

Château Troplong Mondot 2019

CSPC# 831126

750mlx6

14.9% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% 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
Sustainability	Sustainable soil valuation analyses by Lydia and Claude Bourguignon, since 2007 Preservation of the biodiversity for more than 20 years thanks to the hedges, the forests and the walls that shelter the fauna.
General Info	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 <i>Annuaire des Châteaux de Féret</i> 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Winemaker	Aymeric de Gironde – Technical Director. Thomas Duclos consults.
Vintage	Winter: very mild. Spring: cool. Summer: exceptionally hot and dry. Autumn: very fine start to the season, some rainfall end September.
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%).
Harvest	Harvest from September 10 to 21 for the Merlots (before the rain), then October 24 for Cabernet Franc and October 7-8 for Cabernet Sauvignon.
Maturation	The grapes are hand-harvested and then fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. The wine is then aged in oak barriques (65% new and 35% 1-yr-old barrels) for 18 months. It is bottled unfiltered.
Tasting Notes	Ruby in colour. Floral yet rich with dark fruit. Aromas of blackberries, anise, spices. Fresh acidity, ripe tannins, and juicy dark fruits. The palate is lush and structured, detailed and layered. A balanced and long finish.
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 2025-2038



Scores/Awards **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022
98 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022
96-98 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020
98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022
96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020
99 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022
96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - January 2022
93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020
97 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022
95-98 points - Farr Vintners - May 2020
96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022
95-97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020
97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022
96-98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020
94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022
95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020

Reviews *"A flicker of savory leads off, before being quickly absorbed into the core of juicy plum, blackberry, and fig compote flavors. Long laces of alder, black tea and espresso crema wrap around the finish, where a hint of smoldering flint checks in before the fruit shows a final finishing kick. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2025 through 2038. 8,333 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Has any Bordeaux château realized a more wholesale stylistic revolution in so short a time than Troplong Mondot? Since Aymeric de Gironde arrived at the estate in late 2017, the ultra-powerful "shock and awe" style of the 2000s is out, and a new refinement is in. Of course, the deep clays that define the core vineyards around the château itself are never likely to produce light or ephemeral wines, but de Gironde has astutely understood that (to develop an analogy), when driving downhill, one can ease off on the accelerator. The 2019 Troplong Mondot is a ringing endorsement of the new direction, wafting from the glass with complex aromas of wild berries, violets, coniferous forest floor, licorice, raw cocoa, and subtle spices, followed by a full-bodied, velvety, and layered palate that's seamless and perfumed, its enveloping core of succulent fruit framed by rich, powdery tannins and lively acids. Harmonious and penetrating, I never thought I'd taste a wine like this from Troplong Mondot. Drink Date 2027 - 2060."
- WK, Wine Advocate

"The 2019 Troplong Mondot is a blend this year of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, harvested from the 10th to the 25th of September. The pH is 3.55—pretty incredible when you consider the alcohol is nearly 15%! I hasten to add that from tasting, I would have guessed this was 14.3% to 14.5% alcohol. It is the kind of wine with so much energy it practically does pirouettes on your palate. Opaque purple-black colored, the nose is fantastically floral, bursting from the glass with notes of candied violets, red roses, and lavender over a core of plum preserves, wild blueberries, and black raspberries with touches of garrigue, tilled soil, wild fungi, and crushed rocks plus a waft of powdered cinnamon. The medium-bodied palate is like a tightly coiled spring, featuring beautifully knit layers of black and red fruits, earth and floral notes within a firm, fine-grained frame, and bags of freshness, finishing long and mineral laced. This is a far cry from the old-school style of Troplong Mondot from a few years back, and it is incredibly impressive. This wine is aging in French oak barriques, some larger vats, and a small proportion is in amphorae. The oak portion is 60% new."
- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The purity of fruit is pretty phenomenal here with blackcurrants, cherries and crushed-stone undertones. Floral notes of roses and violets, too. Full-bodied, yet this is a linear style with super fine tannins and great length and beauty. You really want to drink it. It grows on the palate and shows real power, with breadth and depth. Remains fresh throughout. Really something. Try after 2026."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"With its rich tannins and serious, concentrated structure, the wine is obviously set for a great future. The Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend offers structure as well as the fine line of blackberry flavors. Filled out with ripe Merlot, the wine shows richness with everything in balance."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews

“Such a seductive soft perfume to the nose, delicate yet generous aromatics of cherry and rose. The palate is juicy and fresh, charming yet energetic with such crystalline purity and balance. Tannins are smooth but softly textured giving nuance to the flavours where refreshing high toned ripe red and black cherry fruit play alongside mint, dark chocolate, and graphite. Clearly powerfully but carefully controlled from start to finish giving such a satisfying overall mouthful and lasting impression. Incredible.”

- GH, Decanter.com

“Clear salinity, this grips with a dual character of seduction alongside precision. Estate signature in that it has coiled power with its berry fruits and cocoa notes, with a chalky depth to the tannins reflecting the clay and limestone soils. Complex and rich but conserving its energy. The hidden power is perhaps the biggest difference with the old Troplong pre-2017, when they were happy to show the power right from the start. There are a lot of layers going on here, real complexity that is in no hurry to reveal itself. A creaminess comes in as the texture widens and softens. High alcohol despite earlier picking dates because the terroir is the boss here! 3.55pH, tannin index of 70IPT. Thomas Duclos consultant.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Vibrant violet edging speaks of its limestone soil. I love the purity of the fruits, and the real chalkiness to the tannins on the finish. Clear density but one that is being uplifted by a cushion of air. This is elegant and sappy with cool blue fruits and precisely placed tannins on display. A brilliant wine for understanding terroir impact. Harvest from September 10 to 21 for the Merlots (before the rain), then October 24 for Cabernet Franc and October 7-8 for Cabernet Sauvignon. This wine is now from newly-purchased plots that are entirely Asteries limestone, plus a few plots of Troplong that are also pure limestone (as opposed to the clay cover that is found on much of the property).”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Straight away a depth and clarity to the raspberry, loganberry, bilberry, cassis fruits, with touches of gunsmoke. As it opens in the palate, and the whole thing deepens, suddenly drops down, a trap door of flavour opens, and you start to see just how good this wine is. Contained power, with liquorice and mint leaf. Waves of aromatics, see the construction and how it opens in the palate. This is impressive, confident. Thomas Duclos consultant. 65% new oak, and 35% one year old barrels, with trials on amphoras and with larger 70hl oak casks. Harvest September 11 to October 5, a leisurely harvest. With wines that have changed their vinification in the way that Troplong has (Aymeric de Gironde arrived in 2017), tasting in bottle is really important to see if the changes can hold during ageing and live up to promise.”

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

“The 2019 is a blend of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc. Aymeric continued his changes here by limiting green harvesting and deleafing to add freshness and reduce over-concentration and harvesting earlier. Malolactic fermentation was carried out entirely in tank this year, rather than in barrel as was previously the case. Yields are 44hl/ha in 2019, down 15% on 2018. The new oak is down to 60% and has a lighter toast, with 40% second fill barrels. Two more 20hl foudres are now in use, as well as 3 amphoras. Aymeric transformed the style of Troplong Mondot and produced one of the finest and purest wines of Saint Emilion in 2018. He is even happier with the mould of the 2019, in terms of projecting the new image for this Chateau. the colour is a vibrant ruby and the nose wonderfully fresh, full of cool blackcurrant but mostly red fruits. there is a floral edge of cherry blossom and violet that makes this supremely fragrant and enticing. The palate is savoury and moreish, with crunchy tannins framing a core of summer fruits. The oak is subtle, more sappy than sweet with notes of cedar and savoury spices. The bright, cleansing acidity gives a lithe mouthfeel, lifting all the riper, darker fruits into floral overtones. Aromatic and fine, through to the finish. A very elegant Troplong Mondot.”

- Farr Vintners

“The 2019 Troplong-Mondot, which was the first vintage without any malo in barrel, has a beautifully defined bouquet of blackberry, cranberry, touches of graphite and cedar aromas that gain intensity with aeration. The oak here is very well integrated. The palate is medium-bodied, elegant, and poised, with silky-smooth tannins and a complex, black-pepper- and allspice-tinged finish. Caressing in the mouth, delivering extremely well integrated oak and a classically styled, mineral finish. Superb. 2025 – 2050.”

- NM, Vinous

Reviews

"The 2019 Troplong Mondot needs an hour or two to settle and coalesce in the glass. As has been well documented, this is a reconfigured "TM" compared to those a decade ago - less flamboyant and ostentatious. Indeed, once it has shaken off that introspection, it unfurls with mainly black fruit, briary, sous-bois, hints of dark chocolate and mocha, perhaps one of the first Troplong's that I have encountered that is reminiscent of Pomerol. The palate is medium-bodied with very supple tannins. This is beautifully balanced with extremely well-judged acidity. Its gentle personality belies the backbone of this Troplong, with touches of white pepper and tobacco toward the cerebral finish. It is a wonderful Saint-Émilion from Aymeric de Gironde and his team, more approachable than the 2018, to be frank, just a wine you are going to want to drink. 2024 – 2050."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Troplong Mondot is without question one of the wines of the vintage. Vertical and explosive in feel, the 2019 dazzles with its magnificent balance. Inky red/purplish fruit, cinnamon, chocolate, dried flowers and lavender open with a bit of time, but Troplong is not a wine for the here and now, but rather a wine for readers who can be patient. The 2019 is all class and refinement. Those qualities become increasingly apparent over time once some of the initial power and density subsides with air. This is the first time the Grand Vin was blended before the malolactic fermentation. 2031 – 2049."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2019 Troplong Mondot is sensational. Rich, vibrant and explosive, the 2019 pulses with energy. Black cherry, violet plum, licorice, lavender, and dark spice build in a statuesque Saint-Émilion endowed with tremendous energy and pure power. Troplong Mondot is not as obvious a wine as it was a few years ago, but its grandeur - and more importantly, the grandeur of this site - are evident. Troplong Mondot is a wine that simply can't be denied. The 2019 is aging in 60% new oak and 40% a combination of once-used barrels, foudres and amphora.

Troplong Mondot has undergone a radical transformation since 2017 under the stewardship of Managing Director Aymeric de Gironde. Today, picking is earlier, there is greater focus on a parcel-by-parcel approach at harvest, no SO2 is used until barreling down, and for the first time, none of the malolactic fermentation was done in oak. Harvest took place from September 10 through October 7. De Gironde was among the managers who reported clusters of uneven ripeness, but added he is more comfortable with that than he might have been a few years ago, a way of thinking that is becoming more common in Bordeaux. In tasting, Troplong Mondot remains a big, broad-shouldered Saint-Émilion, but now it also has more energy and vibrancy than in the past."

- AG, Vinous

"The Grand Vin 2019 Château Troplong Mondot checks in as 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Cabernet Franc, brought up in a mix of new and used barrels. Its deep ruby/purple hue is followed by a pretty perfume of redcurrants, black cherries, spring flowers, damp earth, and candied violets. While harvested incredibly early, it pulls it off and is ripe, textured, and balanced, although it doesn't have the density or mid-palate of the top wines in the vintage. This elegant, complex, medium to full-bodied Saint-Émilion is going to hit maturity in 7-8 years and have 20+ years of prime drinking."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"The 2019 is a blend of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc. Aymeric de Gironde has transformed the style of Troplong Mondot in a move towards freshness since his recent appointment. Deep ruby in colour. Sweet dark cherries and plums come together with toasted spices and a fine, floral edge that offers lift and finesse to the fruit on the nose. The palate is plump and round, showcasing the effortless ripeness of the vintage without a hint of over extraction. Soft, ripe tannins gently frame a core of fleshy red and black fruits. The spice of wood is subtle and lightly savoury, reigning in the ripe fruit rather than adding to it. This succulent yet elegant Troplong is a testament to the work being done here. The wine now shows transparency of place and vintage, with a lighter touch from the winemaking team, and is all the better for it. The spherical nature of this wine suggests it will drink well in 4-5 years' time, but there is no doubt of the ageing potential here."

- Tom Parker MW
