

Château Montrose 2021

CSPC# 832570

750mlx6

13.1% alc./vol.

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| Grape Variety | 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 6% 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 | 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 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 | Saint-Estèphe seemed to have better, drier weather conditions than other appellations further south in the Médoc. The vineyards of Montrose benefited from an Indian summer from late August through to October, the estate comparing it to 2014, which was a huge success for them. Marked by contrasting weather conditions, 2021 is proof, yet again, of the importance of the quality of Montrose terroir and its incredible ability to mitigate the excesses of "Mother Nature". This vintage required all the experience, energy and vigilance of the estate's teams. Despite the weather conditions, all four grape varieties have been included in the Grand Vin, and that is always the hallmark of a successful vintage at Château Montrose. The 2021 vintage displays freshness and fine tannins. This is one of the estate's classic wine and will, without a doubt, be ranked among the great successes of the vintage. |
| 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 | Yields were 38 hectoliters per hectare, with 40% of the harvest going into the Grand Vin. The harvest took place September 21 to October 6. |
| 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 | Montrose 2021 is dominated by delicate toasted aromas of pine nuts and hazelnuts. A seductive fragrance of rose essential oil wafts out with the swirl of the glass, infusing a sense of elegance. I really like Montrose's fresh acidity and its layers of dense yet refined tannins. Not only do they fill the entire palate with bright laughter, but also deliver a more rounded and silkier mouthfeel. If we are to define the previous three vintages of Montrose as Rhapsody, then the 2021 vintage will be interpreted as an elegant waltz. |
| 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 | 12,500 cases made. |
| Cellaring | Drink 2031-2065. |



Scores/Awards **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2024
97 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024
94-96 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022
90-92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022
95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022
17+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022
17.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2023
95 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022
95 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024
94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022
95 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022
93-95 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022
93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022
94-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022
93-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022
18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022
96 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022
96-98 points - Yves Beck - June 2022
94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022
95-96 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022
94-95 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022

Reviews *"Sleek, with sufficient fruit to accommodate the tangy acidity of the vintage, this allows black cherry, damson plum and violet notes to stretch out nicely, with a late echo of singed alder. Poised and nicely done for the vintage. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2026 through 2037. 12,500 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The remarkable 2021 Montrose gets my nomination for the title of "wine of the vintage" in the Médoc. Wafting from the glass with a deep bouquet of cassis and dark berries mingled with subtle hints of mint, orange, pencil shavings and spices, it's medium to full-bodied, deep, and concentrated, with a layered and multidimensional core of fruit underpinned by beautifully ripe, refined tannins. Concluding with a long, resonant finish, it entirely transcends the limitations of the year. This young classic, reminiscent of the estate's 1996 but far better, is a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Drink 2031-2065.

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 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 massale 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 château 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. In 2021, the estate's first year in organic conversion, technical director Vincent Decup opted for three-week macerations and paid particular attention to the quality of press wine included in the blend."

- WK, Wine Advocate

"A brilliant achievement, the 2021 Montrose is reminiscent of a purer, more precise, modern-day version of the estate's 1996. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of blackcurrants, pencil shavings, sweet loamy soil, black truffle, and nicely integrated new oak, it's full-bodied, layered and concentrated, with terrific depth at the core, lively acids and a seamless, harmonious profile. Exhibiting beautifully refined tannins and an impressive sense of completeness, it's a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot—standing out as one of the few top wines of the vintage that actually includes more Merlot and less Cabernet than in recent years."

- WK, Wine Advocate

Reviews

"A blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, and 1% Petit Verdot, the 2021 Montrose is deep purple-black colored. It charges out of the gate with bold notes of crushed blackcurrants and fresh boysenberries, plus suggestions of pencil shavings, underbrush, and cast-iron pan, with a waft of potpourri. Light to medium-bodied, the palate delivers impressive tension and energy, baked up by fine-grained tannins and nuances of black fruits, finishing on a lingering ferrous note."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"A very classy and refined Montrose with excellent length and a compact, medium-bodied palate, showing fine, silky tannins and a fresh, bright finish. Lots of currant, blackberry, and tar at the end, as well as some graphite. 62% cabernet sauvignon, 31% merlot, 6% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"12% press wine. Cask sample. Dark and minerally through and through. Good fruit concentration. Hint of barrel but integrated. Velvety attack, the tannins dense but finely framed. Long, cool finish. Evident potential for ageing. Drink 2030 – 2050."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Deep crimson with smudgy rim. The most subtle of the Montrose in this line-up. The tannins are a little drier and paper-fine but layered. Doesn't have the intensity of the 2019 but it is darkly refined. A restrained beauty. Drink 2030 – 2046."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Beautiful perfume on the nose, really fragrant and seductive, deep and heady but beguiling too. You get chunky, chewy fruit here - this is round, plump, and filling a consequence of the slightly more Merlot in the blend than usual - opposed to more Cabernet seen elsewhere. It has a luscious appealing fruitiness then the austerity kicks in, with a vein of salinity and minerality, such a linear, quite strict middle where you get severity in the texture giving it some rigidity, but you also have such great depth on the mid palate, the layers of fruit and spice that linger giving such a core of flavour. A sense of power, intensity and concentration but also with acidity keeping everything lifted. A stately wine with lots of potential. Pierre Graffeuille replaces Hervé Berland here, having arrived in March and taking over fully in October. 1% Petit Verdot completes the blend. 39% grand vin."

- GH, Decanter.com

"This has depth on the palate, inky purple with grilled almond, fennel, cassis, blackberry, bilberry, waves of fruit set against strong, austere tannins that give excellent structure but not a lot of generosity. This is a serious, signature Montrose that is not an early drinker. Juicy on the finish, one to recommend. 55% new oak. Pierre Graffeuille has come on board as director since March 1, and will be taking over fully from Hervé Berland as of October 1."

- JA, janeanson.com

"Blackberries, espresso, chocolate, dried flowers, black cherries, and spice create the aromatic profile. On the palate, the wine is even better with its salty-edged red fruits, crushed rocks, spice, and espresso with dark chocolate accented profile. Medium/full-bodied, energetic, classic, and classy, this is a vintage of Montrose that will not take decades to develop. Give it 3-4 years and this will be good to go. Drink from 2028-2055."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep in color, especially for the vintage, you find tobacco leaf, black cherry, pencil shavings, cedar, spice, and dark fruits appearing in the perfume with no effort at all. There is a richness in the palate. The fruit is ripe, fresh, vibrant, and chewy, with lift and energy in the mouth that carries through to the finish. As all fans of Montrose know, the wine more often than not requires decades of age before it is ready to taste, but 2021 is a different beast, allowing you to enjoy it with just a few years before it begins to be fun to taste. 13.1% ABV, 3.7. Yields were 38 hectoliters per hectare, with 40% of the harvest going into the Grand Vin. The harvest took place from September 21 to October 6. Drink from 2028-2055."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“With no frost at Montrose, the yield was a fairly normal 38 hl/ha. The selection was then 40% grand vin, 39% Dame de Montrose and the rest third wine. They feel that this is a classically styled Montrose produced in conditions similar to 2014. 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Deep purple colour. Dark fruit on the nose, but there is an air of freshness too, a light gunsmoke and fennel seed tone to lift the cassis. The palate shows a clear Cabernet character, tight and focused with bright acidity and chewy, grippy tannins. Muscular but not heavy, this is a finely tuned Montrose with a cool ripeness and persistent, chalky texture. Chiselled to a long finish, this will need time to unfurl as Montrose always does, but it may well reach its peak before the 18, 19 or 20.”

- TP, Farr Vintners

“The 2021 Montrose is very clean and precise on the nose. You could almost describe it has clinical, crushed stone infusing the black fruit and briar. It is not as intense as the previous two vintages, which is to be expected, though the Cabernet Sauvignon is expressive. The palate is medium-bodied with sappy black fruit and fine acidity; a Monrose that is very tensile and focused. Moderate grip and volume, this is a more slimline version of recent vintages, a reflection of the growing season. Maybe it just misses the bravura finish that one has almost come to expect from this estate, yet it has the potential to become an aristocratic, classic Montrose.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2021 is a fine choice for Montrose fans who want to drink the Grand Vin without waiting for decades. I imagine the slightly high amount of Merlot also helps in giving the Grand Vin a measure of suppleness that is rarely found in Montrose. Gentle extractions bring out gorgeous purity in the fruit. Scorched earth, licorice, rose petal and blood orange develop in the glass, followed by a kick of Montrose structure on the finish. The 2021 is not an especially typical Montrose, but it is an undeniably attractive wine. The 13.1% alcohol has not been seen here in years.”

- AG, Vinous

“The Grand Vin 2021 Château Montrose comes from a miniscule selection of just 39% of the production and is 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Medium to full-bodied, it has a seamless, elegant, incredibly pure mouthfeel, ripe tannins, and some richer plum, spice, and tobacco aromas and flavors. It's certainly in the style of the vintage with its pure, graceful, supple style, but the tannins are impeccably done, it's balanced, and has character. It should benefit from just a few years of bottle age and keep for 20-25 years.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“This is a very compact and reserved Montrose with masses of energy and tension, and yet it is not a heavy wine, but one with incredible focus (much smaller bunches were harvested than normal) and aromatic allure. The depth and length of fruit are superb for a more slender and pinched style of vintage, and the overall balance is sensational. This is a wine from a bygone era in terms of weight and lift and the finish is as clean as a whistle with resonance and vibrations that will carry this wine on for years. 18.5+.”

- Matthew Jukes

“Dark ruby core, purple reflections, subtle brightening on the rim. Delicate aromas of cassis, fresh cherries, blackberries, and a touch of herbal savouriness. Juicy, ripe red cherries on the palate with elegant and fresh, well-integrated tannins, mineral notes, and a substantial length. Already showing some development and certainly has ageing potential.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is elegant, delicate and reveals intensity with finesse, freshness, a lovely airiness, attention to detail, a fine floral character, and a lovely multi-layered quality. There are notes of pulpy boysenberry, fleshy gariguet strawberry and more lightly fleshy/acidic red berries, a hint of blackcurrant as well as discreet minty hints, lily, Madagascar pepper and a discreet hint of vanilla/roasted. The palate is nicely conducted, focused, precise and reveals freshness, tension, accuracy, a nice freshness, minerality and purity. On the palate this wine expresses notes of almost roasted cherry, fresh raspberry and more slightly juicy/acidic blackcurrant combined with hints of fresh flowers, vanilla, toastiness, a discreet hint of crunchy berries, fine graphite/minerality almost saline, a subtle hint of toastiness, toasted hazelnut. The tannins are sapid and supple. A fine mellowness and a very fine chewiness on the finish/persistence.”

- Vert de Vin

Reviews *“It was necessary to find the balance of the vintage from the harvest, therefore very precise choices regarding the harvest dates and moderate extractions. “We have been able to keep the DNA of Montrose with power that rises along the palate and acidic structures that support middle and finish” explains Vincent, the technical director. Montrose displays numerous nuances, with subtlety, through sweet spices, scrubland, and black fruits. In the mouth the wine adopts the same strategy since the attack is fine then relayed by the structure which grants freshness and temperament while the tannins assert themselves on the finish, accompanied by a slight salinity. We feel a certain reserve in the mid-palate, but in the context of Montrose things are falling into place, slowly and surely!”*
- Yves Beck
