

Château Tronquoy Lalande 2015

CSPC# 891881

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 55% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc.

Appellation Saint Estèphe

Classification Cru Bourgeois

Website <https://www.tronquoy-lalande.com/en/>

Sustainability Environmental, Green winery.

General Info Chateau Tronquoy Lalande takes its name fittingly from the family that owned the chateau in its formative years, the Tronquoy family. After they sold the estate in 1859, it passed through several owners before becoming part of the well-known Castèjà family holdings, who purchased the vineyard in 1968.

In 2006, Chateau Tronquoy Lalande was purchased by Martin Bouygues and Olivier Bouygues from the Castèjà family. The Bouygues brothers earned their fortune in the telecommunications industry.

For Martin Bouygues and Olivier Bouygues, it was the perfect addition to their portfolio, as they already owned the famed Second Growth, Chateau Montrose, which is also located in the Saint Estèphe appellation. Both transactions for the Left Bank estates took place in 2006.

Chateau Tronquoy Lalande enjoyed a complete, 10 million Euro renovation after it was purchased. This is a fortune when you consider the estate is a Cru Bourgeois and that the wines do not sell for that much money.

That represented a serious commitment to quality! A large portion of those funds was allocated to making Chateau Tronquoy Lalande a responsible, fully, environmentally green winery. They obtain much of their power from geothermal energy. To achieve this for their Left Bank estate, they placed 3,000 photovoltaic panels on their roofs. The construction took 3 years to complete.

The new owners purchased additional vineyard land, increasing the size of the estate. The yields were reduced, and the selection became much more stringent. All of these changes have clearly helped improve the wine.

Shortly after Chateau Tronquoy Lalande was purchased by the Bouygues brothers, they brought in one of the more popular and revered figures in Bordeaux out of retirement (Jean Bernard Delmas) to manage both, Chateau Montrose, and Chateau Tronquoy Lalande.

Winemaker Jean Bernard Delmas.

Vintage The winter of 2015 was colder than in previous years, but a mild and rather sunny start to the vine cycle favoured early budbreak.

The first flowers appeared on the 26th of May and full bloom occurred on the 2nd of June. On the whole, this process had been generally rapid and even.

June and July were dry, and the resulting lack of water slowed the vegetation cycle.

The veraison happened early and very evenly between the 21st of July and the 10th of August.

Showers in August and September alternated with spells of fine weather. The deep gravel at Tronquoy-Lalande lived up to its capacity for good drainage, regulating the water supply to the vines.

Harvesting began with the Merlot on the 16th of September and ended on the 8th of October.

Intra-parcel selection ensured that the grapes were picked at exactly the right stage of aromatic and phenolic maturity.

In the cellar, the first fermentations in tank produced highly coloured and aromatic musts.

Extraction took place gently, in a constant quest for silky tannins. The temperatures were kept deliberately low to enable the fruit to express all its richness and reveal our terroir.

First tastings show great maturity in both flavours and tannins.



Vineyards	With a total of 18 planted hectares of vines, the vineyard is planted to a density of 9,000 vines per hectare. The vines are on average close to 25 years of age. The terroir is mostly gravel with some clay in the soil. The vineyard is located inland from Chateau Montrose. The 30-hectare Saint Estèphe vineyard of Chateau Tronquoy Lalande is planted to 52% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Petit Verdot. This represents a large shift in the vineyard since the new owners took control. Now, you find much more Merlot and less Cabernet Sauvignon.
Harvest	September 16th – October 8th
Maturation	To produce the wine of Chateau Tronquoy Lalande, vinification takes place in 22 geothermal powered, stainless-steel tanks. The tanks allow for a parcel-by-parcel vinification. The tanks were made with a slight pitch or tilt at the bottom of the vat. The purpose is to allow the winemaker to capture more of the press wine. The additional press wine that is recovered utilizing this method is of better quality. The reason behind it is that it does not require mechanical actions to be produced. Gentle actions do produce softer, more elegant wine, which of course lends more softness to Tronquoy Lalande. All of these changes have clearly improved the quality here, giving the wine more finesse, softer, more gentle textures, and much better purity of fruit. On average, the wine is aged in 25% new, French oak barrels for an average of 12 months before bottling.
Tasting Notes	<p>Good deep red colour with slight purple reflections.</p> <p>Fruity nose with aromas of blackcurrant and black cherry, discreetly oaked with a subtle note of menthol. Clean and full attack on the palate. Good concentration with smooth and well-structured tannins. A long finish, very elegant and upright.</p> <p>This wine can be enjoyed in its youth while offering good potential for ageing.</p>
Serve with	Enjoy with your rare beef Sunday roast, along with roast potatoes and garden vegetables
Production	7,500 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2028
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2018</p> <p>87 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - February 2018</p> <p>88-90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>89 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - November 2022</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2016</p> <p>91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2018</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>88 points - Decanter World Wine Awards - June 2017</p> <p>91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2018</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>88-90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2018</p> <p>90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2018</p> <p>91-93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2016</p> <p>92-93 points - Vert de Vin - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2016</p> <p>15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - January 2018</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Has typicity, with a taut edge to the mix of damson plum and cassis fruit flavors thanks to the iron, lilac and wet stone notes in the mix. Offers a fresh and focused finish. A solid effort. Best from 2019 through 2028."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Tronquoy-Lalande is composed of 55% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc matured in both new and one-year-old barrels, aged on its lees for 12 months. Deep garnet-purple in color, it has pronounced black plums and cassis notes with touches of bay leaves, tilled soil and underbrush. The medium-bodied palate is a little lean and chewy with nice freshness."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Tronquoy-Lalande is a blend of 55% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc that was picked from 16 September until 8 October. It has quite a high-toned, iodine-tinged bouquet with blackberry, wild heather and touches of pencil lead, though it seemed just a little pinched and</i></p>

- Reviews** *static in the glass. The palate is supple and smooth on the entry. Here you find more complexity with mineral-infused black fruit and noticeable acidity. It is nicely structured on the finish, perhaps foursquare when compared to its Montrose counterpart, but it should mature into a decent medium-term Saint Estèphe.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate
- “Aromas of blackberries, licorice, and spices. Full-bodied, dense, and layered. Shows the structure and muscle of this estate. Needs time to soften and come together. Serious.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “A St.-Estèphe with crunchy fruit, blackberry, and mineral character. Full body. Savory finish. Lovely tannin quality.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “With the same winemaking team as Château Montrose, this ripe, dense wine has something of the same approach to the rich tannins and concentrated black fruit. This powerful wine has a dry, age-worthy character as well as generous fruit that keeps a crisp, succulent character. It will be best from 2024.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “55% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc. Merlot picked from 16 September. Extremely dark crimson. Manages to be both fresh and ripe on the nose. Very lively and refreshing. Maybe just very slightly skinny and drying on the end but a very good effort! 13.8%.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “All the richness with none of the toughness this wine showed in the past – even some florality and freshness to make it more impressive.”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Fresh, vibrant and juicy with ripe, you find soft tannins and a blend of cassis and cranberry that is there from start to finish.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Plums and mocha on the nose, this wine offers a medium/full-bodied, fresh example of Tronquoy Lalande, ending with an open, approachable, spicy, peppery, dark chocolate and coffee covered, cherry finish. Produced from a blend of 55% Merlot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “The 2015 Tronquoy-Lalande feels just a little herbaceous (not green) on the nose. It is well defined but just lacks that extra zip and brightness demonstrated by some of its peers. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, quite fresh and classic in style with lightly spiced, black-pepper-tinged blackberry and bilberry fruit. Demonstrating ample grip on the finish, this should mature into a commendable Saint-Estèphe. Tasted blind at the Southwold 2015 Bordeaux tasting.”*
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2015 Tronquoy-Lalande is just as pretty as it was from barrel. In 2015, Tronquoy leans more towards elegance and silkiness rather than power. Medium in body and gracious, with fine tannins, the 2015 will drink well pretty much upon release and has enough pedigree to develop nicely for the next 10-15 years, maybe more. Readers who enjoy wines with greater aromatic nuance will want to cellar the 2015 for at least a few years, as today, the wine is quite fruity. Time in the glass brings attractive floral, savory, spice and earthy notes that will become more prominent over time.”*
- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“While a step back from the sensational looking 2016, the 2015 Tronquoy Lalande is nevertheless a smokin’ good bottle of wine. Plums, graphite, earth, and smoked herb notes all flow to a medium to full-bodied, nicely concentration, plump, rounded 2015 that’s a huge success for the northern Médoc in 2015. Give it a few years and enjoy over the following two decades.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, violet reflections, delicate lightening of the edges, inviting sweet berry fruit, a hint of ripe peanuts, a hint of candied orange zest. Juicy, fine wild berry confit, present, well-integrated tannins, freshly structured, mineral, full-bodied, easy-drinking style, versatile.”
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fine, fruity, elegant, and straight. It reveals notes of blackberry and cassis combined with slight notes of plum, Sichuan pepper and a few slight woody notes. The palate is fruity, gourmand, mineral, racy, harmonious, silky, relatively fat and offers a beautiful freshness, tension, juicy fruits, and precision (fruit). On the palate this wine expresses notes of fresh cassis, fresh blackberry and slight notes of fresh black cherry associated with discreet notes of blueberry, berries as well as slight notes of minerality, a hint of graphite and a few oaky hints. Tannins are fine and elegant. Good length.”
- Vert de Vin

“Dense dark ruby/purple core. Fine purity and intensity on the nose, floral dark fruit like violet, cassis, plum and cigar box. Nice density on the palate with fresh dark fruit, powdery tannins, flavours of pepper, cocoa bean, ripe dark fruit and a fresh, dense and lingering finish. Polished and pure with an approaching drinkability.”
- AL, Tasted.com
