

Château Troplong Mondot 2009

CSPC# 753466

750mlx12

15.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
General Info

86% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Cabernet Franc,
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 Férêt* 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 2009 growing season was ideal in terms of weather conditions. Bud-break was late –from March 23rd on. The flowering was then early, beginning on May 25th. Grape-colour change occurred from July 27th, which is a normal to early date compared with the last five years. In May, a hailstorm caused damage in some of the estate's plots.

Water deficit stress, which is very favourable to the vine since it stops the vine shooting and encourages the grapes to ripen and therefore concentrate, arrived after grape-colour change and increased during the month of August, during a summer that was very hot and dry but with cool nights.

The months of September and October brought a magnificent hot and dry Indian summer.

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 2nd to 10th for the Merlot and on October 20th for the two Cabernets, in fabulous weather. The skins were thick and rich in ripe phenolic compounds. The concentration in sugar and the phenolic richness are comparable, perhaps even superior, to the 2005 vintage. The crop was in perfect condition and health. All the necessary parts were in place to make a vintage of outstanding quality and elegance.



Maturation	Traditional winemaking methods are then used, before maturation in French oak barrels, of which 75% are new oak, for 12-24 months depending on the vintage. The wines are then blended at maturity before bottling. Natural egg whites may be used for fining if required.
Tasting Notes	Opaque at the core with small purple rim. Not simple at all, the bouquet shows deeply concentrated aromas of sweet earth and infused fruits, along with cocoa powder and vanilla. Balanced and restrained on the palate, the fruit shows ripeness, but avoids overly jammy or viscous texture thanks to well-integrated acidity. Finishes long and elegant, with spice and minerals infusing the fruit weight at the back palate. This wine has generated considerable controversy because of its alcohol levels. And while there is certainly some ripe fruit to be found here, this is not a flabby fruit bomb. Rather, the wine clearly shows its specific terroir, highlighting a taut, linear profile along with a distinct graphite mineral component that is unique to the Chateau. It will be interesting to watch this wine mature over the next 30 years. The 2009 Troplong Mondot will provide plenty of competition for the 2010, 2005 and 2000. It comes closest in style to the prodigious 1990 that proprietress Christine Valette produced 22 years ago. A phenomenal effort, it unquestionably justifies its relatively new Premier Grand Cru St.-Emilion status. Readers should keep in mind that the 1990, which probably has lower acidity and not the level of concentration found in the 2009, is drinking incredibly well at age 22 and reveals no signs of falling apart.
Production	6,288 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2052
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012</p> <p>94-97 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010</p> <p>99 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012</p> <p>94-97 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188 - February 2010</p> <p>89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012</p> <p>86-88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010</p> <p>97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010</p> <p>95 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July/Aug 2012</p> <p>16.5? points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2011</p> <p>18-19+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2010</p> <p>96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2011 (no review)</p> <p>95 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - October 3, 2012</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 10, 2012</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 29, 2010</p> <p>92+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2010</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Very dark, with strong pastis-soaked blackberry and roasted plum notes leading the way, with layers of sweet spice, mocha and tobacco filling in on the finish. Rather lush and perhaps a touch too roasted in style for some folks, with enough just grip to keep it going. Best from 2013 through 2024. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 6,288 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Intense aromas of blackberry and blueberry follow through to a full body, with well-integrated tannins and a fruity finish. Offers lots of licorice and spice. There's lovely length to this. Reserved and pretty."</i></p> <p>- JS, Wine Spectator</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"It boasts an inky/purple color along with a gorgeous bouquet of mocha, chocolate, blackberry and cassis fruit, an unctuous texture, a full-bodied, viscous mouthfeel and a skyscraper-like, multilayered finish. This spectacular wine is nearly overwhelming in its richness, thickness and intensity. Once all its baby fat falls away, the terroir characteristics and additional nuances will emerge. This blockbuster, fabulous Troplong Mondot will benefit from 10-15 years of cellaring and keep for three decades or more. It is not shy either, bouncing over the palate with 15.5% natural alcohol."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

"I tasted this wine four separate times, with three tastings extremely consistent, and one tasting showing slightly more noticeable and astringent tannin. Do I think it is going to be as prodigious as the 2005? No, but it is a compelling Troplong Mondot, and probably more approachable than the 2005 has been in its youth. This is a large vineyard, nearly 80 acres in size, and part of it had hail damage in May. They are late harvesters, the Merlots were picked through October 10 and the Cabernet finished October 20, with very low yields of 30 hectoliters per hectare, no doubt due at least in part to the hail damage. Alcohols on lots chosen for the grand vin are very high, between 14.5 and 15.5. The wine is inky purple in color, displaying beautiful creme de cassis, licorice, subtle smoke and graphite notes, enormous body, juicy, viscous texture, good vibrancy, a skyscraper-like, multi-dimensional mouthfeel, and a whopping long finish of 40+ seconds. This is a great wine, probably more hedonistic and voluptuous than the 2005, but ultimately a tiny notch below that virtually perfect Troplong Mondot, which still gets my nod as the best ever made. This wine should evolve for at least 30-40 years. (Tasted four times.)."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the Union de Grand Cru in London. Comparing this with the Pavie-Macquin alongside, the Troplong is a little muffled by the alcohol and is lacking charm. The palate is very powerful with vice-like grip, huge tannins and a very New World-like finish. I miss the typicity exuded by the 2008. Tasted October 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the Saint Emilion UGC. The nose is far more restrained than usual, but well defined with pure blackberry, black plum and a touch of cedar. The lacks if vigour is a little vexing although a second sample at a negociant showed more "intention" and developed nicely in the glass. The palate is full-bodied with sinewy tannins, firm structure, grainy texture with cedar and graphite infused black fruits. Quite assertive, rather unsettled by the high alcohol and lacking its usual harmony, whilst the tannins have an angularity & astringency on the finish. This is a rather perplexing showing on both occasions I tasted this wine. Tasted March 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"A very concentrated wine with such a stylish feel. It balances ripe berry fruits with chocolate and wood flavors in the richest, ripest combination. The wine has power, without losing its poised character. Ready for long aging."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"93-95 Barrel sample. At this stage, the wood element is overpowering. You have to imagine the fruit, but the weight of the wine suggests it is there. Big, solid and chunky, it is the product of very ripe fruit."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Saturated medium ruby. Enticing aromas of cassis, coffee, mocha and licorice pastille. Hugely dense but fine-grained, offering a liqueur-like, exotic sweetness to its super ripe dark fruit and chocolate flavors. For all its richness and baby fat, the wine's chalky underpinning prevents it from coming off as monolithic. Perhaps most impressive on the broad, extremely long, palate-staining finish, which features a boatload of ripe tannins and repeating sexy oak tones. This outstanding Troplong-Mondot should drink well for the next 25 years."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Christine Valette proves once again that she is not afraid of taking a chance. This is big, brash, sumptuous, in your face, all the things that I often don't like in a wine – but there is such a pleasurable side to this, and it has freshness that keeps it just on the right side of over-the-top. Brambly black fruits, intense tannins and a sweet fruit finish. A great wine, despite a – wait for it – 15.5% ABV. 95."

- JA, newbordeaux.com

Reviews

"This was as black as night at the primeurs, and I was blown away to learn it carried nearly 16% alcohol, when I hadn't spotted it. There is certainly no suggestion of overt spirit on the nose today, in fact it is rather evocative and sexy, with delightful notes of fresh coffee grounds, from the toast of the oak I expect, with some spicy and seductive Merlot fruit beneath. So far, I still find it remarkably appealing. The palate starts off more open and amiable than some, and in the middle there is good fruit, which has a much redder character than the black cherry I recall from my previous tasting, but this intermingles with a searing note of warm alcohol, which lacks the integration the barrel sample I tasted possessed. I am not so convinced here, although there is still much atypical aromatic promise and I cannot just disregard this wine. I have settled on a score significantly below my primeurs range, but I wonder if it shouldn't be lower? One point per degree of alcohol, perhaps? Alcohol 15.5%. From a tasting of 2009 Bordeaux at two years of age. 16.5/20 (October 2011)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"This wine has a fine crimson-black hue - an order of magnitude darker than anything else tasted during the primeurs. The nose has sweet, perfumed, black cherry jam, and the palate has a similarly sweet texture, giving a voluptuous presence in the mouth, but with a good and harmonious character too. Lots of midpalate grip, this is gently composed at first but then it reveals a more powerful tannic core. There is a fresh peppery acidity too. This is a prodigious combination of exotic fruit, supple although richly textured and with a massive structure. One of the most remarkable wines in this commune this year. After tasting the alcohol is revealed to be 15.5% - and yet this doesn't show on the palate which knocked me sideways instead with its ink-dark, black cherry fruit, tannins and flesh. And it has balance, even though it is standing on the very top rung of the ladder. I have to confess I rather like it, although I should make clear that it is not like any Bordeaux I have ever tasted before. So, sorry about the high score! From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 18-19+/20 (March 2010)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Troplong Mondot offers a dark color with a great, intense and fresh nose of fruit, truffles and coffee. Superb on entry, this wine is fat, develops aromatic and melting, with plenty of taste, despite the great ripeness of its fruit. What is particularly well done is the fresh presence of this growth while being made from 90% merlot. It delivers a dense, tight, powerful and precise flesh before finishing long and sappy, with plenty of taste. A wine of great and complex length with plenty of personality. Alcohol level 15.5% - pH: 3,65 - IPT: 80 - Yield: 30 hl/ha. 95"

- JMQ

"The wine reached 15.5% alcohol and was aged in 100% new oak. There is no sensation of heat in the wine. The color of dark, purple ink, black cherry, blueberry, licorice, chocolate, smoke, truffle, earth and spicy aromas create a beautiful perfume. Full bodied, fat, rich, intense and palate coating, this sensuous, voluptuous, sexy wine leaves a beautiful sensation of sweet, fleshy, flashy, ripe berry liqueur and chocolate."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"This deeply colored. St. Emilion offers enticing scents of licorice, fresh roasted espresso bean, plum, boysenberry, earth, spice and chocolate. Blending 90% Merlot with 10% Cabernet Franc, this is a lush, thick, rich, sexy, corpulent, low acid style of Bordeaux wine that finishes with layers of licorice, juicy plum, black cherry liqueur and cocoa."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"2009 Troplong Mondot, is opaque with purple tints. Aromas of jammy plums, licorice, coffee, minerals, caramel, and dark berries fill your nose. Full bodied and intense, this thick, dense, wine is stuffed with ripe dark berries, chocolate, licorice, and plums. Even at 15.4% alcohol, the 2009 Troplong Mondot displays only a minor touch of heat in the palate. 94-96 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Inky black, very dense; quite viscous in the glass; wow, fabulous nose of sweet, ripe fruit; very seductive with lots and lots of new oak but packed with ripe fruit too; Big, dense, chewy palate, lots and lots of fruit but sweet ripeness. This is BIG and not at all for the fainthearted. Thick and tannic with alcohol on the finish. It is 15 degrees alcohol. Defies gravity but actually works - if you like your wines huge, this is it! 92+/100"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
