

Château Montrose 2015

CSPC# 801720

750mlx6

13.7% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc
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	2015 started with a colder winter than in previous years. The start of the season, mild and quite sunny, favoured early bud burst. Quick and uniform flowering took place at the start of June thanks to the exceptional climatic conditions. June and July were dry, marked by water stress leading to a clear slow-down in the development of the vine. Véraison took place early and in a very uniform way between 21 July and 10 August. The showers in September gave us the measure, once again, of the qualities of our terroir: drainage was perfect, and the Cabernet Sauvignon on the plateau bordering the estuary benefited from a very beneficial drying wind.
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	September 15th – October 8 th . Harvest started from 15 September with an increased team of pickers and continued at a sustained pace until 8 October when picking finished. The grapes were of very good quality, and we further strengthened our ultra-precise plot selection, which sometimes involved several passes through a plot in the search for optimum ripeness. In the cellar, the reception line allowed for precision work: 3 sorting tables for bunches preceded double sorting of the berries, optical then by hand.
Vinification/ Maturation	The vinification, respectful of the identity of our terroir, was tailor-made in tanks of sizes adapted to each of the 55 batches that make up our blending palette. To these were added 7 batches resulting from the precision work carried out at the press. At the time of blending, the richness of the batches allowed us to be extremely precise in the selection for the grand vin, the most drastic in 15 years. The first tastings put this vintage among the great years of Château Montrose. Matured for 18 months in 60% new oak barrels, the premium wine accounts on average for 55% of the estate's total production.
Tasting Notes	Deep in colour, the expressive and elegant nose reveals notes of white flowers. On aeration, more complex aromas of ripe black fruit emerge, smoky and toasty. The attack is clean and elegant on the palate, true velvet supported by silky tannins. Very good balance in a very fine and defined wine. The very long finish reveals notes of oak and liquorice. Structured and tannic but with all the elegance and refinement of a Grand Cru Classé, with time it develops a delicate and complex bouquet.
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2045



Scores/Awards **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018
95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018
93-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018
98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016
96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018
94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016
18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2018
17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
96 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016
97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018
96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017
94-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
95-97 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016
96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
16.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016
91-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016
93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
90-93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018
18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016
94-96 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016
18 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016
18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016

Reviews *"Fleshy for the vintage, with good plum and dark currant fruit lined with ample tobacco, warm paving stone, bay leaf and alder notes on the slightly dusty finish. Not a charmer, but this is integrated and shows range and depth for the vintage. Best from 2020 through 2035."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The deep garnet-purple colored 2015 Montrose opens with broody black fruits, menthol and anise notes with a core of cassis, blueberries and mulberries plus a touch of cedar chest. The medium-bodied mouth is firm and chewy with a good core of muscular fruit and a long, earthy finish. 2022 – 2042"

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Montrose is a blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc that was picked between 15 September and 8 October, the fruit sorted three times using three sorting tables, then an optical sorting machine and finally by hand. Matured in 65% new oak, it possesses some of the best aromatics you will find in the appellation - billowing blackberry, cassis and boysenberry scents all beautifully defined and seamlessly integrated with the new oak. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, commendable depth and a vibrant bead of acidity that lends this Montrose tension from start to finish. The class comes through strongly in this wine, perhaps the best Saint Estèphe this year. Give this a decade in bottle, more if you can, since Montrose tends to repay cellaring. Drink 2025-2060"

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Montrose was bottled in July 2017, a blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. I remember that Herve Berland felt that I was rather mean to the 2015 after the splendid 2014. Certainly, I find that élevage has meliorated this Montrose and lent the aromatics a little more complexity and cohesion compared to its showing in barrel. There is still plenty of blackberry and cassis fruit, also a subtle floral component that becomes more conspicuous with aeration. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin, smooth and almost silky in texture with a fine bead of acidity. This is certainly one of the more elegant and graceful Montrose in recent years with a lovely saline, marine-influenced finish. I maintain that it will be surpassed by the 2014 and nascent 2016, but it remains a delicious Montrose whose fineness of tannins should render it more approachable than other recent vintages. Anticipated maturity: 2021 - 2045."

- NM, Wine Journal

- Reviews** *"Intensity and clarity of fruit is so insane. Blackberries, spices such as cloves, blueberries, sandalwood and dried lavender. Full body and such a beautiful, dense center palate with perfectly polished tannins. Extremely long and beautiful. One of the best young Montrose's in a long, long time. Drink in 2024."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "Blueberry, black currant, fresh basil and lemon grass flavors. Full body, velvety tannins, clean finish. Spices. Depth."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "This sumptuous, powerful wine has a great sense of structure and tannins. It is also overwhelmingly dense with black fruits and swathes of rich black currants. In this vintage, even more Cabernet Sauvignon than usual in the blend has given a ripe wine set for a far-distant future. Drink from 2026."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "94–96. Barrel Sample. This is a sumptuous wine with a fine structure that reveals its delicious fruit in layers of acidity and black currants. Even more Cabernet than usual in the blend has made it a dark, firm and structured wine. The juicy fruit shouldn't deceive; this is a wine that will age slowly."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Very dark and very dramatic. Even a hint of over ripeness on the nose. A little stodgy. Could do with a little more lift. A little dry at present. Clearly fashioned for the very long term. Kerpow! Very much in the style of the old Montrose's in terms of sheer concentration.
Drink 2027-2042"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Glowing crimson. Smells very Cabernet/cassis. Lovely classy nose with real vigour and perfect balance. So, alluring you could almost drink it tonight, although there is a massive tannin level underneath the well-judged fruit. Great stuff. Drink 2024-2048"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Deep florality and wonderful black fruit. Surprisingly smooth and silky at first then the classic firmness becomes plain towards the finish. It has more natural richness than most in 2015 – a superbly made wine from a great terroir."*
- SS, Decanter Magazine
- "Well, well, well. How good is this? St. Estèphe was supposed to be the least favoured commune in the Médoc in 2015, but this is a brilliant wine that's up there with the best releases of the vintage. Perfumed, dense and super concentrated, with compact tannins, notes of cassis, blueberry and liquorice and very fine tannins. Drink: 2025-40"*
- TA, timatkin.com
- "This is another gem that is much better from bottle than barrel. There is a smoky, spicy character to the waves of fruit on your palate. Full bodied, concentrated, long, fresh and clean, with a finish that stick with for at least 40 seconds. Comparing with the 2014, 2016 and 2017 over the years is going to make for a lot of fun tastings!"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "A year in barrel has added a lot of complexity, richness, and polish to the wine. There is depth of flavor and concentration now, along with more aromatic complexities. A bit more time of aging could make this even better! This should hit the top of my initial range with ease."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Showing a good depth of color, the tobacco, cassis, boysenberry and spice-filled aromatics are hard to avoid. Full-bodied and concentrated, there is a lot of power and tannin to contend with this year. It's going to take time for this wine to become civilized. The finish packs a large bushel of ripe, sweet fruit and flavor along with tannins in every mouthful. Representing 36% of the production, the blend consists of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29%*

Reviews *Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. This wine reached 13.4% alcohol with a pH of 3.6 and the harvest took place between September 15 and October 8. Montrose which is on top of its game these days can fool you. It can be a bit hard to get a read on some vintages in their youth, making it is quite possible this wine could end up much better when it is in bottle. It would not be the first time that happened. I can tell you that from personal experience."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and arterial; colour right up to the rim; vibrant purple; lovely lush qualities; deep – very deep indeed; legs; black fruits – ripe black cherries; some smoke – but remarkable purity; very layered; [volume seriously turned up in this wine]; pretty profound stuff; very full – certainly – round too; lots of matter and extract but not extracted; powerful. 65% new oak. Lovely wine – almost the equal qualitatively of 2014 [but stylistically very contrasting reflecting the very different growing season]. Lovely grip and length. [67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc]. Drink 2025-2045. Tasted at Montrose 4/4/16. 95-97"

- 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 large amounts of money have been spent on stunning new facilities. There was some very severe selection in 2015 with only 37% of the crop being selected for the grand vin. The blend is 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. Deep purple colour. Immediately aromatic with a powerful nose of wood smoke, damp earth, leather and blackcurrant. The palate is smooth and ripe on entry with a good stuffing of blackcurrant on the mid palate, given backbone by velvets, ripe tannins that will make this Montrose more approachable than some previous vintages. There is a sappy, smoky note to the finish that provides a moreish, savoury edge to pair with the pure cassis fruit flavour."

- Farr Vintners

"Concentration richness the nose has a powerful mix of black fruits the palate a brooding depth. The tannins are fine and not that obvious but support. The fruit at the back is ripe a rich mix of black fruits yet there is balance with freshness on the finish."

- Derek Smedley MW

"A dark, serious Montrose with firm, grippy tannins and a wonderful concentration of flavors. This is a dense Montrose with elevated, ripe tannins. There is a spiciness and floral character in this vintage that is usually not present in Montrose this young. A subtle, restrained wine built for aging rather than drinking early - wait at least 8+ years."

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2015 Montrose has developed very nicely over the last two years. As it showed from barrel, the 2015 is a relatively light-bodied wine for this site. Even so, all the elements are very nicely balanced throughout. I suspect the 2015 needs at least a handful of years to become fully expressive and will age for decades, although it will never be a huge wine in the style of viscerally thrilling vintages like 2014, 2016 and so many others. The 2015 is 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc that spent 18 months in French oak, 30% new. (AG"

- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Montrose is silky, super-finessed and nuanced, all qualities that are unusual for a wine that is usually much more of a powerhouse. Black cherry, smoke, leather, graphite, crème de cassis and licorice notes open up in the glass, yet the wine comes across as raw and not fully formed. The 2015 appeared to put on a bit of weight over the two weeks I followed it, but I don't see the depth, structure and personality of the very best versions."

- AG, Vinous

"Powerful and yet restrained, this is a tangy, firm, taut Montrose with very clean, focused fruit and a direction which is unquestionable. The oak is stunning and refreshing and while it is nearly all new oak, the fruit sings and the attack and balance are stunning. The precision and weightlessness are thrilling, and you sense that the tannins are built to last 50 years – this is stunning sleight of hand. Hervé Berland (CEO) explained that by shortening the cuvaison and being desperately careful with extraction he was able to make a much more precise wine. Careful addition of press wine, of optimum quality, allowed them to build and intense but not heavy wine. This continued tinkering and fine-tuning as well as a gradual cutting back on Merlot has allowed Montrose to

Reviews *soar. This is an epic wine.”*
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

“Another wine I was able to taste on multiple occasions, the 2015 Montrose is a certainly the wine of Saint-Estèphe in 2015. Notes of cassis, damp earth, violets, and graphite/lead pencil notes all flow to a beautifully pure, elegant and multi-dimensional 2015 that has fine, polished tannin, perfect balance, and a great finish. The 2015 is a blend of 67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc, all of which was brought up in 65% new oak. This isn’t a blockbuster yet is pure class all the way. It will be better in 4-5 years and keep for 2-3 decades.”

- Jeb Dunnuck
