstop finish, this is a Rockstar in the making. The wine was made from blending 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, 14.5% ABV.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

## Reviews

*“When you taste a barrel sample and the first thought that comes to mind is 'I want this in my cellar' you know you're tasting a rock star! The color of a pitch-black night, this beauty is completely opaque. The wine is powerful, concentrated and palate staining. The fruits vary from black to dark red. The tannins are incredibly soft and sweet plus there is a polish that feels fantastic in your mouth. As the wine coats your palate, teeth and gums, you experience a beautiful purity of fruit, intensity and volume with lift and a finish that crosses the 60 second mark. Like all the top vintages of Montrose, you need to allow it time in the cellar, at least 10 to 15 years or if you're have patience 20. It is hard to fathom that Montrose has been able to put together an unequaled run of vintages at this high-level of quality. A vertical of 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018 is going to be fascinating to experience. The wine was made from blending 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, reaching 14.8% alcohol with a pH of 3.7. The Grand Vin was made from 52% of the harvest, which took place September 17 to October 5. The yields were quite low here due to issues with mildew, so the estate only realized 26 hectoliters per hectare.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“An inky purple in the glass, this is rich and powerful on the nose, with toasty oak, roasted coffee and cocoa layered over the dense and ripe cassis fruit. The palate is muscular and dense, the grippy, chalky tannins coating the mouth and adding real depth. The fruit is opulent, ripe but fleshy rather than jammy, giving great purity and drive. Cassis, blackberry, and black cherry all add to the heady mix of flavours that include cumin, vanilla, and star anise. The boldness of structure endures in tandem with the explosive fruit through to an enduring finish. A real triumph in 2018, very impressive. “*

- Farr Vintners

*“The 2018 Montrose delivers on the promise that it showed from barrel. I gave this a three-hour decant before broaching, since Montrose is always backward, albeit far less ferociously than even just a decade ago. It offers copious blackberry and blueberry scents on the nose, plus pressed violets and a light estuarine scent that becomes accentuated with time. The palate is medium-bodied with a silky-smooth texture. Finely chiseled tannins frame multilayered black fruit infused with crushed stone, and it has retained that subtle graphite element that lends it a Pauillac-like personality, though less so than out of barrel. This is a beautifully defined Montrose with entrancing symmetry, and it should drink earlier than other recent vintages thanks to a little more pliancy.”*

- NM, *Vinous*

*“The 2018 Montrose was picked from 17 September and finished on 5 October, comprising of 61 lots of free-run juice. It has a very refined and composed bouquet with blackberry, blueberry, violet and rose petals, the oak (100% new) seamlessly integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin that form a symmetrical frame around the pure black, graphite-tinged fruit that lend it a Pauillac-like personality. This is a brilliant Montrose that manages to express all the leitmotifs of this St-Estèphe and keeps the excessive tendencies of the growing season in check, thanks to a combination of terroir and skillful winemaking. The alcohol level is 14.7% and we need to see how that plays out, but for now this seems to deliver. 2025 - 2060.”*

- NM, *Vinous*

*“The 2018 Montrose is dazzling. Whereas so many 2018s are opulent and broad, Montrose is a wine of vertical explosive power. Ripe Cabernet aromatics soar out of the glass, making a strong first impression. Black cherry, leather, licorice, graphite, and menthol develop later as the 2018 starts to open in the glass. The energy, vibrancy and drive here are palpable right out of the gate. Montrose is one of real stars of 2018. Don't miss it!”*

- AG, *Vinous*

*“The 2018 Montrose balances finesse and power to a degree I don't think I have seen in a recent young Montrose. The 2018 has plenty of depth, intensity and thrust - all signatures of Montrose - but it also has a striking sense of elegance. Crème de cassis, lavender, spice, menthol, and licorice meld together in the glass. Although it is naturally very young, the 2018 Montrose appears to have a tremendous future. The blend is 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, which is to say more Cabernet and less Merlot than is the norm. Readers will have to be patient with the 2018, but it is a stellar wine in the making. Montrose presents an en primeur sample aged 100% in new oak (while the final wine is aging in 60% new barrels) to show a wine that is more ready to taste young.”*

- AG, *Vinous*

**Reviews**

*“A full-bodied powerhouse as well as a perfect wine, the 2018 Château Montrose is a final blend of 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and 6% Cabernet Franc that was raised in 60% new French oak. Boasting a deep purple hue as well as awesome levels of crème de cassis and smoky blackberry fruits and notes of tobacco, lead pencil, scorched earth, and chocolate, it's deep, opulent, and incredibly concentrated on the palate, with no shortage of mid-palate depth, tannins, or length. It reminds me a little of a fresher version of the 2003, although there's more Cabernet Sauvignon in 2018 as well as less Merlot. It has that classic Montrose minerality and backward, mineral-laced style, yet I suspect this will be drinkable in just 5-6 years and should evolve into a modern-day legend from this terroir.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The top wine of the estate as well as one of the wines of the vintage, the 2018 Château Montrose is 72% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc brought up in 60% new French oak. Crème de cassis, smoky oak, graphite, and violet notes all emerge from this magical Montrose that has thrilling purity, building, layered tannins, integrated acidity, and a blockbuster finish. Deep, concentrated, and built for the long-haul, yet with the sexiness of the vintage, it's in the same league as the 2016 and will be drinkable in just 4-5 years and keep for 40+.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“(72 Cabernet Sauvignon, 20 Merlot, 6 Cabernet Franc, 2 Petit Verdot) | 14.7% alc | Harvest took place between 17th September and 5th October My tour of epic Saint-Estèphe estates continued at Montrose where I was greeted by yet another incredible wine. With fantastic fruit and excellent balance this is a completely distinctive and very opinionated Montrose, and it errs on the theatrical given its generosity and impact. Incredibly expressive but also impressively balanced, too, the only real concern at Montrose was trying to regulate the extraction from the grapes during vinification such that the tannins were not too raw. There was so much potential at harvest, but they managed to only take the silkiest tannins and freshest acidity and so the balance here is pinpoint accurate. 2018 Montrose will be a favourite for fans of overtly demonstrative wines and as this Château is usually such a strict and statesmanlike fellow, I feel that this vintage will broaden its appeal and widen its fan-base like no other.”*

- MJ, matthewjukes.com