
Château Tour Saint Christophe 2016

CSPC# 801701

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

St. Emilion Grand Cru Classé

Website

<http://www.vignoblesk.com/en/propriete/chateau-tour-saint-christophe/domaine>

General Info

Chateau Tour Saint Christophe, like many Bordeaux chateau, takes its name from the location of its vineyard. The vines are situated in the commune of Saint Christophe des Bardes which is due east of the St. Emilion village, not far from Valandraud and Chateau Fleur Cardinale . The property was purchased by Peter Kwok in 2012 from the Castel group. By the time Peter Kwok obtained Chateau Tour Saint Christophe, he already owned Chateau Haut Brisson , located in the Vignonet sector of Saint Emilion, not far from Chateau Monbousquet or Chateau Teyssier . Peter Kwok purchased Haut Brisson in 1997. Peter Kwok has continued adding to his portfolio of estates in the Right Bank with vines in Pomerol . The property in Pomerol is sold under the name of Chateau Enclos Tourmaline .

In November 2015, Peter Kowk purchased Chateau Tourans from Petrus Wolter. The 12.6-hectare vineyard that formerly belonged to Chateau Tourans was divided into both of the estates owned by Peter Kwok. 8 hectares were added to Tour Saint Christophe, as they share a similar terroir. This increased the size of their vineyard to its current 19 hectares. The remaining vines were placed into Haut Brisson.

Winemaker

Jerome Aguirre. Michel Rolland consults on the wine making.

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

The 19-hectare St. Emilion vineyard of Chateau Tour Saint Christophe has a terroir of clay and limestone soils. The vineyard is planted to 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc . The vines are planted to a density of 6,500 vines per hectare on the older plots. New parcels are being planted to a higher vine density of 7,500 vines per hectare. Once the new owners took charge, one of the first decisions they made was

Vineyards	to replant a large section of the vineyard which is at that higher level of density. They also terraced a portion of the vineyard and completely modernized their entire winemaking facility and cellars. All the vineyard management work is done using only organic, biodynamic, sustainable vineyard farming techniques.
Harvest	Harvest dates vary by vintage and we adapt our harvest plan down to the plot or even to the parcel based on the optimum ripeness of the berries. Our team determine when to harvest through a combination of several physiological and subjective criteria, and even tasting berries by mouth is an important step in the decision-making process. Our team select which parcel block to pick by-hand only the night before.
Maturation	For the Grand Vin, the grapes are whole berry fermented, using micro vinification techniques, meaning that the wine is vinified in 60% new, French oak barrels. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel. The wine is then aged in 60% new, French oak barrels for an average of 18 months before bottling.
Tasting Notes	The Chateau Tour Saint Christophe is medium-full bodied with soft rounded tannins. The fruit is complex and delicious. This wine sports a beautiful ruby red color. The palate is supple and filled with flavors of black fruit, chocolate, coffee, and even a little licorice. The finish is robust with good acidity that should make this a great wine to age. Cellar for a few years.
Serve with	Chateau Tour Saint Christophe is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Tour Saint Christophe is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese.
Production	5,000 cases produced
Cellaring	Drink 2021-2044
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>16+ points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>89-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>94+ points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This is filled with dark, juicy black currant and blackberry preserve flavors laced liberally with bramble and wood spice accents. The fruit kicks into a second gear through the finish, where a roasted apple wood note adds texture and more energy. Rock-solid. Best from 2021 through 2030."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Tour Saint-Christophe is made up of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. It was aged in 40% new, 40% one-year-old and 20% two-year-old oak for 18 months. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it sings of roses, chocolate-covered cherries, redcurrant jelly and cinnamon stick with touches of cigar box and forest floor. Big, full-bodied and richly fruited yet with great tension, it has a compellingly perfumed palate and gorgeous velvety texture with great persistence. 5,000 cases produced."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Tour Saint-Christophe, the Saint Emilion estate of Peter Kwok whose eye-catching terraced vineyard looks upon Barde-Haut from the other side of the valley, is a blend of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc picked between 5-23 October and matured in 40% new oak. It has a sensual bouquet with black cherries and cassia scents, the new oak neatly integrated. The palate is medium bodied with sweet and supple tannin, a little richer than the 2015 and yet still managing to translate the terroir with aplomb. Tasted twice, one bottle showed a little more precision than the other, but I remain confident that this will turn into a Saint Emilion worth investigating"</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *"This has a rich and ripe dark-fruit nose with a wealth of stony attraction and a lighter, floral edge. The palate has a very rich core of deeply ripe, fleshy fruit, framed in cedary oak. Really impressive clarity and web-like tannins. Superb finish. Try from 2023."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is superb: a triumph for the vintage considering how complicated it was in St.-Emilion. Elegance with power. Full-bodied, intense and forthright. Wonderful length and depth. Better than the 2015."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Deep, dark and almost opaque in color, the wine is made from blending 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Ripe and loaded with fresh fruit, with a real sensation of purity and silky, polished tannins and a hint of chocolate in the finish. The wine reached 14.5% alcohol with pH of 3.7."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"From the same family as Enclos Tourmaline, the rising superstar from the ex-winemaker at La Violette and Le Gay, comes Tour St Christophe a St Emilion located between Troplong Mondot and Tertre Roteboeuf. This incredibly juicy wine, with spicy toast of new oak and very fine, ripe tannins is very approachable, smooth, and fine. The crunchy cherry and plum fruit is supported by velvet-textured tannins. Fine, sweet and long."

- Farr Vintners

"The fruit feels ripe the nose has sweetness the palate starts with a rich mix of black and red fruits. Fine tannins support the mid palate has richness and depth the back palate lighter bright and fresh. 2025-35"

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2016 Tour Saint Christophe has a wonderful, beautifully defined bouquet of blackberry, raspberry, crushed stone and hints of pressed flowers, all very focused and delineated. The palate is well balanced, with fine but quite firm tannins and well-judged acidity, and very persistent toward the finish. I appreciate the harmony and intensity of this Tour Saint Christophe. A wonderful Saint-Émilion from "team Kwok"! Drink 2022-2048"

- NM, Vinous

"The 2016 Tour Saint Christophe is a potent, tightly wound wine that is going to need quite a bit of time to be at its best. That is surprising, as the 2016 was quite a bit more sensual en primeur. Even so, the 2016 is a gorgeous, hugely promising Saint-Émilion. Dark red cherry, plum, espresso, leather and tobacco build as this beautifully layered wine gradually reveals its many charms. There is so much to look forward to, once the tannins soften a bit."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2016 Tour Saint Christophe is gorgeous. Exotic, ripe and voluptuous, the 2016 possesses striking aromatics and plenty of presence. Smoke, grilled herbs, inky dark fruit, crème de cassis and leather are beautifully delineated in the glass. This is the first recent vintage I can remember tasting that is not over-extracted. There is a real expression of fruit. Suffice it to say, this is a very positive development for the château. Michel Rolland is the consultant. Tasted two times. "

- AG, Vinous

"This incredibly beautiful estate was purchased by Peter Kwok, a Hong Kong-based financier, in 2012. The estate covers a tiny 6.5 hectares (some terraced) just down from Château Barde-Haut, and it remains one of the hidden gems in just about every vintage. The 2016 Château Tour Saint Christophe is another winner. Composed of 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc that spent 18 months in 40% new French oak, this concentrated, structured 2016 is one for the cellar. It offers a deep ruby/purple color and a powerful array of black fruits, graphite, and earthy minerality as well as a hint of salinity and spring flowers. It has fine tannins (but plenty of them), beautiful balance, and a straight, focused texture, all pointing to the cellar being your friend. Hide bottles of 4-5 years and enjoy over the following 15-20. Tasted twice."

- Jeb Dunnuck