

# Château Montrose 2020

CSPC# 832570

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Estèphe
<b>Classification</b>	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.chateau-montrose.com/en/home/">http://www.chateau-montrose.com/en/home/</a>
<b>Sustainability</b>	Organic. 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 <sup>2</sup> of rooftop solar panels.
<b>General Info</b>	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.
<b>Winemaker</b>	Cellar Master: Vincent Decup. Jean Bernard Delmas, Winemaker
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>Considering the health crisis and the very contrasting weather conditions, 2020 will be remembered as a considerably challenging year; human intervention was crucial for this vintage.</p> <p>In 2020, a relatively mild winter was followed by one of the warmest springs since the beginning of the 20th century. Heavy rainfall from May to June led to high mildew pressure from the beginning of the season through to flowering. Encouraged throughout the cycle by temperatures above seasonal norms, the vegetative period remained 3 weeks ahead of schedule until full flowering on May 22nd. We then observed a fewer number of clusters, counting only four clusters per vine instead of the usual six.</p> <p>An exceptionally dry start to the summer was marked by two heat waves at the end of July and mid-August, generating fears of water stress, quickly moderated by rain at the end of August as well as the water-regulating capacity of the deep clay of our terroir.</p> <p>Veraison was early with the first coloured berries appearing on July 29th. It then continued unevenly due to drought and high temperatures.</p> <p>Early development continued through to the beginning of the harvest, on September 10th. Despite the health situation and some rain towards the end of the harvest, picking took place in good conditions and was completed on September 29th. The grapes delivered to the winery were fully ripe and in perfect sanitary condition. While the berries were of good size, clusters were 10 to 20% smaller, a loss mainly due to the weather conditions that affected the development of clusters</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	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.
<b>Harvest</b>	The 2020 Montrose was picked September 10-29.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	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. Initial tastings place this vintage among the great successes of Château Montrose. Rich and well-balanced, the 2020 vintage is a subtle combination of the aromatic and structural profile of the 2019 and the acidity/alcohol balance of the 2016. It is a perfect reflection of the signature of our terroir.
<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Production</b>	Approx. 15000 cases annually
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2026 – 2040
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p><b>100 points</b> - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p><b>98+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2023</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p><b>18+ points</b> - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p><b>17.5+ points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - December 2021</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p><b>99 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p><b>98-100 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p><b>98-100 points</b> - Yves Beck - June 2021</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p><b>97-98 points</b> - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021</p> <p><b>98 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - May 2021</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>“Gorgeously rendered for the vintage, with a well-endowed core of loganberry, mulberry and cassis flavors that roll through and are laced with a cast iron hint, while tobacco, warm stone, and black tea accents swirl in the background. The long, authoritative finish steadily melds the fruit with the cast iron edge. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. Best from 2026 through 2040.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“Surpassing the 2019 and rivaling the 2016 as this estate's finest vintage of the last few decades, the 2020 Montrose is a monument in the making. Wafting from the glass with aromas of violets, dark berries, licorice, loamy soil, black truffle, and subtle spices, it's full-bodied, deep, and layered, with a seamless, elegantly muscular profile, terrific purity and energy, beautifully powdery tannins, and a long, resonant finish. It checks in at 13.7% alcohol, the same as the superb 2009, but it is even deeper, more vibrant, and more complex than the 2009. This will be worth a special effort to seek out and only confirms Montrose's status as one of the contemporary Médoc's leading estates and a de facto first growth.</i></p> <p><i>This large estate overlooking the Gironde in Saint-Estèphe produces some of Bordeaux's greatest and longest-lived wines, and the last 15 or so years have seen it benefit from sustained and intelligently directed investment. There's a brand-new winery and cellars, of course, but there's a lot of work going on in the vineyards too. When Olivier and Martin Bouygues acquired Château Montrose from the Charmolüe family in 2006, the estate included fully 17 hectares of pre-clonal vines dating back to the early 20th century, and a massal selection program has since identified 80 viable individuals, mainly Cabernet Sauvignon, for use when replanting (the same efforts are currently being lavished on Merlot, drawing on a block behind the chateau acquired from Phélan-Ségur). Now, cover crops are being trialed, and the soils are being cultivated more superficially to avoid disrupting the microbiome. Winemaking is rather classical, with maturation in some 60% new oak.”</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“A blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot, the 2020 Montrose is deep garnet-purple in color. It slowly emerges from the glass with profound notions of creme de cassis, chocolate-covered cherries, licorice, and roses, followed by suggestions of cast-iron pan and fragrant</i></p>

**Reviews** *soil. The medium-bodied palate delivers many tightly knit layers of mineral, black berries, and floral notes with a solid backbone of firm, grainy tannins, and lively acidity, finishing on a lingering ferrous note.”*  
- LPB, Wine Independent

*“The nose is really fantastic with lead pencil shavings, iron shavings, blackcurrants and lavender. Full- to medium-bodied with ultra-fine tannins that run the length of the wine. Wonderful persistence and personality. Juicy and savory finish. Always classy and sophisticated at the end. Organically grown grapes. 71% cabernet sauvignon, 23% merlot, 6% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot. Best after 2028.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. Cask sample. Deep colour. Dark, intense, and very pure but with an energy that makes it vibrant. Big tannic frame but tannins really finely honed. Long and persistent with plenty of drive on the finish. Long ageing potential. (JL) 13.4% - Drink 2030 – 2050.”*  
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

*“Deep purple-black hue to the rim. Dense but reserved at present. Hint of blackcurrant pastille as it opens. Lovely texture and tannins. Close in structure and form to 2019 and 2016. Perhaps a touch more depth than 2019. Fresh, lithe, and clean.”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“A serious wall of blueberry and blackberry compote, and a ton of savoury Cabernet sinew and freshness. This is a great Montrose, inky, broad-shouldered and structured. It needs time to aerate and open in the glass, then you see the precision, the heft, the chiseling of the fruits with a ton of graphite, cigar box and campfire smoke - huge persistency. This will take a long time and will reward patience. One of the few where a 1986, 2016 and 2010 comparison makes sense.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“This is up there with the best wines that I have tasted in the vintage. Beautifully balanced, classically refined but profound, delivering nuanced waves of cassis, blackberry puree, peony, pomegranate, mandarin peel, graphite, smoked sandalwood, incense. There is exceptional softness yet density to the tannins, such a confident structure overall and the buildup on the tannins through the palate is so slow and careful that it is only at the end of play that you become aware of just how big a vintage it is. Clear ageing potential, easy to love, very easy to recommend.”*  
- JA, janeanson.com

*“This is just about off the charts and could hit triple digits in a few years if it keeps developing. Inky black in color, the wine explodes aromatically with its blackberries, blueberries, boysenberries, and tobacco, and that's before you get to its deeper nuances of Indian spice, chocolate, and cigar box scents. But the real fireworks are when the wine coats your palate with its multiple layers of dark red fruits, blackberries, and cocoa. Even with all of its richness, there is ample lift, making it easy to get lost here with all the depth, and concentration. The wine is just about seamless on the palate, lingering, building, and expanding for close to 60 seconds. One of the great vintages of Montrose is the swansong of Herve Berland at the helm of the estate. Drink from 2029-2065.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“The 2020 Montrose was bottled in July 2022. The alcohol is 13.4%, a whole degree less than the previous year but with the same concentration (IPT is 80). It has a fabulous bouquet that delivers on all that promise from when I finally tasted the wine around a year earlier from barrel, a cornucopia of blackberry, bilberry, crushed stone, Indian ink, and loamy/undergrowth scents. Very mercurial in the glass, it seems to shapeshift with every minute. The palate is medium-bodied with such a precise entry. This is far more detailed than either the 2019 or 2018, a symmetrical Montrose with unerring detail and mineralité, its silky texture belying the power underneath. This is unequivocally a brilliant wine and a benchmark in recent years. Contender for wine of the vintage.”*  
- NM, Vinous

## Reviews

*“The 2020 Montrose was picked September 10-29; the clusters between 10% and 20% smaller than normal. It has an intense nose that is even more powerful than the 2019, revealing layers of blackberry, briar, cedar, pencil shavings and smoke that evolve wonderfully in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied, precise, and poised, with unerring symmetry and perfect salinity. Very harmonious, almost pixelated on the finish. This is simply brilliant. Drink 2030-2080.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2020 Montrose is epic. Dark, rich, and brooding, the 2020 possesses remarkable intensity, and, yet it is somehow not excessively heavy. Time in the glass brings out the wine's more elegant, sophisticated side. All the elements are so well-balanced. Red/purplish fruit, lavender rose petal, gravel and spice are all accented by veins of intense minerality that lend shape and energy. The 2020 is a modern-day classic for Montrose and one of the great wines of the Left Bank. Best after 2030.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The Grand Vin 2020 Château Montrose is brilliant and unquestionably in the lineup of the true greats from this château, including the 1989, 1990, 2009, 2010, 2015, 2018, and 2019. With an IPT of 80 and a natural alcohol of 13.4%, its deep, saturated purple hue is followed by quintessential Saint-Estèphe notes of pure cassis, graphite, tobacco leaf, acacia flowers, and loamy earth. Full-bodied, concentrated, and powerful, it nevertheless stays incredibly pure, elegant, and seamless, with perfectly ripe tannins. A blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Petit Verdot shines even today for its purity and balance, and it should be in the early stages of its prime drink window within a decade. 98+.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“Intense floral notes - violets, and liquorice, fragrant hints of new oak spices, in addition to spicy-mineral aromas. A grainy density to the palate, clear, dry, currently very closed, and introverted, virile tannins hold firm over juicy pronounced fruit, sophisticated acidity structure, excellent tactile minerality. Classic, recognizably Montrose without any fuss or unnecessary ballast.”*

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“On the nose, fruity and offers concentration, balanced richness, depth, nice texture, fresh boldness, and a fine multi-layered side. It reveals notes of black cherry, graphite and hints fresh/sparkling blackberry combined with hints of dark plum, violet, licorice as well as fine hints of crushed red berry, camphor, incense, ripe blueberries, a subtle hint of caramelization, saffron, a very discreet hint of bourbon vanilla bean and racy minerality. On the palate, mineral, fruity, fresh and offers good definition, complexity, a structure, a nice multi-layered side, freshness, a good gourmandize, a certain intensity and a fine power. The wine expresses notes of pulpy/fresh cassis, bright redcurrant and hints of morello cherry associated with touches of blackberries as well as hints of caramelization and a discreet hint of bourbon vanilla bean. A subtle chewiness on the finish/persistence. The tannins are elegant, racy and offer a very fine chew.”*

- Vert de Vin

*“(71% CS, 23% M, 5% CF, 1% PV; 40% harvest; 13.4% ABV) Closed, tight, mineral, blackcurrant, subtle, and persistent; full, fresh, fairly (rather than notably) concentrated, typically fine in its tannin; richly ripe, elegant, contained wine, crisp, sweet, long, and linear, juicy, and restrained at once, with excellent length. A lovely, accessible, complete classicism, a crisply blackcurrant beauty, which will most likely be a pleasure in the glass before its '16, '18, and '19 vintages. 2028–45+.”*

- MS, The World of Fine Wine

*“Lots of finesse and expression in this bouquet. It is marked by freshness through notes red berries, peppermint, and spices. Allowed to breathe, it also displays notes of black berries. and finally, a touch of cedar. On the palate, the wine displays fullness and freshness right from the start. Its tannins are silky, endowed with a fine grain and gain in breadth along the palate. The foundations of Montrose build slowly and don't seem obvious on first contact. It is by following the evolution of the tannins at the end of the mouth that we realize that it has a targeted power and relevant which nevertheless blocks the way to other elements. The latter, respectively the expression aromatic, manage to reveal themselves with aeration. It will take time. It is a great wine for laying down.”*

- Yves Beck

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