

Château Montrose 2016

CSPC# 753650

750mlx12

13.3% alc./vol.

CSPC# 780483

750mlx12

13.3% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 7% 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.
Winemaker	Nicholas Glumineau
Vintage	<p>The 2016 vintage was defined by a cool and wet start to the season, followed by a very dry and rather hot summer.</p> <p>The winter was relatively mild. Regular and intense rainfall marked out the spring and allowed the water tables to build up their reserves.</p> <p>The few episodes of frost at the end of April caused no damage in the vineyard. Once again, the estuary played its essential role as a temperature regulator.</p> <p>Full flowering took place around 7 June. At the end of the month, the summer set in to stay, marked by very strong heat as from 15 August. The vineyard suffered but tolerated these extreme conditions thanks to the incomparable qualities of the terroir and its water reserves built up at the start of the year. Veraison started mid-August, indicating an October harvest. September was hot and sunny. The rain on 13 September relaunched the ripening cycle of the vine, slowed down by the very strong heat of summer. The 4 grape varieties reached optimal ripeness. The alternating hot days and cool nights preserved an impressive balance between freshness and aromatic power.</p>
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	The harvest took place calmly under a radiant sun from 23 September to 14 October. This year, even more precise selection of plots was carried out by an expanded team in the vineyard (90 pickers).
Vinification/ Maturation	In the cellar, each vat has its own identity and the custom vinifications allowed the extraction of the best potential from each of them. This ultra-precise work resulted in a large palette of 50 different lots for the blending.
Tasting Notes	Very dark colour, deep and intense. The complex, lively and precise nose presents aromas of well-ripened fruit with by oaked toasty notes and a spicy touch. The attack is generous and opulent. The full and fleshy palate reveals silky and precise tannins. The full finish is incredibly long. An exceptional Montrose, powerful, classy and elegant, a good representation of the signature of our terroir.
Serve with	Chateau Montrose is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2060



Scores/Awards **96 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019
99 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018
97-99 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017
98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019
97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017
97 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019
96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017
18 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017
97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018
96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017
100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018
99 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017
96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017
17 points - Farr Vintner - February 2017
94-96 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017
99 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019
98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019
93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017
100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019
97-100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017

Reviews *"Very pure, with lilac, violet, cassis, bitter cherry and damson plum notes streaming through in lockstep right from the start. A fine chalky underpinning gives the finish a sleek and racy edge. A beautifully precise wine, with a lot in reserve, that could benefit from a little added weight in the cellar. Best from 2025 through 2040."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2016 Montrose is a little youthfully shy to begin, but with coaxing, it unfurls to reveal the most beguiling scents of wilted roses, oolong tea, crushed rocks, wild sage, star anise and candied violets over a wonderfully pristine, well-defined core of crushed blackcurrants, black raspberries and kirsch plus wafts of pencil lead and wood smoke. The taut, muscular, medium to full-bodied palate straddles jaw-dropping intensity and finesse superbly, featuring a solid backbone of ripe tannins and giving a firm frame right through the incredibly long, exquisitely nuanced finish."
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 Montrose is a blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc (no Petit Verdot this year) picked between 23 September to 14 October and matured in 60% new oak. It has a very sophisticated bouquet with blackberry, briary, a touch of blue fruit and violets. Sometimes this Saint Estèphe can be a little broody at en primeur, but this certainly is more expressive, maintaining very fine delineation and precision, unfolding with each swirl of the glass and revealing a hidden graphite/marine influence. The palate is very fresh on the entry. The first facet of this wine that strikes you is the freshness that lasts from start to finish. This is an animated, vivacious Montrose that starts in almost understated fashion yet builds in the mouth towards what is almost a sensual finish, not a descriptor often applied to Montrose. It is a disarmingly and hauntingly beautiful 2016, extremely long and the aftertaste lasting two or three minutes. NB This is one example where I felt my second visit, over a fortnight after the first, revealed a wine with much greater potential, and I therefore raised my banded score accordingly."
 - NM, Wine Advocate

"The floral and fresh aromas to this are mesmerizing. Roses and lilacs galore. The pure cab aromas coming from the glass – blackcurrants and blackberries – are so memorable. Full-bodied, deep and profound. The ultra-fine tannins on the palate are so polished and fine-grained. The finish goes on for minutes with subtle yet superb fruit. It's all about precision and form here. A modern classic for Montrose. Better after 2026."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A solid and tight Montrose with a linear structure of ripe tannins that gives wonderful length and energy. Full-bodied, yet reserved and toned. Stone and mineral character underneath is impressive. Beautiful center palate. The class and focus are marvelous. Better than 2015. This is what Montrose is all about."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews *“While this wine's tannins are powerful. they are buried in a surprisingly soft texture of rich black fruits. With both structure and ripe blackberry flavors, the wine is already balanced. A juicy aftertaste lifts the tannins, pushing the wine into greatness. Drink from 2025.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“96–98. Barrel Sample. Big in tannins and fruit, this is an impressive, complete wine. Its structure and density are magnificent, as is its black fruitiness. The wine has an edge of austerity, along with dry tannins that promise considerable aging. A major performance from this estate.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Gravel and then clay (rather than mixed as in Tronquoy). 9 ha organic and 6 ha biodynamic. They intend to be fully organic in five years. 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc. Very dark blackish crimson. Great, fresh, minerally savour on the nose. Lots of intensity initially. Sweet start – quite a surprise in a way – and then lots of structure. Doesn't quite hang together yet but there is masses of potential. Sweet, fresh ink. Good raciness. Quite muscular but not at all heavy. An edge of acidity is evident without the strong stoniness of St-Estèphe. Just a little bit stringy on the end. Lots of life and freshness (clays help). Pretty glamorous.

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Lightly smoky damson scents are joined by coffee and violet edging. There's a touch of modern sweetness that's extremely well done, alongside a shot of freshness and fairly high acidity. They have really worked the tannins in this vintage to ensure they are deep but flexible. Just five minutes in the glass and things deepen, widen and open up; the density and precision clear to see. Harvested 23 September to 14 October and bottled in July 2018. Drinking Window 2024 – 2040”

- JA, Decanter.com

“In many ways this is a Bordeaux vintage for lovers of great Burgundy - it has the depth and intensity but also a floral, fragrant edge to it; something that is encapsulated perfectly in the classicism of Montrose. This needs some time in the glass as its structure is long and straight, true to the signature of the property. It shows clear depth and precision, and gorgeously placed spice with the sweetness of the black cherry and wild fig stealing in along the side of the palate. The young vines suffered at Montrose because the estate has lots of gravelly, well drained soils, but the proximity to the river provided cooling nights and you can feel far more waves of vibrant freshness than in the 2015 vintage, even with the same tannin index of 80IPT (compared to 70IPT in 2014). An excellent wine which represents 37% of overall production. 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Caliginous in color, the fruits are just as dark creating a matched set. Incredibly dense, the endless layers of mouth-filling, palate-staining, fresh fruit provides the backdrop for the wall of refined, firm but soft tannins. The seemingly endless finish offers a purity of fruit that lasts at least 60 seconds. This will take 2 decades to start becoming civilized and if well stored should easily last for 5-6 decades or longer!”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Inky black in color with incredible levels of density, the first thing you notice when the wine hits your palate is the salty, mineral-driven tannins. The purity of the fruit, concentration, richness and velour textures bring you to pleasure with spice, dark chocolate, licorice, blackberry and plum notes. The endnote resonates for at least 60 seconds! Completely satisfying in every way. In the old days you'd need a cigarette after tasting this wine! The best wine since the historic duo of 2009 and 2010, this is right at that level, or even better! Time alone, will be the final arbiter. The Grand Vin was produced from just 36% of the crop, blending 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc. This wine reached 13.3% alcohol with a pH of 3.55. The harvest took place September 23 to October 14.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"One of the wines that should carry a sign saying, "come back in a decade", this is a dark, brooding, seriously backward Montrose with masses of sturdy tannins, super concentrated damson and dark berry fruit and a patina of aromatic oak. 2026-36"

- TA, timatkin.com

"This great second growth vineyard is majestically situated overlooking the Gironde in the Southern section of St Estèphe. 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. The 2016 is 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc. Only 37% of the production will go into the Grand Vin this year. A deep colour follows with a menthol, camphor, and cedar nose, very smoky as well as dense in black fruit. The palate is powerful, with powdery and firm tannins revealing notes of coffee bean and tobacco, pure cassis and a hint of sweet vanilla. Pairing savoury and sweet, this is classic and structured, and will need time to knit together in the bottle."

- Farr Vintners

"Brooding black fruits, the nose has a powerful mix of flavours the palate depth with firm black cherry and cassis backed by liquorice. Underpinning the rich fruit mid bramble gives a lighter fresher feel the tannins are firm but integrated and there is sweetness and richness at the back. 2025-44"

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2016 Montrose has a tightly wound bouquet that is extremely well focused. This is one of the most pixelated aromatics I can remember on a Montrose at this stage, featuring blackberry, boysenberry and cedar and real mineralité underneath. The palate is medium-bodied with fine density and wonderful salinity. There is tremendous precision with razor-sharp tannin, and a brightness on the finish that is exceptional. This is a Montrose that will comfortably sit alongside the canon of great vintages from this Saint-Estèphe estate. As my score implies, it's up there with the first growths. Stunning. Drink 2026-2075"

- NM, Vinous

"The 2016 Montrose is every bit as impressive as it was from barrel, maybe more. Tightly wound and vertical, with remarkable intensity, the 2016 is simply magnificent. The tannins are there, but they are nearly buried by the sheer intensity of the fruit. All the elements are impeccably balanced in a wine of pedigree, depth and character. The 2016 is going to need a number of years to be at its best, but it is clearly a very special wine in the making. In a word: dazzling. Drink 2024-2056."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2016 Montrose is a wine of remarkable depth, density and power. Large-scale and ample in all dimensions, the 2016 hits the palate with a serious richness. Today, the 2016 comes across as incredibly youthful and primary. There is not much in the way of bouquet at this stage. Instead, the 2016 impresses with its power, drive and exceptionally persistent finish. It is a remarkable wine in every way but won't be ready to drink anytime soon. Tasted two times."

- AG, Vinous

"Unquestionably one of the top 2-3 wines of the vintage, the 2016 Château Montrose is a monument in the making..... this deep purple-colored 2016 possesses powerful, incredibly classic Saint-Estèphe notes of crème de cassis, graphite, damp earth, lead pencil shavings, and burning embers. With a powerful, full-bodied style on the palate, a huge mid-palate, lots of underlying structure and tannic grip, and perfect balance, this magical wine will need upwards of a decade or cellaring and keep for 40-50 years. Drink 2029-2079."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Deep ruby/purple-colored, the 2016 Montrose might be the wine of the vintage and offers an extraordinary bouquet of crème de cassis, dried flowers, underbrush, blueberries, and graphite. Gorgeously concentrated, pure, elegant and balanced on the palate, it has incredible purity of fruit, building, ripe tannin and a great, great finish. Reminding me of the 2003, yet more fresh, vibrant and delineated, this awesome 2016 is going to require patience, yet should rival the truly great vintages from this estate."

- Jeb Dunnuck
