

Château Troplong Mondot 2006

CSPC# 753466

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

St. Emilion

Classification

1er Grand Cru Classé

Website

<https://www.troplong-mondot.com/en/>

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 the 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 grand daughter, 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. Guru oenologist Michel Rolland has been a consultant at Troplong Mondot since the mid-1980s.

Winemakers

Christine Valette and her husband Xavier Pariente with the consultancy help of Michel Rolland

Vintage

The growing season of 2006 was a challenging ballet of weather conditions, with a scorching July giving way to a cool, wet August before a saving grace of a dry and sunny September. It is this rollercoaster clime that instilled the vintage with its distinctive balance—an interplay between maturity and acidity that seasoned sippers will instantly recognize.

2006 was a very hot year after a long, cold winter. The balanced weather conditions from April to September enabled the growing season to go smoothly. Hot weather during July helped the changing of colour in the grapes. August was cooler. September was mixed: a heat wave during the first half of the month and rain during the second half which had no adverse effects however on the perfect health of the grapes or their ripening. The picking took place from the 21st to the 30th September 2006, which for the terroir of Troplong Mondot represents an early harvest, the sign of a great year.

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%). Yields 41 hl/ha.

Harvest

The *picking* took place from the 21st to the 30th September 2006

Maturation

The grapes are hand-harvested and then fermented in temperature-controlled, stainless steel tanks. The wine is then aged in oak barriques (75% new) for 18 months. It is bottled unfiltered.

Tasting Notes

This 2006 iteration from Chateau Troplong Mondot showcases a deep ruby hue, brimming with an opulent bouquet of black cherries, plums, and a persistent undercurrent of truffle and leather—a nod to its right bank



provenance. On the palate, it surprises with an initial silkiness that unfolds into a full-bodied embrace. Tannins, present yet unobtrusive, secure the structure necessary for graceful ageing, making it a compelling proposition for fine wine investors looking at a mid-term holding period.

Production
Cellaring
Scores/Awards

5,330 cases made

Drink 2012-2030.

91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2009

92-94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007

93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate - February 2009

91-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate - April 2007

90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - December 2016

93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - May 2016

94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - February 2008

91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - April 2007

94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2010

94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2009

93 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2009

91-93 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2007

17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - July 2012

17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2007

93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2016

92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 2009

93 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020

92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (no score) - January 2017

92 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2015

17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2008

17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - February 2009

16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - February 2009

Reviews

"Coffee, cedar, blackberry and tobacco aromas follow through to a tight, powerful palate. This is full yet very reserved, with silky, polished tannins. Best after 2014. 5,330 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Beautiful, with licorice and coffee character and hints of ripe fruit. Full and velvety, with lots going on. Almost 92-94."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"It could be easy, after tasting the monumental 2005, to dismiss the 2006 Troplong Mondot, but don't be so foolish. Proprietress Christine Valette has turned out another exceptional performance. Of course, this is not the 2005- a singular vintage that will be difficult to duplicate in a 20-30 year span, but the 2006 Troplong Mondot is an impressive, powerful, broad, surprisingly masculine and deep effort. Its inky/blue/purple color is accompanied by an exceptional bouquet of powdered rock, blackberries, blueberries, spring flowers, and hints of camphor as well as espresso roast. The wine is full-bodied with a layered, multidimensional texture, sensational purity and structure, and elevated levels of tannin, concentration, and richness. Forget it for 7-8 years, and drink it over the following 20-25 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2006 is a marvelous effort from proprietress Christine Valette. Displaying a saturated blue/purple hue, a beautiful perfume of blackberries, violets, charcoal, and subtle pain grille, upfront fruit, a seamless integration of acidity, tannin, and alcohol, and a multilayered palate, it is not quite as good as the virtually perfect 2005, but it is an outstanding claret to drink between 2012-2030. This is the first vintage where Madame Valette could label her wine as a St.-Emilion premier grand cru classe ... well, we all thought so until the new classification was challenged in court by several mediocre St.-Emilion estates that were justifiably demoted. Thus, for now, a Bordeaux judge has "suspended" the new hierarchy."

- RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews

"Tasted blind as a vintage comparison at the Valandraud vertical, the 2006 Troplong-Mondot is deep in color with minimal ageing on the rim. The bouquet is rich and generous with mulberry, Hoi Sin, orange blossom and melted tar aromas. The palate is medium-bodied with grainy tannin, generous black pepper and graphite notes cutting through the dense black fruit, leading to an engaging, tensile, graphite and tobacco-driven finish that exerts both body and length. It still has that slight stockiness, but that is something I like. I have always found much to admire in this vintage of Troplong-Mondot and it continues to give so much pleasure. Tasted December 2016"

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at Bordeaux Index's annual 10-Year On tasting in London. The 2006 Château Troplong-Mondot has a meaty, slightly Brettanomyces nose that nevertheless displays impressive volume, feisty black cherry and mulberry fruit, a touch of iodine developing with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with dark plum and cassis on the entry, full-bodied but not alcoholic, retaining that hedonism that is showed in its youth, though missing some delineation and finesse towards the "stocky," tarry finish"

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted blind at Southwold '06 Bordeaux tasting. The Troplong Mondot '06 has a rounded, opulent bouquet, well-defined, primal, superb definition with real minerality coming through. Tightly wound. The palate is medium-bodied with a dense structure, a rigid backbone here, a structure that needs time to soften. Charcoal-infused black fruits, rather introspective towards the finish. Broody."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Again, the nose is very close but there is certainly a lot of fruit here, great delineation with crisp blackberry, redcurrant and raspberry with a touch of quince in the background. The palate is full-bodied, firm tannins, good grip, layers of dense black fruits, quite toasty but the oak is in proportion to the fruit. Showing better than at en primeur, lovely harmonious finish but it will take a few years in bottle to come around. Excellent. Tasted February 2008."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the UGC. Whilst I found the 2005 rather abrasive last year (that may have been because of the particular sample), the 2006 is from the top drawer (like so many other vintages.) A sweet nose that verges on port-like with super-ripe blueberry, cassis and raspberry. The palate is full-bodied, sinewy with dense, chewy tannins. A touch of Xmas cake on the mid-palate with huge grip on the finish. A decadent Troplong that perhaps is just a bit too hedonistic for my personal taste, but is beautifully crafted nonetheless. Tasted April 2007."

- NM, Wine Journal

*"A wine that succeeds in combining great depth of flavor and structure with an impressive array of flavors. On top of the tannins is juicy black fruit, cocoa, a welter of spice and ripeness. The acidity and new wood put the wine into a more modern style. Wait for at least 5-7 years. *Cellar Selection*"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright, deep ruby-red. Brooding aromas of crushed blueberry, bitter chocolate and roast coffee. Rich, broad and sweet, with an almost liqueur-like ripeness of dark berries leavened by brisk acidity and firm minerality. Lots of lift and life here for such a lush, creamy wine. Finishes with big, sweet, building tannins and terrific palate-staining length. This should enjoy a long evolution in bottle."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Medium ruby-red. Musky black raspberry, currant, smoke and mineral aromas. Sweet and layered, with lovely harmonious acidity giving the dark fruit flavors excellent definition and cut. Very nicely balanced, suave wine, finishing with excellent freshness and length and ripe tannins that reach the front teeth. The pH here is lower than that of the 2007 (3.65, vs. 3.75), but this wine hardly lacks for ripeness."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

Reviews *"90% Merlot. Very dark and thick. Quite intense nose with some liquorice. Quite tarry but definitely dramatic with some unusually marked sweetness! Definitely distinctive. Rich and seductive even if there is no shortage of dry tannins too. 17/20 points (JR)"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Very dark. Not much nose except for a strange vanillin note - some unusual oak? Fresh crunchy fruit on the front palate and then pretty chewy, drying tannins afterwards. Not a very comfortable whole as it's difficult to see the real fruit weight in the middle but it's certainly intense. Very slightly exaggerated perhaps but there is also freshness on the finish too so the whole package is fine - just slightly lacking juiciness on the mid palate."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Showing maturity in the color, the wine offers secondary aromatics of truffle, black cherry, smoke and licorice with just a hint of cocoa in the endnote. Full bodied, concentrated, round and starting to open, you can drink this now, or age it for several more years. This is one of the few 2006 Bordeaux wines that does not display the strict tannins found so often in this vintage."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Smoke, oak, charcoal and black fruit scents are reticent about displaying their aromas. The wine is tight at the moment and requires air before its masculine tannins begin to subside."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"A number of 2006 Bordeaux are showing well today, and that is certainly the case with the 2006 Troplong Mondot. Taking about an hour of air to show at its best, its ruby/plum hue gives way to a classic Saint-Emilion offering ample red and black currant fruits, tobacco leaf, bouquet garni, chocolate, and loads of chalky minerality. Rich, full-bodied, and beautifully textured, this powerful 2006 has surprising structure yet more than enough fruit. Mature, but certainly on the early slopes of its drinking plateau, it's going to evolve gracefully for another two decades or more."
- Jeb Dunnuck
