
Château Tour Saint Christophe 2019

CSPC# 801701

750mlx12

14.3% 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	<p>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 .</p> <p>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.</p>
Winemaker	Jerome Aguirre. Michel Rolland consults on the wine making.
Sustainability	All the vineyard management work is done using only organic, biodynamic, sustainable vineyard farming techniques.
Vintage	Winter is characterized by a mild and humid climate, with low rainfall. Spring is cool and generally humid with a cumulative excess of 14% rain. This damp and cool weather causes slow growth of the vine and chlorosis phenomena. Frost causes damage in some areas on April 13 and May 5 and 6. In our vineyards there is no observable damage. Regarding phytosanitary protection, we carried out 10 passages using 80% organic or controlled organic products. The extremely hot and dry summer is characterized by several heat wave situations. At the end of September, the harvest begins under the sun with very high temperatures, thereafter an alternation of rains will mark the entire period of the harvest. We observe good maturities, especially in the clay-limestone sectors. In our case the harvest ends on October 21, with the satisfaction of having picked the grapes à la carte. The vinification strategy aims to be the most respectful of maturities, terroirs, and climates. We thus wish to offer wines that express their terroirs and their ecosystems where we will favor balance.
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 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.
Harvest	The 2019 Tour Saint Christophe was picked from 27 September until 21 October.
Vinification	After a meticulous selection process on the vines and in the winery, the sorted grapes are filled into concrete tanks or directly into Bordeaux barrels (about 25% of the harvest). This follows the method of Vinification Intégrale, particularly well-suited for Chateau Tour Saint Christophe. Our team is always present at the opening and closing of barrels by our cooper partners for better quality control.

Vinification	In 2015, the cellars were renovated and redesigned to best serve the expression of our terroir. The aim of the renovation focused not only on preserving the best of our berries but also on facilitating our team's processes. The main winery is fitted with advanced, varietal sized, and thermal-regulated concrete vats. With these vats, our team can separate the different plots of the vineyard and facilitate the pigeage. Two additional cellars have been devised for vinification in barrel and for malolactic fermentation through climate-control systems.
Maturation	40% new barrels, 40% 1-winebarrels, 20% 2-wines for 15months
Tasting Notes	Strong ruby. Aromas jumps out of the glass, very fragrant, flowery, with fine toasted notes, ripe raspberries, black currants, with some minty notes. Juicy on the palate, fresh and with enormously crisp, delicate fruit, the tannins are finely woven, the acidity gives strength and additional structure, all components are in balance. The finish offers a lot of length and a spicy finish.
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.
Cellaring	Drink now-2039
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>92-94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - October 2021</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>91-93 points - Farr Vintners - May 2020</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>92-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p>92-93 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"From clay-rich soils opposite Troplong Mondot in the commune Saint Christophe des Bardes, the 2019 Tour Saint Christophe offers up demonstrative aromas of cherries, wild berries, sweet loamy soil, licorice, and dark chocolate. Full-bodied, rich, and fleshy, with an enveloping core of fruit, lively acids, and ripe, powdery tannins, it's a strong effort in a crowd-pleasing style."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"In 2012, Hong Kong-based Peter Kwok purchased this vineyard located in Saint-Christophe-des-Bardes. The average age of vines is 30 years old. The wine is aging in 40% new oak barrels, 40% one-year-old barrels and 20% two-year-old barrels. The blend is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, with fruit from the Cassevert lieu-dit, and the wine has 14.3% alcohol at a pH of 3.6. Deep purple-black in color, the 2019 Tour Saint-Christophe leaps from the glass with gregarious notes of fresh red and black cherries, mulberries, and wild blueberries plus suggestions of eucalyptus, chocolate pie, cinnamon stick, and clove oil with a waft of cedar chest. The full-bodied palate has seriously impressive freshness, featuring a firm, finely grained frame and loads of energetic black fruit layers, finishing long and spicy."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Beautiful, intense fruit, dark-earth, and chocolate character on the nose. Full-bodied with great density and plush, fine tannins that give a fine-velvety texture. It's extremely long, polished, and sophisticated. Needs time to come together, but expressive and glorious. Fantastic relative value."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *“This is tight with finesse and focus. Minerally and salty with an ultra-fine palate and polished tannins. It goes on and on and on. Strength and finesse at the same time. 80% merlot and 20% cabernet franc.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Pretty high austerity and salinity in this one, reflecting the higher percentage of Cabernet Franc and the full emphasis of limestone soils. Will bide its time and should be a delicious glass of wine in five or six years - the blueberry, gunsmoke and grilled rosemary finish is extremely promising. “*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “The Vignobles K are becoming essential wines for sure-fire quality. Plump black cherry and damson fruits, a little upfront with the grilled oak right now that makes things a touch austere, but there is freshness running underneath and it will soften over the next few years. Good quality. Tasted twice. 37hl/ha yield, 40% new oak for ageing.”*
- JA, Inside Bordeaux
- “Inky dark in color, the wine exudes crushed rocks, stones, flowers, smoke, espresso, dark chocolate, pepper, and smoke in the perfume. Full-bodied, rich, lush, and deep, with layers of black and red fruits, freshness and length, the finish delivers dark red berries with a dash of spice, black licorice, and espresso bean. This is going to age and evolve for at least 2 decades or more. The wine blends 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2024-2040.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Dark red, purple in color, the nose pops with flowers, licorice, incense, herbs, and dark red berries. On the palate, the wine is silky, fresh, sweet, full-bodied, and concentrated. Yet, there is no heaviness. Everything is in proportion. Better balanced than 2018, this is another step-up in quality here. If you are not yet on the Tour Saint Christophe bandwagon, get on it before prices rise. The wine is made from blending 80% Merlot with 20% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14.3 alcohol.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “The blend in 2019 is 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc, which is representative of the plantings here. The yield is 37hl/ha, which is close to average. The wine will be aged for 14 months in 40% new French oak, 40% second fill barrels, and 20% third fill barrels. The nose is explosive with wild berries, blood orange and flowers. The palate shows its oak at the moment, with lots of sweet spice and toast, but underneath is a dense core of brambly, peppery fruit accented by notes of dry flowers. Fleshy and round to the finish.”*
- Farr Vintners
- “The 2019 Tour Saint Christophe builds on the promise it showed from barrel. This sample was actually tasted at my home, where I afforded it a two-hour decant. It revealed precocious yet controlled blackberry and blueberry fruit scents, with that violet component still intact. The tannins have not lost any of their grippiness or assertiveness. This is a Saint-Émilion that is in for the long haul. Great potential. “*
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2019 Tour Saint Christophe was picked from 27 September until 15 October at 37hl/ha. Matured in 40% new oak, this has an incredibly concentrated bouquet that needs to shrug off a little reduction when I taste it. Layers of blackberry and blueberry, wilted violets and orange rind burst from the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with juicy ripe grippy tannins that frame the layers of dense black fruit tinged with allspice and graphite. It is a Saint-Émilion clearly built for the long-term, powerful, and uncompromising, perhaps one that will be in need of cellaring for several years before it becomes approachable. 2024 – 2045.”*
- NM, Vinous
- “The 2019 Tour Saint Christophe is a fabulous wine that marries fruit intensity and structure. Black cherry, graphite, dried herbs, menthol, licorice, and spice give this driving, potent Saint-Émilion tons of character. Tour Saint-Christophe remains one of the greatest values in Bordeaux. Tasted two times. 2026 – 2041”*
- AG, Vinous

Reviews

“The 2019 Tour Saint Christophe is a broad, powerful wine that captures all of the intensity typical of this sector of Saint-Émilion. Black cherry, espresso, chocolate, licorice, graphite, and dark spice give the 2019 a decidedly somber, brooding feel. There is plenty to look forward to here - that much is clear”

- AG, Vinous

“This estate has been delivering the goods for numerous vintages now, and the 2019 Château Tour Saint Christophe is another terrific wine. Ripe black cherries, black raspberries, graphite, new leather, and chalky minerality all define the nose, and it's medium to full-bodied, has a tight, straight, focused texture, ripe yet present tannins, and outstanding length. It doesn't have the mid-palate density or opulence of the 2018, but it's more pretty, focused, and straight on the palate. Give bottles 4-5 years and enjoy over the following two decades”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“From an estate that continues to fire on all cylinders, the 2019 Château Tour Saint Christophe reveals a saturated purple color to go with a pretty, floral bouquet of black raspberries, mulberries, violets, graphite, and crushed stone. Fabulously balanced, medium to full-bodied, with good acidity as well as sweet tannins, it's a finesse oriented, elegant version of this cuvée that does everything right. This estate has backed off the power and ripeness over the past few vintages, and the wine is more elegant, balanced, and seamless. It's a better wine today.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, delicate rim lightening. Ripe plums and black cherries, nuances of blueberries and nougat, delicate notes of tobacco, candied orange zest, multi-faceted bouquet. Complex, tight-knit, red cherries, freshly structured, well-integrated tannins, mineral-salty on the finish, an accompaniment to food rich in finesse, good future, already drinkable, but should be allowed to mature for a good five years.”

- Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is elegant, racy and offers a beautiful power, finesse, and deepness. It reveals notes of ripe cassis, small wild black fruits, small notes of blueberry associated with touches of liquorice, pink pepper as well as small hints of tobacco, nutmeg, and spices. The palate is elegant, racy, power and offers a fine acidulous frame, a fine grain, and a beautiful guideline. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy/fresh blackberry, cassis, small notes of small black fruits associated with touches of ripe raspberry as well as touches of violet plum, liquorice stick and tonka bean. Good length. Tannins are elegant, finely chewy, and precise.”

- Vert de Vin
