

Château Montrose 2019

CSPC# 866063

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Saint Estèphe
Classification	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.chateau-montrose.com/en/home/
Sustainability	Château Montrose is owned by Martin and Olivier Bouyges whose substantial investment has seen significant improvements made to the cellars and a huge sustainability drive to reduce its carbon footprint. Geothermal energy is recycled and there are 3000m ² of rooftop solar panels.
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 Bouyges.
Winemaker	Cellar Master: Vincent Decup. Jean Bernard Delmas, Winemaker
Vintage	Even if the 2019 vintage will be marked in history by the Covid-19 health crisis, it will remain in the memories of winegrowers as a solar vintage, a fine vintage ending in "9" and among the hottest years of the decade. 2019 also marks an important step in the advancement of the environmental approach at Château Montrose, where the vineyard is now 100% managed according to the principles of sustainable viticulture. This year, the good climatic conditions combined with "green" practices at the 90 hectares estate resulted in a very good harvest combining quantity and quality. The exceptionally mild and dry winter was marked by temperatures above seasonal norms. The risk of frost in mid-April was avoided thanks to the moderating influence of the nearby estuary. Some rains in the first fortnight of June had raised fears of disease developing, but the vineyard remained in a very good state of health. The estate has kept to its environmental course. During the two heatwaves in June and July, the clay soils with their high-water retention capacity avoided water stress for the vine. Uniform and rapid full flowering took place in the first week of June. Colour change on the first berries was observed from 30 July. Then the veraison was irregular, slowed down by cool and rainy weather in August.
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 from 19 September to 8 October in good conditions despite some intermittent rains. Intra-plot picking followed by tailor-made vinification made it possible to benefit this year from 80 free-run batches and 7 press batches for blending. Each batch has contributed to the signature of the estate's wines. The first tastings quickly suggested a vintage very close to 2016 with good substance and ripe, precise, and concentrated tannins that rank it among the great vintages of Montrose
Vinification/ Maturation	The result of rigorous selection at each stage of production, in both the vineyard and the winery, this great, predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon wine is typical of the Saint-Estèphe appellation. Structured and tannic but with all the elegance and refinement of a Grand Cru Classé, with time it develops a delicate and complex bouquet. Matured for 18 months in 60% new French oak barrels, the premium wine accounts from 35 to 40% of the total production of Château Montrose.



Tasting Notes	Chateau Montrose 2019 confirmed that 2019 is undoubtedly one of the best vintages of the estate. Merlot was present in the same proportion as in the blend of the 2009. Combining precision, concentration and beautifully ripe tannins, the Chateau Montrose 2019 continues to make history in the Saint-Estèphe appellation.
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.
Production	Approx. 15000 cases annually
Cellaring	Drink 2023 – 2040
Scores/Awards	<p>96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>97 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>100 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2022</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>18+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020</p> <p>98 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>99 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>Review Only - Farr Vintners - May 2020</p> <p>97 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>100 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>97 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>98 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p>98 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021</p> <p>18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“Lush and lovely, showing a mix of creamed loganberry, plum, boysenberry and mulberry flavors that borders on exotic, but everything stays harnessed by sleek floral and iron notes through the finish. This has ample structure for balance that's well-embedded in the fruit, making this seemingly approachable now but there's absolutely no rush. A beauty. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. Best from 2023 through 2040.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“The 2019 Montrose has turned out very well in bottle, wafting from the glass with a dramatic, perfumed bouquet of wild berries and cassis mingled with notions of lilac, violets, pencil shavings and warm spices, framed by nicely integrated new oak. Full-bodied, layered, and seamless, it's deep and multidimensional, with lively acids, beautifully refined tannins, and a long, resonant finish. Checking in at 14.4% alcohol (rather higher than, for example, the brilliant 2009's 13.7% or the 2016's 13.3%), this is an undeniably powerful, ripe Montrose, but for now everything appears to be kept in check. Drink Date 2029 – 2065.”</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“The 2019 Montrose is a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot. Deep garnet-purple colored, it needs a lot of swirling to unlock a vibrant core of ripe, juicy blackcurrants, freshly picked blueberries, and redcurrants with touches of garrigue, iris, tilled earth, and Sichuan pepper, plus a waft of wood smoke. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is taut and muscular, framed by firm, grainy tannins, and bold freshness, finishing very long and achingly perfumed. This is a real head-turner!”</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Independent</p> <p><i>“Blueberries, cracked white and black pepper with dried flowers. Some crushed stone and slate, too. Full-bodied with tannins that grow on the palate and continue on. It's polished and very fine with lovely length. Drink after 2027.”</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>“Barrel sample. Deep purple-black hue. Slightly shy and reserved but clearly has plenty of depth. Elegant, dark-fruit fragrance as the wine opens. Clean and direct on attack with a marked note of salinity. Plenty of power but really refined tannins assisted by a bright, juicy quality to the fruit. Incredible length on the finish.”</i></p> <p>- JL, JancisRobinson.com</p>

Reviews

"A generous and abundant nose full of fruit and aromatic intensity followed by a gorgeous mouthfeel showcasing fruit density and concentration wrapped up in soft, velvety-smooth tannins. Just so much depth but also refinement here, it feels well made with just the right amount of fruit, toasty spice, tannins, freshness, and acidity. The overall structure is gently framing all the elements - big and bold but quietly confident. The tannin impact is also enjoyable giving a feeling of approachability despite the long life ahead. Just superb - one of the best in 2019. A blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. 12% press wine. 60% new oak."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Oh, this is good, it steals up on you with real depth of flavour, stately and concentrated in a way that reminds me of a 1996 or a 2016. Extremely measured, very clear that this is going to age effortlessly, it is extremely discreet and yet packed with persistent flavours. A masterclass in the flavours and aromatics that you expect in a great Médoc wine - slate, crushed stones, savoury blackcurrant, liquorice, hints of smoke and cold ash. After five minutes in the glass the sweeter berry fruit comes out, and the whole thing is sappy and mouthwatering, and makes you smile. 12% press wine, 3.77pH. A yield of 47hl/ha. 60% new oak. 1% Petit Verdot completes the blend. Drinking Window 2029 – 2050."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Gorgeous rich colour here, a lovely wine full of pleasure. Chocolate, mocha, cappuccino, lots of toasted oak, great quality, with concentrated black fruits along with slate, crushed stone, smoked earth - measured, confident, delicious. I have tasted this a few times this year, and it has consistently been punching at the very top of its game. A no-brainer to recommend. 12% press wine, 47hl/ha yield, 60% new oak."

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"One of a handful of wines I did not taste in barrel. However, it was worth waiting for as the wine hits all the right notes. Deep in color, the nose offers a spice-tinged array of dark red and black fruits, herbs, espresso, tobacco leaf, and black currants. The wine is full-bodied, intense, dense, long, and concentrated. There is a solid depth of flavor that resonates on the palate and in the finish, which leaves you with an earthy display of dark red pit fruits and a touch of peppery spice. Like all the great vintages of Montrose, this is built to age and evolve for decades. Drink from 2030-2060."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2019 will be a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. ageing will be for 18-20 months in 60% new French oak. Harvest took place between the 19th September and 8th October. The yield was normal for the property at 45hl/ha. No samples of the 2019 will be sent abroad, so there will likely be little critical review ahead of release."

- Farr Vintners

"The 2019 Montrose was bottled in July 2021, and though I did not taste it en primeur, I did sample it just prior to bottling and then after, in September 2021. It was picked from September 19 to October 8, with a similar percentage of Merlot to the 2009 (30% compared to around 25% due to the ripeness). At 14.4% alcohol, it has lower alcohol than the 2018 (14.8%). The Merlot guides the nose, which is a little more flamboyant than usual for Montrose, and very pure, offering small black cherries, black currant, wild mint and just a hint of camphor. The palate is medium-bodied, spicy, and vibrant, with a silky-smooth texture and a touch of peppercorn on the entry. There is wonderful tension throughout this Montrose, and gentle grip on the finish. Will this vintage be more approachable than the 2018? Drink 2027 – 2060."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Montrose is very clearly one of the wines of the vintage. Rich, inky and towering in concentration, the 2019 possesses off the chart's intensity and tons of structure to back it up. Succulent black cherry, plum, tobacco, gravel and licorice infuse the 2019 with striking depth. The 2019 is not quite as opulent as some recent vintages, and that's a good thing. Readers will find a regal wine that marries elegance with power. Unforgettable. Tasted two times. 2034 – 2069."

- AG, Vinous

Reviews

"The 2017 Montrose is wonderfully polished and nuanced. Silky tannins and mid-weight structure confer finesse to a Montrose that possesses superb harmony from start to finish. All the elements fall into place effortlessly. In 2017, the Grand Vin (35% of the production) is 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Because of the late season rains, Montrose has more Cabernet Sauvignon than is typically the case. The winemaking team opted for a large number of smaller-lot vinifications (82 instead of 50-ish, to be exact), in order to optimize picks according to ripeness. Although alcohol alone can never tell the whole story of a wine, at 13.5% alcohol, Montrose has a very attractive freshness to it. The Grand Vin represents about 37% of the chateau's production. The 2017 is all class."

- AG, Vinous

"The flagship 2019 Château Montrose is also brilliant, although it's not going to match the all-time greats from this estate. Gorgeous cassis, graphite, damp earth, cedar pencil, and tobacco are just some of the nuances here, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a pure, graceful, layered mouthfeel, building tannins, and a great finish. It doesn't have the overall density or mid-palate of the 2018 or 2016, but it's flawlessly balanced and just incredibly impressive. Showing more and more tannins with time in the glass, it will need a decade of bottle age and will evolve for 30+ years."

- Jeb Dunnuck
