

Château Troplong Mondot 2017

CSPC# 871461

750mlx6

14.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc
St. Emilion

Premier Grand Cru Classé B in 2006.

<http://www.chateau-troplong-mondot.com/eng/Actu.asp?NumCat=1>

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.

Winemaker
Vintage

Guru oenologist Michel Rolland has been a consultant since the mid-1980s.

Being largely perched on a slope, Troplong Mondot saw hardly any frost this year—less than 10%. The other big news this vintage follows Aymeric de Gironde's departure from Château Cos d'Estournel in the midst of harvest, arriving at Troplong Mondot just in time to work his magic on the vinification, creating what is an incredibly sleek and stylish 2017 Troplong Mondot. Bravo!

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 September 18, finishing September 27.

Maturation

The grapes are hand-harvested and then fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. The wine is then aged in oak barriques (77% new) for 18 months. It is bottled unfiltered.

Tasting Notes

Loudly lauded by the professionals of the sector, the Chateau Troplong Mondot 2017 is triumphant indeed. Expressing the great depth and sensuality of the limestone soil of Saint-Emilion, the bouquet delivers an intense density of aromas, revealing the brilliant freshness of the fruit, delicately polished by elegant floral fragrances. At the estate, the definition of harmony takes on a special meaning in conferring the freshness and generosity typical of great limestone soils. Delicious and persistent, the end of the mouth stretches forward with a memorable length. A new style, a new vision, the Troplong Mondot 2017 has everything necessary for a legendary future.

Serve with

Chateau Troplong Mondot is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau Troplong



Mondot is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese.

Drink 2021-2037

**Cellaring
Scores/Awards**

94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020

91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018

95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020

95-97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018

96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020

95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018

96 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020

92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018

16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2019

16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018

96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018

96 points - Decanter.com - April 2018

95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018

91-93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018

16+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2018

89-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018

92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018

98+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2020

95-98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018

95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020

92-94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018

18+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018

89 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)

Reviews

"Very fresh in feel, with silky textured plum, cassis and cherry flavors infused with rooibos tea, mineral and floral notes. The long, refined finish lets the pure fruit sing, while the mineral edge adds detail. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2021 through 2037"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Good bramble and anise notes are matched by blackberry and black cherry compote flavors. A fresh savory streak underscores the finish. Sneakily long, with an emphasis on freshness."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Troplong Mondot is a little closed to begin, soon unfurling to reveal expanding notions of warm blackberries, wild blueberries and licorice plus hints of smoked meats, black olives, pencil shavings and truffles. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is packed mouth-coating black fruits, exploding into loads of earthy sparks with a soft, velvety texture from ripe, rounded tannins. It finishes with spectacular freshness and loads of layers. 2024 – 2050"

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Troplong Mondot saw hardly any frost—less than 10%. The 2017 Troplong Mondot is blended of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc. Very deep purple black in color, it offers up a cedar chest, cinnamon stick and cloves-laced nose with a core of crème de cassis, blackberry compote and preserved plums plus wafts of licorice, violets and sandalwood. Full-bodied, concentrated and sporting a firm frame of velvety tannins, it has a lively line lifting the densely packed fruit, finishing long and on a compelling savory note."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Very perfumed and subtle with crushed currants, smoke and blackberries. Medium to full body. Compressed, round tannins and a flavorful finish. Shows focus and finesse with serious structure for the vintage. It grows slowly on the palate. Really beautiful. Drink after 2022."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A bright and vivid red with dark-berry and plum character. Floral and bright. Medium to full body. Intense and crystal-clear. Ultra-fine tannins with a long and beautiful. Wonderful balance and harmony."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews *"This wine is structured, with dense tannins as well as impressively ripe black fruit. Showing lifted acidity, succulent blackberry flavors and elegance, it has a good future and will be ready from 2025."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"This wine has the bold fruit that is the hallmark of this estate. It is a generous wine, packed with soft fruit flavors and light tannins, suggesting a wine that will age relatively quickly. Drink this ripe wine from 2023."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc. Deep cherry red. Sweetly ripe but fresh dark-red fruit on the nose. Medium bodied, the tannins slightly chalky but giving just the right framework for the fruit: fresh, lightly chewy as they build in the mouth. Laudable restraint and yet impressive length. (JH)"
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"I tasted this at the UGC tasting and also at the château, where they are in full building mode. They are starting to pick earlier and use less new oak (65% in this wine instead of 100%) since the change of ownership. No longer fermenting in barrel. 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc. Black core with deep purple rim. Smells ripe, almost a little raisiny, rich in purple fruit. Firm tannins but it does have freshness on the finish. Chewy, dense, with the oak well integrated. Still in a very ripe style. (JH)"
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Aymeric de Gironde arrived here from Cos d'Estournel in September 2017, and he is clearly intending to make his mark. To get things started, they have brought the harvest dates forward (particularly on the Butte de Mondot, where drainage in recent years has stopped that clay mound being as cool as it once was). They have also stopped carrying out malolactic in new oak and brought the level of new oak down to 65% from 90%. They have a new consultant in the form of Thomas Duclos - this is surely his year - and carried out the blending before ageing in barrel, in a nod to Aymeric's left bank experience. Very little here was affected by the frost, giving a yield of 45hl/ha, 95% used for the grand vin. This is a terroir that doesn't need to be dressed up, as I have said several times in the past, and Aymeric is taking what had already begun under Xavier Parrente to the next level. This is one of the few wines to really make your heart race in 2017, with its blueberry and cool, black fruit notes with zippy minerality and a juicy, slightly saline finish. There is plenty of power, but it's contained, and the fruit is almost surprising in its purity and direction - it makes everyone around the table start talking. This is an extremely surprising 2017, one that I absolutely recommend without hesitation. Drinking Window 2026 – 2040"
- JL, Decanter.com

"Fresh cassis bud, blueberry and liquorice root showing ripeness was full but not overdone. This is a definite break with the older Troplong style (also Aymeric de Gironde's first vintage as director, arriving just in time for harvest). Two years on, and it is really is rather lovely. Austerity is clear, as is true in so many of these wines, showcasing that 2017 is not a vintage for hedonists. But this is bedding down for the long-term, and you can already feel the flesh laying down over the bones of the wine. Frost barely affected the vineyard at Troplong, giving a yield of 45hl/ha (in itself a bigger yield than was usual here in the old days), with 95% used for the grand vin."
- Decanter.com

Licorice, smoke, black cherry, plum and crushed rocks create the nose. On the palate, the wine is full bodied, sweetly authentic and luxuriously textured. There is more virtue in the fruit but less density and lower alcohol than in previous vintages. The wine shows more influence from the limestone, instead of the clay. This dramatic change in style is a matter of choice by the new director, Aymeric de Gironde who is seeking more aromatic complexity and balance over power and ripeness in the wine. The wine was produced from a blend of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14.2% alcohol. The harvest took place September 18, finishing September 27"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Very intense blue fruit and violet aromas. Concentrated and inviting. Some youthful oak, but predominantly deep fruit and cassis flavours. Rich with sweet spices. Concentrated and delicious, if a little warm on the finish."
- TA, timatkin.com

Reviews

"No frost here at the top of the South-facing Saint Emilion slope. Yield a healthy 44 hl/ha. The harvest started earlier (September 18th) than it would have done under the old wine-making regime. New oak has gone down from 100% to 65%. Medium/deep in colour with a sweet, plush, exotic nose of kirsch and damson. The palate is smooth and luxuriant, with ripe tannins and plush cassis to the fore. Exotic all spice and baked almonds bolster a rich glycerol texture, but this is not nearly as extracted and jammy as it has been in previous years. This is modern, ripe and round, but not excessively so. Now closer to Canon than to Pavié stylistically."

- Farr Vintners

"The fruit on the nose is sweet and ripe the palate has depth of flavour a rich mix of mainly black fruits. Brambles underpins and balances lighter at the back with richer sweet fruit giving breadth and depth on the finish."

- Derek Smedley MW

"We had a few old demons hanging around" remarked estate manager Aymeric de Gironde, referencing the new regime at this revitalised property currently undergoing huge investment. The 2017 Troplong Mondot has a nicely detailed though not powerful bouquet with blackberry, raspberry, charcoal and light tertiary aromas, touches of peony developing with time. The palate is medium bodied with grainy tannins and fine acidity. This does not possess the complexity or finesse of the top Saint-Émilion wines this vintage and there is a lick of dark chocolate on the finish that feels a little misplaced. Nonetheless, it represents a delicious Troplong Mondot that will give 15 to 18 years of drinking pleasure, though you can bet your bottom dollar this will be surpassed in years to come. Tasted twice with consistent notes. Drink 2022-2040."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Troplong Mondot, the first under the new regime of former Cos d'Estournel manager Aymeric de Gironde, has a gorgeous bouquet with well-defined red and black fruit, hints of dark chocolate and crushed flowers, a subtle mineral undercurrent that becomes more prominent with aeration. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin. This is a much fresher and balanced style of Troplong Mondot that tended to be over-egged in the past the terroir is much more evident where it counts – in the glass. There is a pleasant spiciness that comes through with aeration and a touch of sense of tension from start to finish. If this represents how this estate will continue, then the new era is going to be festooned with some exemplary wines. Drink 2022-2042."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2017 Troplong Mondot is stunning, just as it was en primeur. Rich and ample, yet endowed with striking energy as well, the 2017 is the first vintage made by new CEO Aymeric de Gironde and consulting winemaker Thomas Duclos. The 2017 takes hold of all the senses and never lets up. All of the power that is typical of this site is evident, it seems to come so naturally, and yet picking earlier and then using a lighter hand in the cellar yielded a Troplong of uncommon energy and vibrancy. The 2017 has been nothing short of thrilling on the four occasions I have tasted it from bottle so far. What a wine! 2027 – 2047"

- AG, Vinous

"The 2017 Troplong Mondot is easily one of the wines of the vintage. New CEO Aymeric de Gironde (formerly of Cos d'Estournel) and consulting oenologist Thomas Duclos are masterminding a remarkable new chapter in the life of Troplong Mondot. A major stylistic shift in the direction of freshness and energy has resulted in a positively stunning Troplong Mondot endowed with tremendous depth and vibrant. A rush of black cherry, plum, mocha, new leather and spice builds as this gorgeous Saint-Émilion shows off its breeding and total class. The blend is 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2017 Chateau Troplong Mondot continues in the new style of this estate and is based on 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 2% Cabernet Franc from healthy yields of 48 hectoliters per hectare. Its deep ruby/purple hue is followed by a stunning perfume of creme de cassis, black raspberries, white chocolate, crushed flowers, and a terrific sense of minerality. Flawlessly balanced, medium to full-bodied, and nicely concentrated, it shows the more elegant, classical style of the vintage beautifully. It has the texture and balance to drink brilliantly today yet will benefit from 4-6 years of bottle age and keep for two decades or more."

- Jeb Dunnuck

Reviews *The 2017 Château Troplong Mondot offers a much more fresh, focused, vibrant style. Deep ruby/purple-colored, with a perfumed bouquet of black raspberries, spring flowers, graphite, and that classic minerality of the estate, it's medium to full-bodied, beautifully balanced, has fine tannins, and a great finish. It's not going to match the 2016, but it's certainly an elegant, pretty, graceful wine. Barrel Sample: 92-94"*
- Jeb Dunnuck

"There was only a small amount of frost here and Aymeric de Gironde, the new General Manager, has adopted a brand new (in fact very old) philosophy for this awesome estate atop the Mondot hill. The various plots, or climates, all receive equal attention and it is this collaborative feel which has brought harmony to this wine. There is vibrancy and positive energy contributing to this bright aura. The freshness and grip are invigorating, and this is a remarkable debut for this property's new lease of life. The restaurant is shut, the Château will be renovated, and the winery will be changed, too. This wine is a signal of intent and it is very clear that Troplong's ambitions appear very exciting indeed."
- MJ, matthewjukes.com
