

Château Troplong Mondot 2008

CSPC# 753466

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
General Info

90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
St. Emilion

Château Troplong Mondot is a St. Emilion Premier Grand Cru Classé property that has in the last decade been producing wines that are the equal of many 1er Grand Cru Classé estates. Its handsome château dates back to 1745 and Troplong-Mondot was originally part of one sizeable domaine which included the vineyards of Château Pavie.

In the 17th century, the vineyard belonged to the Abbé Raymond de Sèze, who built the chateau as it stands today in 1745. The Sèze family was one of the most prestigious of the Bordeaux area's landed gentry and owned many other estates. It was particularly illustrious in providing Louis XVI with his personal lawyer, Raymond de Sèze. Under the aegis of the Abbé, Mondot won its place among the best Saint Emilion wines.

In 1850, Raymond Troplong took over Mondot and turned it into the 33-hectares estate, unchanged to this very day. A peer, a famous jurist and a lover of art and literature, he became president of the Senate in 1852 and held this office until his death in 1869. In spite of his state duties, he operated the rich Mondot estate with remarkable success, producing a highly prized wine classed by the renowned *Annuaire des Châteaux de Féret* as Saint-Emilion's second finest wine in 1868. Edouard Troplong, his nephew and successor, added the name Troplong to the estate before he sold it.

The château entered the modern age with the Valette family. Alexandre Valette, a Parisian vintner, bought the estate crafted by Raymond Troplong. He already owned Château La France in Fronsac and would soon acquire Château Pavie. In 1980 Alexandre's great grand daughter, Christine, took over the estate and was joined, 10 years later, by her husband, Xavier Pariente. Together they continued to improve and embellish the vineyard, cellar and chateau. This hard work and their efforts proved worthwhile when in 2006 Troplong Mondot was awarded 1er Grand Cru Classé status. Guru oenologist Michel Rolland has been a consultant at Troplong Mondot since the mid 1980s.

Vintage

The 2008 season had a period of warm weather at the beginning of the year, which was followed by a cold period from the beginning of the bud-break. The low rainfall during this time was balanced by a very wet May, making the overall situation much more normal. June caused nothing to alter this normality. A dry July and cool August helped to preserve high aromatic potential in the grapes, which was reinforced by outstanding weather conditions in September/October, and which also brought about the gradual, intense ripening of a crop that had been very carefully protected. The grapes had thick skins, and great potential for colour-depth and tannin: a phenolic potential close to that of 2006 and 2005.

Vineyards

Troplong Mondot has 30 hectares of vineyards well-sited alongside the hill of Mondot to the north-east of the St-Emilion appellation. The soils are rich in limestone clay and are planted with Merlot (90%), Cabernet Franc (5%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (5%). Yields 41 hl/ha.

Harvest

The harvest took place from October 9th to 21st, whilst one plot of Cabernet Sauvignon was picked on November 1st. This was the latest harvest (along with 2007) for over twenty years at Troplong Mondot. The picking was by hand in small crates. This year, we were able to use our new vat cellar with its temperature controlled, small-sized conical-shaped vats, which have enabled us to optimize the vinification of the crop.



Maturation	The grapes are hand-harvested and then fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. The wine is then aged in oak barriques (75% new) for 18 months. It is bottled unfiltered.
Tasting Notes	The wine is a real surprise, considering the tricky weather conditions. It displays a power and depth worthy of the greatest Bordeaux vintages.
Production	70,000 bottles made
Cellaring	Drink 2013-2033
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2011</p> <p>91-94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2009</p> <p>96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011</p> <p>95-97 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #182- April 2009</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010</p> <p>91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2011</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010</p> <p>93 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July/Aug 2011</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010</p> <p>17+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2010</p> <p>17.5-18.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2009</p> <p>18 points/4 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - May 2009</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 25, 2011</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 18, 2010</p> <p>93-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 1, 2009</p> <p>92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - Web Only 2011</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Still a touch firm, as the cocoa and roasted tobacco notes frame the core of plum, fig and blackberry fruit. The smoky finish has a nice charcoal edge. This is well-defined and should unwind with modest cellaring. Powerful for the vintage. Best from 2012 through 2018. Tasted twice, with consistent notes."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is very serious and impressive for the vintage, offering silky tannins and cool, racy fruit, with nutmeg, blackberry and light vanilla character. Score range: 91-94"</i></p> <p>- JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A wine of the vintage candidate in 2008, Troplong Mondot's offering was produced from yields of 41 hectoliters per hectare and achieved 14.5% natural alcohol. A classic blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc, it offers copious quantities of blue and black fruits, a full-bodied opulence, sweet tannin and a fabulous texture as well as finish. Already drinking beautifully, it will be even better in 2-5 years and should last for 20 years. A great effort for the vintage, it couldn't happen to a more deserving proprietor, Christine Valette. Bravo!"</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"What a worthy rival to the prodigious 2005! This is another superb success from proprietress Christine Valette, but it is distressing to hear that this property may be up for sale. The inky/blue/purple-colored, formidably concentrated 2008 exhibits aromas of smoke, blueberry and blackberry liqueur, roasted coffee, and spice box. Boasting fabulous fruit and purity, a multilayered texture, full body, and prominent, but sweet, well-integrated tannin, this is a tour de force in winemaking from an outstanding and a perfectionist proprietor. Give it 5-6 years of bottle age and drink it over the following three decades."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Tasted ex-chateau and single blind in Southwold. I have criticized recent vintages over the alcohol levels, but I have no agenda against what is after all, one of the first properties I ever visited. And the 2008 is turning out to be a little beauty. It has a lovely floral bouquet with vibrant red fruit, cassis and violets that soar from the glass. It displays deftly integrated oak with Asian spices beginning to come through. The palate is full-bodied and tannic, very grippy with spice, black olive and blackberry. There is some fine, earthy Cabernet Franc here and shows good structure on the finish. It deserves a decade in the cellar. Tasted January 2012."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Journal</p>

"En primeur barrel sample. A very dense, almost impenetrable nose with layers of dark, earthy fruit that change in the glass, revealing some intriguing coconut/almond scents from the oak. Very typical in style for the chateau with its firm robust tannins, good weight of fruit, dense blackberry, boysenberry and smoke-tinged finish. Very good length. Excellent. Tasted twice with consistent notes. Tasted April 2009."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Heavy new wood influence gives a creamy, toasty palate, the fruit lying under this smooth surface. It is juicy, packed with firm tannins. It will take several years for the wine to properly integrate."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"93-95 Barrel sample. Definite new wood aromas here, the wine impressively dense, structured. Then there is velvet, caramel wood layer that sneaks in to give a wine that has freshness, but great elegance."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright ruby-red. Super ripe, musky aromas of black cherry, minerals and flowers. Lush and silky but quite backward, with excellent energy to the primary dark fruit and mineral flavors. Chewy, powerfully structured wine. The superb building finish features substantial granular tannins and lovely definition."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Blackish, purple. Hint of farmyard on the nose. Plummy sweet - very chocolatey and Rollandian. Then rather obvious acidity and rather green tannins on the finish. Tannins very supple. Should deliver pleasure to modernists - eventually."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"A darkly coloured wine, and a dark fruit character on the nose too, dominated by a confit element. It doesn't seem soft though - there is a bitterness to it which suggests a firm underlying structure. A creamy start on the palate, ripe and broad, with an intense layer of biting tannins underneath a layer of plush, creamy-velvety fruit. Lots of extract here which dominates the palate, and it is only the soft deep-pile fruit that keeps it at bay. There is acidity though, so this may all come together with time, although this chateau operates firmly in the modern, high-extraction camp these days. From a tasting of 2008 Bordeaux at two years of age. 17+/20 (October 2010)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Vibrant but rich, sweet crystalline black cherry fruit, an obvious big and sweet style. Dry but well polished tannins at the core, building to provide a big tannic backbone. It has a slightly hard style of structure, but there is sweetness in the fruit as on the nose, and plenty of substance. A big style of wine, but it has balance and staying power. Potentially excellent. From my 2008 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 17.5-18.5+/20 (April 2009)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"If Christine Valette wanted to make a statement (about the aborted 2006 classification) then she's done it with this wine. Dark, powerful, brooding, it has a massive weight of cassis flavoured fruit and tight tannic frame. Very impressive. Drink 2015-2028."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Oak, black cherry, anise, flowers, spice and minerality greet your nose, this round, rich wine with soft textures ends with kirsch and fresh blackberry flavors. 2008 was the latest harvest in the history of the property. Due to their cool terroir, the extra time allowed the fruit to develop full ripeness."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *"2008 Troplong Mondot is the first vintage to officially celebrate their new, and well-deserved upgrade in the St. Emilion classification to Premier Grand Cru on the label. This deeply colored wine has a complex perfume of black licorice, bitter dark chocolate, boysenberry, blueberry and juicy fresh plums. The wine fills your palate with luscious, opulent, dark fruit and hints of anise. 95 Pts"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"08 Château Troplong Mondot. That the château did not conclude its harvest until November 1 is something for the record books. 2008 was also the debut vintage for their new cellars. For the first time the grapes went through 3 sortings, the final one done entirely by hand. The wine is dark ruby with inky tints. The nose shows ripe black fruit, licorice, flowers, spice, and toasty oak aromas. This full bodied, fleshy wine has a great mouth feel. Its long finish offers up black fruit coated with chocolate and licorice. 93-96 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"2008 Dense, very saturated look; legs; perfumed and intense with lots of extract; strawberry and some chocolate and mocha; intense palate with lots of fruit and concentration; very pent up and big – wow such concentration with lots of alcohol. Very big and alcoholic style – an enjoyable glass or two but I couldn't imagine finishing a bottle! [90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon]. 92+/100"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
