

Château Montrose 2013

CSPC# 753650

750mlx12

12.9% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint Estèphe
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.chateau-montrose.com/en/home/
General Info	Second growth classified in 1855. With its terroir of big gravels located by the river Gironde, its classic and powerful style, Montrose is often called the Latour of Saint Estèphe. Montrose needs time to express its incomparable delicacy. In the first decade, its fantastic potential is hidden behind a certain austerity. In the second decade, the wines open themselves. In the third decade, they explode, and the terroir expresses itself. In the hands of the family Charmolle from 1896 to 2006, it is now run by Martin and Olivier Bouygues.
Vintage	2013 St. Estèphe wines are clearly a mixed bag. There is a marked difference, even more than you might expect from the top terroir to the lesser soils, as 2013 St. Estèphe was a vintage of extreme challenges. Due in part to the experiencing less rain than other appellations in the Medoc, and its naturally cooler clay soils, the best chateau were able to pull a rabbit out their hat with the 2013 St. Estèphe vintage and make some strong wines. In some appellations with 2013 Bordeaux, it's difficult to find a clear star of the region. That is not the case here with 2013 St. Estèphe. Perhaps, due to the celebratory opening of the architecturally stunning, new cellars at Chateau Montrose, we should have expected nothing else. They were not the estate to make a wine well above expectation in 2013, but at least for me, 2013 Montrose would have earned good notices in any vintage, but in 2013, it's quite an achievement!
Vineyards	At Chateau Montrose, the terroir's potential is optimised on the basis of a very simple winemaking philosophy, summarised by Jean Bernard Delmas as follows: "Wine is made in the vines and not in the winery". The Bordeaux vineyard of Chateau Montrose is planted to 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot with vines that are on average 40 years of age. In 2010, Chateau Montrose purchased 22 hectares of Bordeaux wine vineyards from Phelan Ségur. The vines consisted of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. This purchase increased the land owned by Montrose from 67 hectares to 89 hectares.
Harvest	According to Herve Berland, who serves as a Group Managing Director and Member of the Management team, success of the wine in this difficult vintage was due to picking later than many estates and having to remove leaves in the middle of September to help aerate the vines were key factors. Montrose finished their harvesting on October 16.
Vinification/ Maturation	The alcoholic fermentation take place in stainless steel vats and last about 20 days. Several pumping-over are done each day in order to speed up the thin layers / grape seeds/ and juice exchange. Before the malolactic fermentation, and as soon as the running off starts, samples of a same grape variety and identical quality are blended. 60% of new french oak barrels, supplied by several carefully- selected coopers are used in Montrose, and 40 % in one-year old barrels. The average ageing period is 16 to 18 months.
Production	18,333 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2018-2025
Scores/Awards	92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016 90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014 87-89 points - Robert M. Parker Jr., Wine Advocate #214 - August 2014 91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2014 91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2014



Scores/Awards **95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 4, 2014
88-91 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - Aug 2014
15.5 points - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - April 2014
18 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2014
92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2014
92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2014
90-92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2, 2014
90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
17.5 points - John Berry, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2014
16 points - Farr Vintner - April 2014
90-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2014
16.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2014
92 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2014
91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2014
91-92 points - Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants - April 2013
91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
16.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
91 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"Rock-solid, with lightly steeped red currant and damson plum fruit that fills out nicely with air, while singed alder, tobacco, iron and warm pebble notes show in the background. The pure finish has good energy. A great effort for the vintage. Best from 2018 through 2023."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Pure, with a whiff of sage lining the core of plum, red currant and black cherry fruit. Light tobacco and warm stone shadings appear on the supple finish. Well done. Score range: 90-93"
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"No Cabernet Franc was included in the final blend of the 2013 Montrose, which is composed of 91% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Merlot. It is a dark ruby-hued, pleasant, charming, fruit-forward, but superficial effort. There is an absence of tannic strength, and the acidity seems adequate and unobtrusive. This is a pleasant, straightforward, fluid Montrose to drink in its first 7-10 years of life. The 2013 harvest at Montrose was very early because of the pressure from high humidity and the fear of rot."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"The Grand Vin represents 60% of production and is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. It has a fragrant nose, quite ripe and somehow akin to a Saint Julien than a Saint Estephe as there is little trace of that telltale earthiness at the moment (and it is not geosmin). There is a hint of green bell pepper in the background and that become exaggerated by aeration, but it is an attractive component. I wonder how this will play out during élevage? The palate is full-bodied with a firm grip. There are quite furry tannins here, a solid Montrose, a little charmless in its youth as is often the case but exhibiting fine persistency on the bullish finish. You actually warm to it the longer it lingers, gathering momentum so to speak, so I'm keeping the faith. Tasted March 2014."
 - NM, Wine Journal

"A firm Montrose with very silky tannins and a pretty acid, fruit balance. Full body. Integrated and seamless for the vintage. Spicy undertones. A blend of 68% cabernet sauvignon, 29% merlot and 3% petit verdot."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a firm wine although with superb fruit. It is structured and dense, dark with tarry tannins as well as juicy fruitiness. It is a powerful wine that certainly has the freshness of the year while also having dark, dense tannins. Drink from 2025."
 - RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *"95–97. Barrel Sample. This wine is complex, ripe and powerful. The power is complemented by the velvet texture that gives it roundness as well as richness. The acidity cuts right through this impressive wine."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"(68% cabernet sauvignon, 29% merlot and 3% petit verdot): Bright ruby-red. Perfumed red fruit aromas are complicated by peppermint and flint on the pure nose. Crisp and fresh, with vibrant flavors similar to the aromas, but hard as nails now. Finishes long, tight and austere, with a steely minerality and a violet top note. Given Montrose's track record for gaining in volume and flesh while aging in the bottle, I am hopeful that this will develop more charm and sweetness in the process. Very clean and precise: Montrose had fewer botrytis problems than most other Medoc estates thanks to the windy conditions on the plateau where this estate's vineyards are located. 88-91"
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Dense black-red, cassis and some tobacco, spicy, almost taffeta texture over classically firm Montrose fruit, great clarity of expression, very fine. Drink: 2019-2030. 18."
- SS, Decanter Magazine

"By the high standards of this château, this has to count as a slight disappointment, even in a complicated vintage. It's a savoury, compact wine, with firmish tannins, sensitive oak and good concentration, but it just needs a little more fruit. 2020-30 92"
- TA, timatkin.com

"Smoke, coffee bean, fennel, tobacco, truffle and blackberry aromas come forth with no effort. In the mouth, the wine is soft and polished, especially when considering the vintage, the wine finishes with cassis, fresh black cherries and licorice. Tannic, but not obtrusive, the wine should be given at least 5 years to come around. On the bright side for fans of Montrose, this still places it at the top of the queue for early drinking vintages of Montrose! Representing 60% of the production, the wine was made from a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. With 2013, the property purposely decided not to include Cabernet Franc in the blend. Yielding 30 Hectoliters per hectare, the brix of the wine reached 12.9% alcohol which is aging in 60% new, French oak barrels. According to Herve Berland, who serves as a Group Managing Director and Member of the Management team, success of the wine in this difficult vintage was due to picking later than many estates and having to remove leaves in the middle of September to help aerate the vines were key factors. Montrose finished their harvesting on October 16. 92-94 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and saturated; lively and vibrant at the edge; blackcurrants and expensive oak aromas; quite closed on the day but depth apparent; some cassis and clean, fresh blackcurrant tones on aeration; dense and chewy palate which needs to settle; boldly structured with lots of grip and acidity. Sappy finish with quite a bit of chew. Feels long term effort if rather serious and lacking in immediate charm. [68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot, 13% alc, 60% of production]. Drink 2020-2035. 90-92"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"This great second growth vineyard is majestically situated overlooking the Gironde in the Southern section of St Estephe. Recently purchased and re-invigorated by the Bouygues family, Montrose is on top form. Hervé Berland, formerly of Mouton Rothschild, is now in charge and eye-watering amounts of money have been spent on stunning new facilities. A new team has been recruited with a maître de chai coming in from JP Moueix. There was no botrytis here thanks to the wind coming in from the estuary and the Cabernets were picked up to October 16th. The Cabernet Francs didn't make the final blend which is 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot to be aged in a magnificent new barrel cellar (see photo gallery). A deep purple colour, one of the deepest of the vintage. Sweet black cherry on the nose with some attractive vanilla and creamy chocolate. A firm structure with lots of cedary tannins coating the core of blueberry and black cherry. A good intensity, with a long finish. This is one of the few wines in 2013 that will need a few years bottle age in order to soften its tannin and be approachable to drink."
- Farr Vintners

Reviews

"The nose has a brooding depth and the start of the palate has lots of rich fruit. Black fruits are backed by liquorice further enriched by chocolate but towards the back there is a balancing freshness that gives a lighter more elegant feel to the finish. 90-93 2020-30"

- Derek Smedley MW

"Tasted three times, this wine showed differently each time. The first sample at the chateau was tannic and closed. The second sample lacking on the mid palate. Finally, the third sample, sent from the chateau was harmonious. This year Montrose made a focused red with firm tannins and velvety texture. Tannins dominate more than the fruit at this stage, but the quality of the tannins are there for the long run. Tight, fairly slim red with good finish. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (01-Apr-2014)"

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"This is incredibly complex and defies the vintage. It is dark, well-structured with more fine ripe tannins, a complexity then I found on most of the wines this vintage and a streak of minerality and energy and a beautiful floral aromatic note on the nose. St-Estèphe escaped the torrential rain at harvest that plagued most of the Medoc and the resulting wines are incredible. An unusual blend as it has no Cabernet Franc and the final blend is 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot."

- JB, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

"Startlingly different style to Calon, Montrose has much more sheer volume, but at the expense, for now at least, of the clarity and focus. Again, they say that there was no botrytis here, that the vintage was not that awful, it's a question of having the 'capacity and terroir and microclimate to do it' - and they clearly think they have, likening this to their 1998. Big and round and brooding velvet fruit. 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot. Distinctive fruit flavours, the oak is well-integrated, rich body and fleshy feel, the tannins are very present, but the fruit feels equal to them. There's a milky, chocolatey side which makes it feel like it's been worked quite hard, but it is good. 91 - 92/100"

- Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants

"(68 Cabernet Sauvignon, 29 Merlot, 3 Petit Verdot) Stern with a curious red fruit core. Not very expressive. Blunt, blocky and rather dense, this is a closed and quite short Montrose with no real happiness let alone a charming welcome. Too short and a little too cramped. Interestingly, they avoided the massive rains on 4th October, but this clearly didn't improve the friendliness of the final wine! It will evolve though, albeit slowly and no doubt find harmony in due course. 16.5+"

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"Graphite, camphor, incense, tobacco, smoke and game burst from the glass in the 2013 Montrose. A dark, brooding wine, the 2013 boasts notable depth and tannin considering its mid-weight structure. The 2013 will require at least a few years to come together. Graphite, scorched earth, sage and rosemary are some of the notes that inform the intense finish. This has real density for the year. Based on two tastings so far, the 2013 Montrose is making a very strong case for itself as one of the wines of the vintage. The blend is 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, with quite a bit more Cabernet than the more typical 55%. Tasted twice."

- AG, Vinous

"This 2013 blend is made from perfectly ripe and excellently healthy Cabernet Sauvignon (68%). A wine that expresses the nature of Saint-Estèphe!

One of the priorities of the Bouygues brothers when they purchased this prestigious Saint-Estèphe property from the Charmolüe family was to focus on sustainable development and energy efficiency. Solar panels were installed, a geothermic heat pump was acquired, and the buildings' insulation was redone—to name but a few of the projects undertaken with this goal in mind. Under the moderating influence of the Gironde estuary, which is less than one kilometer away, the vineyard enjoys perfect southeast exposure. Jean-Bernard Delmas, enlisted by the Bouygues in 2006 as director, was followed in 2012 by Hervé Berland, having retired from Château Mouton Rothschild. An exemplary Bordeaux estate.

- SAQ (Quebec Liquor Stores)
