

Château Troplong Mondot 2020

CSPC# 888357

750mlx6

14.5% 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

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 a 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 granddaughter, 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

2020 was a highly contrasted vintage that got off to a difficult start. The year began with an exceptionally rainy winter followed by a very mild spring. In this context, protecting the vines against mildew and managing the soil was a real struggle.

The first miracle appeared in mid-May, with dry and warm conditions during one of the earliest flowerings we have seen, two weeks ahead of schedule. The second miracle was on 19 June when the rain stopped, and the weather turned dry and cool until the beginning of the grape colour-change in mid-July. It is at this point in time that summer settled in for good, with some spells of heat through to mid-August when thunderstorms provided some relief and allowed the Merlot grapes to swell. The later-ripening Cabernets remained the size of blueberries until harvest, and the Merlots will ripe slowly until mid-September. The result was a vintage harvested about ten days early, mostly in sunny conditions. Both the Merlot and Cabernet were tannic, colourful and perfectly balanced. The grapes quickly expressed an intense aromatic expression in the vats.

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

Harvested from 4th September and lasting for about three weeks.

Winemaking

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

Promising, restrained aromas; particularly fruity and juicy in the beginning, but also with substance and depth, the alcohol cleverly balanced by the first-class tannins; excellently done, with polish



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 Approx. 8,000 cases made annually.

Cellaring Drink 2025-2038

Scores/Awards **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023

98+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023

95-97+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021

98+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023

97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023

98-99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021

98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2023

95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021

17+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021

100 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023

97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021

97 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023

97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023

96-98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021

92-94 points - Farr Vintners - May 2021

95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023

94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021

98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023

93-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021

97+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023

96-98 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021

19+ points - Matthew Jukes (score only) - April 2021

96-98 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021

97-98 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021

94-96 points - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021

95-97 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - July 2021

95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021

17.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021

Reviews *"Sleek and fresh, with alluring black cherry and red currant coulis notes lined with a floral hint, ending with a caressing feel. Not big but sneaky long, with a subtle flint echo at the very end. Approachable now too but will benefit from some cellaring. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2035."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2020 Troplong Mondot may prove to be even better than the brilliant 2019, and it is one of the Right Bank's finest wines in this vintage. Unwinding in the glass with deep aromas of mulberries, blackberries and red cherries mingled with hints of rose petal, licorice, and exotic spices, it's medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, with a satiny attack that segues into a vibrant, polished mid-palate, concluding with a long, resonant finish. Having seen only 65% new oak and with malolactic fermentation completed in tank rather than in barrel, it's remarkably pure and seamless. With the 2020 vintage, this estate's stylistic redemption appears to be complete."

- WK, Wine Advocate

"The 2020 Troplong Mondot is composed of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, harvested from 4th September and lasting for about three weeks. The pH is 3.53, the IPT (tannin index) is 75 and the alcohol is 14.5%. Opaque purple-black colored, it opens with a vivacious burst of black fruits—stewed plums, baked blackberries, and boysenberries—giving way to a fragrant undercurrent of licorice, ground cloves, cinnamon stick and lilacs, with a touch of bouquet garni. The full-bodied palate is chock-full of plump, juicy black fruits, and savory sparks, framed by fantastically ripe, fine-grained tannins and bold freshness, finishing long and opulent."

"Our limestone and clay soils really did their job of capturing the moisture in the winter," said Aymeric de Gironde, winemaker at Troplong Mondot. "In the center, we have the clay soils with large stones and flint. This is what I call the freebie—the core of the vineyard around the water tower—where you get all that generosity for free, lots of power and structure. Then you have the outskirts, which has a limestone subsoil. The limestone and earlier harvest give a minerality, with the silkiness of the tannins. We are looking for a very round and deep wine, but also very dynamic. Harvest was very warm. So, we really had to adjust what we did. We only harvested in the

Reviews *early morning. In the winery, we have built a cool room to store the grapes about a day and a half before we ferment. We immediately bring them down to about five degrees. We managed this year to have quite a long cold maceration—averaging about 10 days, but some tanks were pushed to 15 days. Then the fermentation went very fast—one of the fastest and most efficient we’ve had. Also, as in 2019, we didn’t do any malolactic in barrels in 2020—only in tanks. This brings a bit more purity to the wines. Then you can blend the plots more easily, with greater clarity.” Not without its challenges, 2020 was a great vintage to continue the upward trajectory and unveiling of the new expression of this very special site at Troplong Mondot—and what an exhilarating ride this is!”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“A blend of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 2% Cabernet Franc, the 2020 Troplong Mondot is deep garnet-purple in color. It needs a swirl or two to release a profound nose of plum preserves, juicy blueberries, and chocolate-covered cherries, giving way to hints of violets, black truffles, fertile loam, and tar, with a waft of licorice. The full-bodied palate shimmers with energy, delivering tightly wound layers of black fruits, floral notes, and mineral layers, framed by very fine-grained tannins and a lively backbone, finishing long and minerally. So very fresh and bright - it needs time but is already a temptress.”
- LPB, Wine Independent

“A soft and round red with plum and milk chocolate. Hazelnuts. Full-bodied and layered. Juicy. Hints of sea salt. Power is there. Turns firm and vivid. So attractive now. Savory. Needs three to four years to open. Drink after 2027.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This has superb depth and intensity with very fine tannins that draw you down. So much black fruit, together with black pepper and salt. Extremely well crafted. Vertical and deep. Chalky and salty with black chocolate.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This firmly structured wine with its high percentage of Merlot is powerful and dense. The bold black fruits and perfumed density are impressive.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Rich and powerful, dense, and compact, with a mineral edge, this is a ripe wine with layers of dark tannins. It does have fresh acidity to balance the black currant fruits. Tannins burst through the fruit, offering a huge long-term structure. An impressive wine. Barrel Sample: 95-97.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc. Cask sample. Aromatically a little awkward at present (oak and a bit of oxidation?) but the palate is clearly defined with crunchy fruit, suave texture, and chalky freshness. The impressive structure of finely crafted tannins and a real sense of terroir displayed. Definite potential. (JL) Drink 2028 – 2040.”
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

“A sensational Troplong. Vibrant and vivid, this makes you smile from the first smell: milk chocolate, floral notes of roses and lavender, wet stones, liquorice, cinnamon, and ripe bramble fruits. Round and thrilling on the palate, tannins are abundant with a chalky blueberry coolness while a salty tang settles around the mouth. Lovely precision and purity of fruit; you feel the sharp definition - still linear which makes it less immediately charming than the 2019 but giving undeniable complexity. Deep but not heady, this remains pure and detailed, with a leanness from the terroir really setting this apart. After a few minutes, the glamour starts to appear giving a salivating, succulent and moreish aspect to the finish. An absolute beauty.”
- GH, Decanter.com

“Inky in colour, this is utterly gorgeous, so much purity and definition on the nose. Things start out intense, with crushing tannins, then it steps up and back, with a delicate but juicy slate and crushed rock minerality flooding in. Great physicality, with a push and pull that goes from power to lightness of touch. I assume it will gain a little more weight over ageing, but this is exceptionally well controlled. Crushed blackcurrant and blackberry fruits,

Reviews *with chalky tannins and savoury Cabernet florals. 60% new oak. 3.53pH. The new cellar will be used for vinification from the 2021 vintage, with this vintage aged in the new barrel cellars. No malolactic fermentation in barrel since the 2019 vintage. Just 2mm of rain in July and 30mm in August but the deep clay-limestones at Troplong kept their freshness, and there were no blockages in ripening. Thomas Duclos consultant. Drinking Window 2028 – 2044.”*

- JA, Decanter.com

“Powerful and knitted down, this feels both crafted and hewn out of the clay-limestone slopes of Troplong. Blueberry, plum, slate, cocoa, espresso, all the power of this estate delivered with salt-studded chocolate, liquorice root, cocoa powder, mint leaf, just a brilliant wine, that ends with a whoosh of freshness and lift. Just 2mm of rain in July and 30mm in August but the deep clay-limestones at Troplong kept their freshness, and there were no blockages in ripening.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“Flowers, cherries, plums, licorice, and an array of spices greet your nose. The wine is rich, full-bodied, concentrated, seductive and packed from start to finish with layers of crushed rocks, licorice, blackberries, currants, and cocoa, ending with light touches of chalk, along with sweet red and black pit fruits that build as they linger. Similar to what I found with the barrel sample, even with all its richness, the wine remains light on its feet with its strong sense of minerality and lift. Drink from 2027-2055.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Inky dark in color with purple around the edges, the wine jumps out of the glass with its complex nose of plum liqueur, flowers, licorice, caramel, cappuccino, herbs, and earth. Full-bodied, seductive, concentrated, and powerful, yet even with all its richness, the wine remains light on its feet. The strong sense of minerality accompanying the fruit in the end note adds complexity. There is lift, length and purity from start to finish making you want to go back for sip and sip.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep ruby-purple in the glass. This is a rich and plush nose, full of ripe red and even black cherry that is layered with vanilla and some savoury spice. The palate is generous and fleshy, fuller than the last two vintages with smoky black cherry and a hint of damson. Lift comes from ripe and plentiful tannins as well as bright acidity. There is real underlying power here that drives this to a ripe and long finish.”

- Farr Vintners

“The 2020 Troplong Mondot has a limpid dark hue. The bouquet is intense with black cherries, red plum, Earl Grey and very subtle floral scents, a mixture of peony and violet. The palate is medium-bodied with very pliant tannins, fine acidity, taut and fresh. With moderate depth, this Troplong possesses impressive salinity, a little powdery texture towards the finish, with a gentle but insistent grip. Black fruit dominates here, chalky, and terroir-driven, so you can feel the terroir tingling on the aftertaste. Quite a "serious" Saint-Émilion, it will require half a dozen or so years to show what it is capable of. NB A decanted bottle had more "pixelation" on the finish. Drink 2027-2050.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2020 Troplong Mondot was tasted from two samples, both directly from the estate, but with two prélèvements because Aymeric de Gironde was not content with the showing of the first. Indeed, the second, which was tasted the following day (yes, bottles arrived quickly) did show slightly better, even if there was not an enormous difference. It has a deep garnet hue, yet the nose is initially backward and demands about an hour to really open and say what it wants to say. The nuanced bouquet features a mixture of red and black fruit, touches of iris flower, sea spray and a touch of Earl Grey. This is typical of the more elegant, terroir-driven style introduced under Aymeric de Gironde. The palate is medium-bodied with crunchy red fruit, cranberry and raspberry mixed with truffle and a pinch of sea salt. The acidity is well judged, and it conveys palpable energy on the finish. This is a delicious and characterful Saint-Émilion, fresh and vibrant, that will fill out and gain depth during its barrel maturation. Excellent. 2027 – 2050.”

- NM, Vinous

Reviews *"The 2020 Troplong Mondot is fabulous. Rich, dark and expansive, the 2020 is wonderfully exuberant right out of the gate. Black cherry, plum, gravel, incense and licorice are all dialed up. There's tremendous breadth and power, but without the excess weight of the past. Even so, the 2020 is a big, big wine that needs the better part of a decade to soften. All the classic Troplong structure is there but buffered by vibrant acids and tons of supporting minerality."*

- AG, Vinous

"The 2020 Troplong Mondot is another strong showing from the estate under the direction of Aymeric de Gironde. Exotic and voluptuous, the 2020 is endowed with terrific depth and plenty of layers that unfold over time. Raspberry jam, cloves, kirsch, and lavender all flesh out beautifully in the glass. Troplong Mondot has been exceptionally fine since 2017, when the new team headed by de Gironde took over and began to focus on giving the Grand Vin more energy. In the 2020, though, I see less of the vibrancy and brilliance that has defined the new style at Troplong. Tasted two times."

- AG, Vinous

"A clear step up over the 2019, the 2020 Château Troplong Mondot is mostly Merlot yet includes 13% Cabernet Sauvignon and 2% Cabernet Franc, all of which was raised in 65% new French oak, with the balance in once-used barrels. The level of purity and finesse here is remarkable, and it reveals a deep ruby/purple hue as well as incredible aromatics of cassis, ripe black cherries, graphite, gunpowder, and spring flowers. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, it has building, perfectly ripe tannins, flawless balance, and a great finish. Certainly, light years away from the riper, more opulent style of the 2000's, the wines today under consultant Thomas Duclos are much more about finesse and elegance. While I certainly miss the sexy, riper style of the past, there is no denying the incredible quality from this château today. 97+."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"I'd wager the finest vintage here since the 2015, then the 2009, the 2020 Château Troplong Mondot is a blend of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the balance Cabernet Franc. It offers a dense purple hue as well as powerful, unevolved aromas and flavors of pure crème de cassis, black cherries, graphite, gravelly earth, and tobacco. Coming from the highest elevation vineyard in the appellation and deeper, clay soils (which excelled in 2020), it's medium to full-bodied and has a dense, thick mid-palate, building tannins, and a great finish. It's not for the instant gratification crowd out there, but it's going to be incredibly long-lived. Hats off to the team at Troplong Mondot as well as oenologist Thomas Duclos."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deepest ruby, opaque core, purple reflections. Sweet, dark berry fruit, nuances of cassis and blackberries, a hint of fig, subtle herbal savouriness, mineral touch. Substantial, powerful, black cherries, ripe, supporting and at the same time silky tannins, dark nougat on the finish, has great aromatic depth, great length, certain ageing potential."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"(85% M, 13% CS, 2% CF; 14.5% ABV; 60% new). Very ripe, plummy Merlot nose; rich, firm, very finely tannic, a fine constitution and a really beautiful balance; deep, sweet, long, and racy, with both density and freshness, an understated wine that is both relatively large in scale and yet discreet and absolutely effortless, too; very mineral behind the ripe, fleshy fruit, prolonged, graceful, constantly vibrant, and with lovely fruit persistence to finish. Very classy. Splendid wine, with a tannin texture so fine that this is likely to be deliciously enjoyable relative early, too. A world apart, and a much more attractive one, from the run of heavyweights that preceded Aymeric de Gironde's first vintage in 2018. 2028-60+."

- MS, The World of Fine Wine