

Château Troplong Mondot 2018

CSPC# 831126

750mlx6

15.0% alc./vol.

CSPC# 890707

750mlx6

15.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

85% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classé B in 2006.

Website

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

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.

Winemaker

Aymeric de Gironde – Technical Director. Thomas Duclos consults.

Vintage

2018 Saint Emilion was not an easy vintage for producers. The winter months were easy, but the spring is one of the wettest in history. Depending on where you located in St. Emilion, during the initial 6 months of the year, between 550 mm to 600 mm (21"-24") of rain soaked your soils. This is more than the normal amount of rain the region experiences in a year!

From there growers fended off violent attacks of mildew, which struck fast and furious. 2018 Saint Emilion was saved by the hottest, driest, sunniest vintage conditions since 2003. Barely any rain fell from July to harvest.

Picking took place under warm, sunny, and dry conditions. On average, production was down 10-20% for many vineyards. Conditions were so good between late September and mid-October; vigneron were able to pick at their chosen level of maturity. Harvesting took place from mid-September to mid-October.

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

Picked from 7 September - 10 October with 60% of the Merlot harvest completed in 1 week.

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

Unanimously acclaimed by the press and international critics, with notes that exceed even those of the exceptional 2015 and 2016, 2018 marks the birth of a vintage that will be remembered at the magnificent property located on the right bank of Bordeaux.

Product of a very good year for the Bordeaux region, the Chateau Troplong Mondot 2018 expresses the quintessence of Saint-Emilion's great terroir, and is distinguished by its balance, freshness and complexity.



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.
Production	8,333 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2021</p> <p>95-98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>93-95+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p>97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019</p> <p>17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020</p> <p>17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p>97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>96-98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>17.5 points - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>94-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019</p> <p>96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p>18+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p>17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2021</p> <p>17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This shows the profile of the vintage, with a touch of plum pit and savory austerity along the edges of a core of red and black currant and cherry paste flavors. Late tugs of warm earth and tobacco on the finish."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This offers a lovely display of boysenberry, cherry and plum fruit, yet stays refined and focused, relying on purity as this glides through. Has weight but feels silky, with a flinty mineral hint adding cut on the finish. Best from 2023 through 2035. 8,333 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, with considerable coaxing and swirling it slowly emerges from the glass like a waking giant, building to a towering bouquet of preserved plums, blueberry pie and Morello cherries with gentler wafts of violets, star anise, fruitcake, and cast-iron pan. The concentrated, full-bodied palate possesses impressive purity and brightness of fruit commingled with richer, riper elements and supported by firm, velvety tannins, finishing with lovely freshness and on a lingering ferrous note. It's a wine that's not just delicious, it's seriously interesting too. 2025 – 2050."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple in color, it begins slowly with bold, bright black raspberries, ripe black plums, fresh blackberries, and Morello cherries notes, giving way to underlying scents of tobacco, wild sage, Sichuan pepper, black olives, truffles, and Marmite toast with hints of crushed stones and iron ore. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers wonderfully fresh, energetic black fruit with a downright racy line of freshness (uncommon for this vintage) and firm, rounded tannins, finishing long with lots of mineral, earth and dried herbs layers giving beautiful electric sparks."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"This is a very linear red and layered at the same time, showing blackberry, blueberry, black-truffle, bark and stone character. Chalk and minerality, too. It's full-bodied and well framed with gorgeous intensity & freshness. Muscular with wonderful structure and brightness. Salty and savory notes on the finish. Try after 2024."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

Reviews *"The focus to this wine sets a new standard for Troplong Mondot with density and minerality that I have not encountered for decades. Lots of slate and white-pepper character. Tight and very dense. Full body. Balanced. Wild mineral character and freshness here. Precise."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The tannins are beautifully integrated into this velvet-textured wine. It has density and richness allied to concentration. At the same time, it has kept wonderful freshness and acidity to give it fine lift. The aging potential is obvious."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Black almost to the rim. Smells dark-fruited, ripe, and warmly generous but also has a counterpoint of rocky minerality. Ripe and nicely earthy but no over ripeness and an open, scented purity. Succulent and mouth-wateringly moreish, with the tannins adding so much to the freshness when the acidity is moderate. Powerful, the tannins still compact but finely grained. Long and promising. Refined power. (JH)"
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Glowing purple rim with black core, so glossy. Colour stands out for its incredible brightness – technical director (since Sept 2017) Aymeric de Gironde says this is to do with low sulphur additions. Darker fruited and still a touch floral on the nose. Some stony/mineral notes. Very fine texture, really pure black fruit, chalky (limestone-derived) texture. Great finesse and juicy freshness. Intense fruit but full of energy and brightness. Tight, so much tension from that early harvest even though the fruit is perfectly ripe. Dry finesse and fresh persistence. I think you could enjoy this younger than many wines in this vintage. (JH)"
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"One of the stories of the 2018 vintage in Bordeaux was Troplong Mondot bringing in its first grapes on 7 September. Proof, many suggested, of director Aymeric de Gironde going too far in his quest to rewrite Troplong's powerful style. It certainly made me excited to try this wine, and I hope the sceptics were too, because this is a brilliant Troplong. Oh, and although around 80% of the grapes did come in during those first 10 days, the final harvest date was 10 October. There's clear depth just in the colour alone, and impressive complexity on the nose. There's still a whole lot of Troplong strength and concentration here, you can't get away from that with these clay and flint over limestone soils, but now it is softer, with more minerality. The relatively high alcohols are apparent in the texture but not as heat. I love the persistency here, as it drags things out in the most delicious of ways, with a slate and white pepper finish. 3.56pH. Thomas Duclos consults. Drink 2027 – 2042."
- JL, Decanter.com

"Concentrated, full-bodied, deep and opulently textured, there is a beautiful sense of elegance and balance here. There is richness, power but also symmetry. The purity in the fruit, along with its freshness stand out as one of the keynotes of its character. This should age and evolve for 3 decades and be drinking perfectly after a decade of aging."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Full-bodied, lush, ripe and rich, the wine is concentrated as well as refined. The purity in the fruit stands out as one of the key points in its character. There is a richness and vivacity to the wine that works on the palate and in the luscious, silky finish. The wine was produced from a blend of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, reaching 14.5% alcohol. The harvest took place September 7 to October 9. Yields were 49 the hectoliters per hectare and the wine is aging in 60% new, French oak. Interestingly, Troplong Mondot now makes final blend in January -- after the vintage."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep ruby in colour, with a wonderfully fragrant and red-fruit accented nose of cherries, plums and creamy vanilla. The palate is peppery and floral, with violets, fleshy bramble fruits and waves of bright acidity. The oak has clearly been used sparingly - the savoury and sweet spices are subtle and wonderfully well integrated. The tannins are chalky and bold but well defined, providing the structure to give this wine real pedigree and age

Reviews *worthiness. Pure and long on the finish, this is a complete transformation and a remarkable turnaround in such a short timeframe. Bravo!"*

- Farr Vintners

"The 2018 Troplong Mondot takes its time to unfold; this particular sample was afforded 90 minutes to open. It then reveals its exquisitely defined bouquet of black cherries, shucked oyster shells and black currant leaf. It is transparent, almost Burgundian in style. The palate is beautifully defined with fine-boned tannins and wonderful tension and mineralité. You can feel the limestone terroir percolating through this Saint-Émilion, and it retains captivating spiciness on the almost crystalline finish. This is one of the finest Troplong's in recent years, and it has a long and prosperous future ahead."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Troplong Mondot was picked from 7 September until 10 October with 60% of the Merlot harvest completed in one week, then a long process to obtain full maturity. It has a gorgeous bouquet with black cherries, cassis, marmalade, and orange pith. With time it reveals a strong shucked oyster shell tang. It is very different to the 2017 but shows much more fruit intensity and harmony. The palate is medium-bodied with fine grain tannins. There is more body & mass compared to the 2017, fine grip with blackberry, black pepper, sea salt and a tang of Indian spice. It is an excellent Troplong Mondot that will give 20- 30 years of drinking pleasure."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2018 Troplong Mondot will take readers who haven't tasted these wines in a few years aback. Stunning in its aromatic presence, the 2018 is silky, medium-in body and super-refined. Once again, I am blown away by the wine's total sense of precision. The Cabernets are only 15% of the blend, and yet the 2018 is so strongly marked by floral and savory accents. Sweet red cherry, blood orange, mint, rose petal and lavender all build in the glass. The 2018 is regal, refined and absolutely exquisite."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2018 Troplong Mondot is a remarkable wine. All the elements fall into place in a stunning, aromatically intense Troplong Mondot that is full of character. There is a level of precision and vibrancy in the 2018 that is simply breathtaking. Black cherry, raspberry, mocha, flowers, mint and spice all meld together in this captivating, arrestingly beautiful Saint-Émilion. New oak is 60%, with lower toast levels than what was common just a few years ago."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2018 Château Troplong Mondot showed beautifully. It reveals a dense purple color as well as ripe beautiful aromatics of black cherries, red plums, graphite, espresso, Asian spices, and gravelly earth. Beautiful on the palate as well, it's medium to full-bodied and has a rounded, expansive texture, plenty of mid-palate depth, building tannins, and present yet integrated oak. This classic, impressive Troplong Mondot will need 5-7 years of bottle age but will evolve for 30 years or more."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Its vivid purple color is followed by a beautiful perfume of black raspberries, cassis, crushed flowers, and beautiful earthy minerality. Medium to full-bodied, ultra-pure, balanced on the palate, it has a beautiful chalky minerality on the finish. While the style has changed dramatically with the arrival of Aymeric de Gironde, the quality is nevertheless world-class."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"This was harvested on 7th September - much earlier than almost everyone in the region. The initial attack is strident with mineral tones leading the way over a core of plum and blackberry and in spite of the richness of the alcohol the fruit is cool, long and honed. They do not toast the barrels here and they cleaned them thoroughly before use so that there is little oak flavour impact and simply an oak influence. This wine has a slippery feel about it and alongside this there is a stony freshness. 'At the height of the mildew we only lost 20 clusters', Aymeric de Gironde stated, and they worked through the weekends using bio-control, to help the vines protect themselves. The result is the highest yields they can remember at extremely high quality, too. The new regime at Troplong is certainly making impressive wines and this is a striking example."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
