

Château Troplong Mondot 2010

CSPC# 753466

750mlx12

15.5% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

CSPC# 790271

750mlx12

15.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

83% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Franc, 3% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

1er Grand Cru Classé

Website

<https://www.troplong-mondot.com/en/>

General Info

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.

Winemakers

Christine Valette and her husband Xavier Pariente with the consultancy help of Michel Rolland

Vintage

The 2010 year offered some ideal weather condition. The late bud break begun on March 29th and was followed by a spreading flowering, beginning May 26th, and a long and heterogeneous veraison beginning July 31st. A complete stop of the vine growth was in favor of the grapes maturation and concentration. August was hot with cool nights (day range about 14°C). September and October offered a beautiful warm 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

Harvest took place on October 4th to 6th for the youngest Merlots, on October 13th to 16th for the oldest Merlots and on October 28th for the Cabernets, under extraordinary weather conditions. The grape skins were thick, rich with ripe phenolic compounds. Sugar concentration and phenolic richness were similar, or even superior, to the 2009 vintage. The harvest conditions were ideal with a perfect sanitary state. All the elements were gathered to have a new outstanding vintage of a great quality and elegance.

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

Dark inky glass staining purple with a black core opaque and dark magenta to the rim. Beautiful perfume of crushed flower blossoms with brambly spiced blackberry and cassis fruit that has evolved and is complex



showing black tea and some minerals. Powerful attack of densely packed black fruits are rich and weighty on the palate. A modern wine that still retains some terroir expression of fresh earth amongst all that plush blackberry and boysenberry fruit. The wine pulls across the pallet with excellent purity and depth. A star of the Right Bank. Drink 2018-2048.

**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013
93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011
99 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013
96-98+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011
Review only - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012
95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011
90-94 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011
15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011
14 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2012
14-15 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2011
18.5 points/5 stars - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2011
89-91 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2011
96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2011 (no review)
95 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2011
97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - October 3, 2012
97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 22, 2011
96-98 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 6, 2011
90-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011
18.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2011

Reviews

"Ripe and dense, but very vibrant and energetic, as a torrent of cassis, blackberry coulis and fig paste rushes through, framed by enticing black licorice and evenly roasted alder and juniper notes. The long finish has lots of grip and acidity, but they work together and are deeply embedded. Captures the fruit and structure of the vintage superbly. Best from 2015 through 2030."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"A powerful wine in the making, with a forceful beam of blackberry, boysenberry and fig fruit pushed hard by graphite and anise. Offers loads of grip on the back end, with serious length. All the pieces are in place."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Very intense blackberry and blueberry character on the nose. Full body with super refined tannins and beautiful fruit. So delicious and pretty. Very rich and a little high-octane. Yet luscious and flamboyant. Try in 2018."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Inky, bluish/black/purple, with notes of spring flowers, licorice, camphor, graphite, and a boatload of blueberry, black raspberry and blackberry fruit, this is a powerful, full-bodied Troplong Mondot. All the building components of acidity, tannin, wood and alcohol are judiciously and impressively integrated. It is a blend of 90% Merlot and the rest equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc made by Christine Valette and her husband Xavier Pariente with the consultancy help of Michel Rolland. I-m not sure what the heady alcohol level is in Troplong Mondot in 2010 (it certainly must be in the 15%+ range), but it is well-concealed behind the extravagant, richness, full-bodied power, and pure nobility of this majestic wine. Forget this for 5-7 years and drink it over the following three decades."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"An amazing wine, the 2010 is right up there with the extraordinary quality of 2009, 2005 and 1990. Made from yields of 32 hectoliters per hectare, the final blend was 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. A late harvest between October 4 and 16 with the last of the Cabernet Franc coming in on October 28 no doubt accounts for the wine's powerful 15.5% natural alcohol. Of course, the anti-alcohol folks will make a big deal of this, but despite the high alcohol levels in nearly every 2010, there is freshness, precision, definition and absolutely no heat in the wines whatsoever. This stunningly rich effort offers abundant blueberry, black raspberry, licorice and graphite notes intermixed with a hint of espresso roast, a seriously concentrated, super-intense mouthfeel, full-

Reviews

bodied power, a complex, multidimensional texture and a nearly 50-second finish. It will require 5-6 years of bottle age after its release and should keep for three decades or more. Just prodigious!"

- RP, Wine Advocate

"A blend of 83% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Cabernet Franc and clocking in at...drum roll...15.8% the Troplong Mondot has a very ripe, very polished bouquet with ripe blackberry, Maraschino cherry, ripe figs and a lot of glycerine. The palate is full-bodied with ripe blackberry, white pepper and cassis, good acidity, touches of pepper towards the finish that is top-heavy in alcohol. I cannot envisage myself wanting to drink this. Tasted April 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"93-95 Minty aromas, smooth wood, a wine that has great richness, elegance. It is dominated by new wood, while the delicious black currant fruits cut through with acidity. A modern, stylish wine."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"(15.5% alcohol; 83% merlot, 14% cabernet sauvignon and 3% cabernet franc;) Inky violet-ruby. Spearmint and cola notes mingle with aromas of ripe black plum and fresher blackcurrant. Dense, bright and juicy, with flavors of creamy ripe black fruits, lead pencil and cocoa. Finishes long and pure, with a trace of alcohol and very assertive but smooth tannins. This will appeal more to those who appreciate very ripe, high-octane wines."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Blackish crimson. Ruby rim. Light cocoa notes on the nose. Lots of sweet maltiness. Pushed to the limit of ripeness. Perfectly serviceable modern St-Émilion style but a little bit painful to taste at this stage. Slightly drying finish. Pushed too far?."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Dried fruits on the nose here, especially dried and desiccated cranberries, perhaps a little raisin and currant too. The palate offers up a creamy texture, which soon flattens out into a broad and flat-flavoured style with a fairly angry structure beneath it all. There is heat here, and piles of drying tannins. Lots of substance and power. I'm sure fans of this new style will be delighted. I personally would like a less extreme character. Less aggression in the tannins, and certainly a fresher fruit character, would go down well. From my Bordeaux 2010 assessment at two years. 14/20 (November 2012)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Tasted at the property and at the UGC tasting. The yield was 32 hl/ha, the blend 83% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc. Alcohol declared as 15.5%. Dark and glossy, well concentrated. A flashy and modern nose here, some oak influence giving a toasty element, and a very flamboyant fruit character. The palate is just as honeyed and spicy, with dense plum like that on the nose shining through, and lots of savoury grip to it. The tannins are quite grainy and firm but they sit well within the wine, the fruit fresh and creamy plum covering them nicely. It has an impressive, velvety character, structured rather than elegant though. The alcohol shows through here - something I didn't pick up with last year's similarly prodigious sample. Definite spicity heat here; this is too ripe and over the top for me. From my Bordeaux 2010 primeurs assessment. 14-15/20 (April 2011)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"A modern beauty. Still has deep colour, power and density but there seems to be more refinement these days. Rich, complex nose with cassis, cacao, spice and menthol notes. Sumptuous texture, balancing acidity and long, firm finish. Drink 2020-2035."

- JL, Decanter.com

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"Love the colour of these wines. A plummier, slightly candied nose compared to some, but the heat just knocks you over, takes all the fun out of the fruit. Here you really have to be patient for the acidity to come back in, and frankly life's too short. Even 90 seconds in I am still working through the heat at the back of the throat. This is always a big wine (last year 15.5%), but last year the fruit was more enjoyable, so it became a guilty pleasure. I don't get this time. 89-91/100. Drink 2018-2030."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"From an assemblage of 83% Merlot, 14% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc, the wine is inky in color with notes of espresso bean, blueberry, licorice, chocolate, smoke, black cherry and plum liqueur. Thick, intense,

tannic, polished, rich and powerful, this wine fills your mouth and coats your palate with multiple waves of sensuously textured fruits, licorice and chocolate. Could this end of the decade wine be the finest vintage of Chateau Troplong Mondot produced yet? It has some stiff competition with 2009, 2005 and 1990. Regardless of where it fits in, this is a great wine that belongs in any Troplong Mondot lovers cellar!"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Troplong Mondot has been slowly increasing the amount of Cabernet Sauvignon in the vineyards. 2010 is the first year featuring a substantial portion (14%) in the blend, along with 83% Merlot and 3% Cabernet Franc. Previous recent vintages have included about 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Currently, the vineyard is planted to 16% Cabernet Sauvignon, with the goal set to about 20%. The Cabernet Sauvignon is planted in clay soil, as it does not grow well in limestone. Yields were low in this vintage at 32 hectoliters per hectare, the same as in 2009. The wine reached 15.5% alcohol. For people that like to compare, 2009 came in at 15.4% alcohol. The pH is 3.6 is for the Merlot and 3.75 in Cabernet Sauvignon. Those low levels of pH allow the wine to feel fresh and offer lift. 2010 expresses more lift than 2009. . Midnight black in color, with a perfume filled with minerality, licorice, blueberry, blackberry, jam and clay, this dense, chocolate covered, sweet boysenberry filled wine packs a lot of wine into the bottle. Sensuous, palate staining, incredibly concentrated and rich, the wine coats your palate. The experience ends with a long bath of chocolate covered blackberries and black cherry liqueur that combine for a hedonistic treat. This decadent wine is one of the great vintages of Troplong Mondot. 97-98 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The nose is full of rich fruit and the depth of flavour gives power on the palate. Red and black fruits intermingle with the ripeness of the black fleshing out the mid palate. Rounded tannins help the fleshy feel but towards the back there is balancing redcurrant freshness."

- Derek Smedley MW

"Since the late 1980's Christine Valette has consistently produced dense blockbuster Saint Emilions here. 80% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, malolactic fermentation and elevage all in new oak. Always a serious and powerful wine. Strong Michel Rolland influences here. This is a massive wine that stains the sides of the tasting glass. Bourneville chocolate, black cherry and liquorice flavours dominate. Super-ripe, dense and intense. Very ripe and extracted to the limit. A slight bitterness at the finish from the strapping tannins but there is so much fruit in the middle. You have to be impressed by the sheer intensity of this wine even if it is lacking in subtlety."

- Farr Vintners

"Arterial and saturated; very ripe and concentrated as you'd expect; sublimation of a wine; lots of extract and ripe sweet fruit; concentrated and layered; real intensity and chew. Pretty hefty tannin count too. This is big and thick but really ripe – sweet ripe and very pure – with some grip and bite at the back. 94-96/100 6 April 2011 UGC [Second tasting] Deep and saturated, tight to the meniscus; quite 'cool' nose; deep and pure; some marzipan and a whiff of alcohol – nevertheless seductive; feels cool but with some menthol and spice; very brooding and deep; polished; satiny palate, real perfume and verve; density but wonderful fruit here; extremely concentrated and tannic but there is sweetness of fruit and some grip here to balance. 96-98+/100 Tasted April 6 Groupement de Premiers Grands Crus Classes de Saint-Emilion."

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
