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## Château La Mondotte 2016

CSPC# 813904

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

### Appellation

St. Emilion

### Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classé

### Website

<http://www.neipperg.com/fr/chateaux/la-mondotte.html>

### General Info

La Mondotte was purchased in 1971 by Joseph-Hubert von Neipperg, the father of Stephan von Neipperg. This vineyard was obtained at the same time as the other estates that form the nucleus of the Saint Emilion vineyard holdings of the von Neipperg family.

Those vineyards include Chateau Canon La Gaffeliere, Clos de l'Oratoire and Chateau Peyreau. In Cotes de Castillon, they own Chateau d'Aiguilhe. Today the property is owned and managed by Stephan von Neipperg.

Yet, while the other Right Bank estates of the von Neipperg family were producing strong wine by 1989, La Mondotte did not begin to show its potential until 1996.

Of course, that was due to the fact that Stephan von Neipperg had not yet started working on the wines and vineyard of La Mondotte. Part of the reason for the delay was due to the need to spend time on the vineyards of Canon La Gaffeliere.

In September 2012, La Mondotte was classified as a Premier Grand Cru Classe wine. La Mondotte is one of only two wines that earned Premier Grand Cru Classe status, after having been a previously unclassified, St. Emilion Grand Cru wine. In 2014, La Mondotte was certified as being 100% Organic.

### Organic

Organic Certified by FR-BIO-10.

### Winemakers

Stephan von Neipperg

### Vintage

2016 St. Emilion did not get off to a good start. Frankly, the initial part of the growing season started off wet, and cloudy. The massive amount of water in the vineyards and cooler temperatures set things back. Vignerons already knew 2016 Saint Emilion would be a late vintage. Bacchus must love Bordeaux because at the beginning of June, the rain stopped, the sun came out and the flowering took place during one of the few breaks in the rain. At least now, growers had a glimmer of hope. The quantity was going to be there, but would the quality come as well?

The official start of summer changed everything. The rains were gone and sunny, warm summer days with the all-important shift to cold, nighttime temperatures arrived. Now, growers needed to decide how much, or even if they should deleaf. The vignerons that were careful not to remove too many leaves, for fear of too much sun made the right choice. Indian summer conditions continued. But as the summer wore on, the extreme dryness of the 2016 Saint Emilion vintage began to have an effect on the vineyards. Young vines shut down or died. The older vines were in danger of shutting down their growth cycle as well, to avoid starvation. But September 13 and September 14 brought about 44mm of rain, the perfect amount of moisture was delivered to the thirsty vines, and at the exact, opportune moment! The continued cold nighttime temperatures kept everything in check and growers were able to wait as long as they wished, for the grapes to achieve full maturity. Another shot of rainfall took place the night of September 30, or the morning of October 1, (depending on your point of view) and it was off to the races! The 2016 St. Emilion harvest conditions could not have been better. Some growers reported 125 days of hang time. Other produces reported spending 4 weeks picking their fruit. And why not as conditions were perfect with warm sunny weather and an extended growing season.

### Vineyards

La Mondotte's 4.5-hectares of vines grow on the clay-limestone plateau east of Saint-Emilion. This small gem of a vineyard has all the natural attributes of a Premier Grand Cru Classé. The terroir consists of very silty clay overlaying a rocky subsoil. This



<b>Vineyards</b>	shallow, meagre soil induces excellent water regulation and is propitious to deep rooting. Fine natural drainage combined with outstanding sunshine make for early and complete ripening. The grapes, especially Merlot, are picked under ideal conditions every year.
<b>Harvest</b>	Picked between 29 September and 15 October. Yield 42 hl/ha. By hand, into small crates to avoid bruising. Sorting before and after destemming. No crushing. The grapes arrive on a conveyor belt
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	Fermentation: In temperature-controlled wooden vats for 28-35 days depending on the vintage. Extraction by pneumatic "pigeage" (punching down the cap). Malolactic fermentation and ageing: In new oak barrels (100%) on fine lees. Fining and filtering as necessary, depending on the vintage. Duration of barrel ageing: in new oak barrels (70%) on the lees for 17 months. No fining
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	La Mondotte is a concentrated, ripe, rich and intense, minerality driven, style of Bordeaux wine that is unique to St. Emilion. La Mondotte requires at least 12-15 or more years before the wines soften and its true qualities begin to emerge.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau La Mondotte is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau La Mondotte is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
<b>Production</b>	1,250 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2022-2050
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>96 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p><b>97-100 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2019</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>96-97 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p><b>96 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>14 points</b> - Farr Vintners - February 2017</p> <p><b>84-88 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>94-97 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p><b>98+ points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This shows a dark, toasty style at first, with notes of ganache and plum reduction, but it unwinds steadily and slowly, revealing pure cassis, cherry and raspberry fruit flavors gilded liberally with violet and anise accents. The long finish is laced with a superfine chalky minerality that imparts mouthwatering cut even as the fruit gains steam. Best from 2023 through 2038. 1,250 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is a towering display of purity, with unadulterated cassis and raspberry fruit coursing along live-wire acidity while light chalk, anise and black tea notes fill in. Has serious grip, but it's buried in that jaw-dropping core of fruit. And this has minerality to burn. A stunner. Score range: 97-100"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2016 La Mondotte is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc this year, picked between 29 September and 15 October and matured in 70% new oak. The alcohol level is around 14.5%. It has a lucid purple hue in the glass. The bouquet is very perfumed, very pure with luscious red cherries, blueberry and a hint of sloes, the new oak discrete and allowing the terroir to shine through perhaps more than the 2015 last year. The palate is silky smooth on the entry, but underneath the bonnet, there is considerable tannic backbone that certainly can be felt more towards the finish that exerts a light grip. In a strange way, it reminds me a little of Château Canon! Give this wine 4-5 years once in bottle."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p>

**Reviews** *“So much black truffle and blueberry on the nose. Decadent and aromatic. Wet soil. Indian ink. Full-bodied, polished and so velvety with fantastic depth of fruit and ripe tannins, yet powerful and fresh. Slightly minerally and salty underneath.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“There’s a vibrance and brilliance that gives this wine focus and energy. Medium body, ultra-fine tannins and a long and beautiful finish. Very fine.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Made by the winemaking team of Canon la Gaffelière, this wine is stylishly elegant, restrained in its structure and tannins. Its intensely juicy character is already attractive, giving the wine almost a refreshing character. This balanced wine will be ready from 2025. \*Cellar Selection\* (RV)”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“This just keeps on getting better, adding additional layers of fruit, levels of complexity and sensuality to the texture. Full-bodied, intense, rich and deep, with a strong sense of minerality, give this wine 12-15 years in the cellar before you pop a cork.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Sensual, concentrated, luscious, deep and focused, this is another hot librarian in lingerie. Precise, with layers of velvet-textured plum and black cherries, the wine is decadent with freshness and lift with a strong sensation of crushed stone to add complexity. The finish leaves you with a feeling of self-indulgence. Sophisticated, sleek and ready with succulence, this darkly colored wine was produced from 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14.2% alcohol with a pH of 3.4. The harvest took place September 29 to October 15.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Some of the Merlot vines used to make this famous organic red are more than 100 years’ old and it shows in the density and concentration of the wine. Very hard to taste young, it’s a monumental, powerful, richly upholstered blend with layers of firm tannin, stylish coffee bean oak and balancing acidity. 2026-38”*

- TA, timatkin.com

*“This super-cuvée is made by the Canon La Gaffelière team from 4.5 hectares of 60-year-old vines - 85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc. The tiny vineyard is situated near to Troplong Mondot and Tertre Roteboeuf. It burst onto the scene at the height of the garage wine boom with a monster 1996. Annual production is usually less than 1000 cases. Glass-staining depth of colour, which follows with tar, cocoa, and damson on the nose. The palate is extremely concentrated, powerful and sappy in tannin structure. Tar, incense and figs, with a very smoky, dry and woody finish. This is a wine that will only appeal to lovers of the highly-extractive style of winemaking.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“Big fat blowsy the nose has rich fruit the start of the palate is fleshy but behind the sweetness the tannins are firm drying the back palate tight the finish firm dry and lacking length. It lacks balance. 2025-37”*

- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2016 La Mondotte was aged in 70% new oak for 17 months and bottled in May 2018. The nose flirts with over ripeness, hints of canned prune tincturing the black fruit, but just pulls back from the brink. There is something slightly ripasso about it. The palate is medium-bodied, rounded and sumptuous in style, delivering lush tannin and black cherries and cassis fruit infused with marmalade and sloes. This is a luscious, luxurious La Mondotte, although I prefer the Canon-la-Gaffelière this year. Drink 2022-2035.”*

- NM, Vinous

**Reviews**

*“The 2016 La Mondotte is gorgeous in this vintage. Over the last few years, Stephan von Neipperg has gradually started to pick earlier. Nowhere is that more evident in his wines than at La Mondotte, which in 2016 impresses for its power, tension and energy. Much less obvious than it has been in the past, La Mondotte is arrestingly beautiful at this stage. Bright floral and mineral notes run through a core of dark red and purplish fruit in this stunningly beautiful, expressive Saint-Émilion. In a word: tremendous. (AG)”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2016 La Mondotte is exceptionally beautiful today. Chalk, limestone and a host of soil-driven notes make La Mondotte one of the most distinctive wines of the vintage. The 2016 is remarkably translucent for such a big wine. It offers plenty of the signature darkness, but it is also brisk and full of energy.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“Not far off the magical 2015, the 2016 La Mondotte comes from a tiny vineyard of clay and limestone soil located next to Pavie Decesse. A blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc, this behemoth boasts a deep purple color as well as a brilliant array of crème de cassis, blackcurrants, crushed rocks, and graphite. Full-bodied and beautifully concentrated, with liquid minerality emerging with time in the glass, this legendary Saint-Emilion in the making needs 5-7 years of bottle age and will keep for 3-4 decades. Drink 2024-2064.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

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