

Château Montrose 2014

CSPC# 780483

750mlx12

13.7% alc./vol.

CSPC# 801720

750mlx6

13.7% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% 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/
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	Due to the prolonged sunny and dry weather from September until late October in Bordeaux, Berland told db that his team of pickers could go back to select bunches from the same parcel as many as six times, selecting the ripest berries according to sugar content, as well as phenolic ripeness, which is assessed by tasting the grapes. Although some Merlots reached 14.5% natural degrees, welcome rain fell: 20mm of rain from 16-17 September and another bit of rain on 2 October allowed grapes to mature, got the ripening process going with richly colored grape skins. One could say that the rain was "just enough" as less pronounced in Saint Estèphe compared to other parts of Bordeaux.
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	For Montrose, a 17-day harvest between mid-September up to 15 October. Pickers took care to visit same parcels of vines up to six times to pick the riper grapes. Only 47% of the harvest went to the first wine (with 37% going to Dame, the second wine). Made of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot with 13.7% alcohol and being aged in 60% new oak.
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.
Tasting Notes	Smooth, nuanced and deep. Sustained by vivaciousness coming from high acidity. The barrel sample reminded me of the 2005 <i>en primeur</i> , but with more charm. It conveyed 2009 like ripeness, but with greater freshness. Nuance and power, full bodied, and a long finish.
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	18,333 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2045



Scores/Awards **95 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017
94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015
95-97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015
97 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015
97 points / Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015
97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - February 2017
94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
96-98 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2015
17.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2015
92-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2015
97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
93-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
96-98 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
19 points - Bettane & Desseave (score only)

Reviews *"This is seriously built, with an admirable core of red and black currant paste and bitter plum fruit inlaid with notes of tobacco, bay and smoldering charcoal. The finish is ramrod straight thanks to an iron girder supporting everything with ease. A tremendous effort for the vintage. Best from 2020 through 2035."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"As sleek and tightly coiled as they come, with wonderful purity and cut to the red and black currant and red and black cherry fruit. The long iron spine is thoroughly embedded and a gorgeous echo of charcoal lingers at the very end of the lightly pebbly finish. Everything finally seems to be coming together here. Score range: 94-97"
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"The Château Montrose 2014 is a blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot that represents 47% of the total production. It was picked from mid-September via five or six tries through the vineyard. The aromatics represent a clear step in quality from the second wine, attired with far more precision and focus, much more purity with scents of blackberry, boysenberry and blue fruit, now with touches of violet and vanilla. It is beautifully defined and actually, at least at this juncture, closely aligned with Cos d'Estournel 2014. The palate is medium-bodied with filigree tannin that underpin layers of pure mineral-rich black fruit. There is an enthralling sense of energy and precision here and it fans out remarkably on the finish. Dare I say, this is one grand vin that comes perilously close to matching the heights of the 2009 and 2010. This is a brilliant Montrose, one of the best you will find on the Left Bank this vintage. Tasted on five separate occasions, twice at the château."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"Incredible aromas of currants, blackberries, slate and flowers. Full-bodied yet so tight and beautiful with superb polish and brightness. The length is fantastic. Truly superb. Drink in 2021."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a fabulous young red with blackberries, currants and wet earth. Full body, firm tannins. Very long finish. It really takes off."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is a very fine wine showing a new level of quality at Montrose. With its almost velvet tannins inside the intense black fruits, the wine is rich, smooth and generous. Blackberry and black-plum fruits are to the fore along with the fine acidity and great structure. A wine to age for decades, it will be ready to drink from 2027."
 - RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *95-97. Barrel Sample. This is a hugely structured wine, almost severe in a way that is typical of this estate. It has*

power and concentration, with intense fruitiness and a rich, generous texture. The finish is fresh and lingering.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Very muted nose. Seems rich and heavy but not that expressive aromatically. Big and bold and ambitious with a good balance between fruit and tannins. Acid reasonably well in check. And very definitely St-Estèphe. Pretty brutal - without the charm and glamour of Cos - but probably very true to the archetype. Good tannin management but nothing at all confected or too modern. Inky finish.

Drink 2024-2040”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Another contender for wine of the vintage. Here things get a little deep and fleshy, with crushed damson fruit that holds its integrity. Tannins are big and bold, oak influence clear but not off-putting, just giving boots to slip your feet into. Your mouth responds to these tannins, reminds you that wine tasting is a physical activity. Great quality, what a brilliant wine.”

- JA, Decanter Magazine

“For several people, this was one of the wines of the vintage, but it didn't quite sing for me, partly because of the high level of oak in the sample. It's certainly a rich, densely coloured wine with sumptuous black fruits, a hint of orange zest and a tannic core. Just give the oak time to integrate.”

- TA, timatkin.com

“Cavernous in color and succulently layered with summer boysenberries, there is a refined freshness and a luxurious, creamy, soft texture to this wine. The wine is powerful, tannic and carries the structure to age. A sweet, fruity finish envelops the senses and lingers nicely on the palate. Representing 47% of the production, the blend is from 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Sauvignon and 1% Petit Verdot. The wine reached 13.7 alcohol. This is a wine that could turn out better after élevage, so stay tuned. Herve Berland is clearly on top of his game producing sublime wines at both his St. Estèphe chateaux today. There is going to be a lot of talk and attention focused on Montrose this year, as the annual Fete de la Fleur takes place at the estate in June. 94-96 Pts”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“2014 Deep and extracted look; very opaque; tight to the rim; freshness; purple hues; very focused and layered on the nose; really concentrated; perfumed and pretty blackcurrant and cassis tones; very pure and attractive; little more wood evident on the palate but lots of elements; super extract and depth; layer upon layer of fruit; terrific concentration and power here; quite epic. Glossy and caressing. Magnificent wine. Has the whiff of immortality about it. On par with 2010 for me. [61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot, 13.7% alc, 47% of production, 60% new oak.]. Drink 2023-2040. Tasted at Montrose 30 March 2015. 96-98+”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.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. 47% of production is in the Grand Vin this year. 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot, 60% new oak. Deep ruby with a purple hue at the rim. Blue and black fruits on the nose with is rich and opulent. Quite spicy, with a slight anise note layered by vanilla and smoky cedar. The palate is intense with mouthcoating tannins that are ripe and quite soft for Montrose. The fruit concentration leaves a plush, opulent and spicy impression on the finish. There is lots of glycerol but a fresh acidity to keep the wine balanced. Spicy with camphor, mint and blackcurrant. A very Cabernet style as you would expect from this impressive Montrose.”

- Farr Vintners

Reviews *“Rich and ripe fruited the nose had depth the start of the palate sweet with some rich flavours. Lighter and fresher in the middle purity the fruit supported by fine tannins. The richness on the back palate is underpinned by freshness the finish long and fragrant. 2027-40”*
- Derek Smedley MW

“Great concentration combined with velvety tannins, dark berry fruit that is crunchy, fresh and supple with round tannins. There is great linearity and freshness combined with lifted dark berry fruit and spices. Tannins are very well managed with long length. This is a much better vintage than the past 3 years.”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“The 2014 Montrose is without question one of the standout wines of the vintage. Black cherry, plum, smoke, licorice and lavender are some of the many aromas and flavors that open up in the glass. But the 2014 is a much deeper wine than just a bunch of descriptors can conjure. In 2014, Montrose is a wine of exceptional finesse and polish. The late-ripening vintage allowed for perfect maturation of the tannins and resulted in a silky wine that exudes class and pedigree. The 2014 is not an obvious or bombastic Montrose, but rather a wine of sublime enchantment. Don't miss it!”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2014 Montrose is one of the most intriguing wines of the vintage. An elegant, beautifully layered wine, the 2014 Montrose comes across as incredibly silky and polished. The typical Montrose power, richness and breath take a backseat to a total sense of refinement, as the 2014 is a remarkably nuanced and noble wine. Beams of acidity and minerality give the finish its salivating energy and brightness. Given that Montrose is slow to develop, my sense is that the 2014 is not ready to show all of its cards just yet. Today, it's all about potential, and there is plenty of that here. Sweet red cherry plum, dried flowers and spices are some of the notes that are laced into the exquisite, alluring finish. The blend is 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot that represents 47% of the total production.”
- AG, Vinous
