

# Château Tronquoy Lalande 2018

CSPC# 871456

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety** 51% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc.

**Appellation** Saint Estèphe

**Classification** Cru Bourgeois

**Website** <https://www.tronquoy-lalande.com/en/>

**Sustainability** Environmental, Green winery.

**General Info** Chateau Tronquoy Lalande takes its name fittingly from the family that owned the chateau in its formative years, the Tronquoy family. After they sold the estate in 1859, it passed through several owners before becoming part of the well-known Castèjà family holdings, who purchased the vineyard in 1968.

In 2006, Chateau Tronquoy Lalande was purchased by Martin Bouygues and Olivier Bouygues from the Castèjà family. The Bouygues brothers earned their fortune in the telecommunications industry.

For Martin Bouygues and Olivier Bouygues, it was the perfect addition to their portfolio, as they already owned the famed Second Growth, Chateau Montrose, which is also located in the Saint Estèphe appellation. Both transactions for the Left Bank estates took place in 2006.

Chateau Tronquoy Lalande enjoyed a complete, 10 million Euro renovation after it was purchased. This is a fortune when you consider the estate is a Cru Bourgeois and that the wines do not sell for that much money.

That represented a serious commitment to quality! A large portion of those funds was allocated to making Chateau Tronquoy Lalande a responsible, fully, environmental, green winery. They obtain much of their power from geothermal energy. To achieve this for their Left Bank estate, they placed 3,000 photovoltaic panels on their roofs. The construction took 3 years to complete.

The new owners purchased additional vineyard land, increasing the size of the estate. The yields were reduced, and the selection became much, more stringent. All of these changes have clearly helped improve the wine.

Shortly after Chateau Tronquoy Lalande was purchased by the Bouygues brothers, they brought in one of the more popular and revered figures in Bordeaux out of retirement (Jean Bernard Delmas) to manage both, Chateau Montrose, and Chateau Tronquoy Lalande.

**Winemaker** Jean Bernard Delmas.

**Vintage** 2018 was marked by atypical climatic conditions. The quality of the terroir allowed the vineyard to resist the pressure from parasites, which was particularly strong this year. The clay gravels of our soils mitigated the effects of the summer drought, while the high temperatures at the end of the season favoured good concentration in the grapes, which revealed all their potential in the cellar.

The year started, indeed, with a rainy winter, one of the wettest in the past 30 years, leading to slightly late bud burst. Stormy weather in spring strongly encouraged the appearance of mildew. The continuous responsiveness of our teams allowed us to preserve the quality of the bunches and maintain good yields. Only certain Merlot plots were slightly affected by poor fruit set at the time of flowering.

Veraison came early, the sign of an early vintage. It developed in a relatively quick and uniform way.

A heatwave in early August saw the first symptoms of drought, but without water stress thanks to the quality of our terroir's deep clays. Berry concentration increased slowly, in a uniform way. The first maturity analyses led to predictions of a great vintage.

**Vineyards** With a total of 18 planted hectares of vines, the vineyard is planted to a density of 9,000 vines per hectare. The vines are on average, close to 25 years of age. The terroir is mostly gravel with some clay in the soils. The vineyard is located inland from Chateau Montrose. The 30-hectare Saint Estèphe vineyard of Chateau Tronquoy Lalande is planted to 52% Merlot, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Petit Verdot and 3% Petit Verdot. This represents a large shift in the vineyard since the new owners took control. Now, you find much more Merlot and less Cabernet Sauvignon.



<b>Harvest</b>	Harvest took place under perfect conditions from September 18th to October 4th. In the cellar, the first use of an optical sorting table aided us in selecting the best of the crop. As fermentation progressed, it revealed great richness in the musts. Colour and structure came naturally, leading us to practice carefully controlled extractions.
<b>Maturation</b>	To produce the wine of Chateau Tronquoy Lalande, vinification takes place in 22 geothermal powered, stainless-steel tanks. The tanks allow for a parcel-by-parcel vinification. The tanks were made with a slight pitch or tilt at the bottom of the vat. The purpose is to allow the winemaker to capture more of the press wine. The additional press wine that is recovered utilizing this method is of better quality. The reason behind it is that it does not require mechanical actions to be produced. Gentle actions do produce softer, more elegant wine, which of course lends more softness to Tronquoy Lalande. All of these changes have clearly improved the quality here, giving the wine more finesse, softer, more gentle textures, and much better purity of fruit. On average, the wine is aged in 25% new, French oak barrels for an average of 12 months before bottling.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Deep ruby colour, dark and intense. The nose reveals beautiful black fruit notes (blackcurrant, blackberry) accompanied by spicy notes and discreet oak. Full on the palate, with good aromatic complexity. The tannins are powerful but silky. The long finish, slightly saline, is well balanced. 2018 is a very fine vintage which reveals all the richness of the terroir of Château Tronquoy- Lalande.
<b>Serve with</b>	Tronquoy Lalande is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, stewed, and grilled dishes. With its spicy character, Tronquoy Lalande also pairs well with a wide variety of Asian dishes.
<b>Production</b>	7,500 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2023-2034
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2021</p> <p><b>93+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p><b>91-92 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2021</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2019</p> <p><b>18.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - January 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p><b>92-94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2021</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2019</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Vert de Vin - April 2019</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Racy and vibrant, with a pure beam of violet, cassis and damson plum notes streaming through. A sleek finish keeps the elements nicely focused, while pebbly tannins linger. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2031."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The sibling property of Chateau Montrose, Tronquoy-Lalande has a bit more clay in its soil profile and is more inland than Montrose, perched on the hilltop. The 2018 Tronquoy-Lalande is composed of 51% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. Deep garnet-purple colored, it springs from the glass with vibrant scents of baked black cherries, mulberries, and plum preserves, plus suggestions of spice cake, Sichuan pepper, tobacco leaf and menthol. The full-bodied palate is jam-packed with juicy, black fruit layers, supported by ripe grainy tannins and plenty of freshness, finishing long with a peppery kick."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"This vineyard, owned by Château Montrose, has a bit more clay and is more inland than Montrose. The 2018 Tronquoy-Lalande is composed of 51% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc, harvested from September 18 to October 4. Deep purple black in color, it has a very spritely and open-knit nose of freshly crushed blackberries, black cherries, and redcurrant jelly with touches of spearmint, lavender, and milk chocolate with a hint of garrigue. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is completely packed with layers of black fruits with a lovely display of red fruit sparks, framed by firm, fine-grained tannins, and a lively backbone, finishing long."</i></p>

**Reviews** *"Yes, the early part of the season was a challenge," Communications Manager H el ene Brochet confessed. "Sixty-five percent of the vineyard is organic. We didn't give up—we stuck to it and now we have decided to go 100% organic. 2018 proved to us we could be organic without suffering too much. The organic blocks needed 15 treatments this year. Non-organic required 12, which is not such a big difference. The results were the same." In the end, yields were still pretty low at Montrose, at just 26 hectoliters per hectare, mainly due to coulure (flowering/fruit set problems) and smaller berries (20% below average) rather than mildew. "2018 was hotter than 2016," Brochet went on to tell me. "We had very tiny berries. The juice was completely black the first day of harvest. Extraction had to go easy—we had to be careful to extract only what we needed. We had to stop the extraction early. We created six different levels of press wines."*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Very dense and layered Tronquoy with juicy dark-fruit character. Roasted chestnuts. Full-bodied. Enormous. Muscular. Verging on too much. But should be outstanding with barrel time."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Under the same ownership as Ch ateau Montrose, this estate is performing right up to its potential. With its rich tannins, dark-chocolate flavors and smoky wood aging character, the wine is coming together well. It should be ready from 2026. Roger Voss"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"93–95. Barrel Sample. Ripe, dense, and juicy, this is a fine, rich wine. Its big tannins are masked by a black plum flavor and plenty of acidity. It is powerful but not excessive"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Tasted blind. Rich, exotic, spicy nose – almost Mouton-like! Masses packed in here: fruit, tannin, and character. Set for a very long life. Long and with masses of ingredients bursting out at the seams. Though it will need lots of time."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Showing good color with cigar box, dark chocolate, black cherry and smoked plums at its core, the wine is rich, ripe, round, and fruity with a gorgeous earthy character that is already shining. This is a superb vintage for Tronquoy Lalande. The wine blends 51% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc, 14.5% ABV"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"With a gorgeous nose of dark cocoa, blackberry, bitter chocolate, thyme, and ripe, red fruits, this is a stunner. The wine has body, depth and freshness with a dark roast espresso and blackberry pop in the finish. This is the strongest vintage for Tronquoy Lalande produced yet! Blended from 51% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc, the harvest took place September 18 to October 4."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Emerging from the same team as Ch ateau Montrose and 51% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc, the 2018 Ch ateau Tronquoy-Lalande is a spicy, chocolaty, medium to full-bodied, already complex beauty with ripe, velvety tannins, solid mid-palate depth and outstanding length on the finish. Loads of ripe black cherry and currant fruits as well as tobacco and spice define the bouquet, and it has the fruit to offer pleasure even today yet should keep for two decades or so. I overestimated this from barrel, but it's still a beautiful wine."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"From the team at Ch ateau Montrose, the 2018 Ch ateau Tronquoy-Lalande comes from deep clay soils perfect for Merlot and is a blend of 51% Merlot, 44% Cabernet Sauvignon, and the rest Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Unlike at Montrose, yields were healthy and above average here. This deeply colored beauty is loaded with notions of black cherries, blackcurrants, damp earth, and tobacco. Rich, medium to full-bodied, rounded and layered, with a sexy style, it has ripe tannin, thrilling purity and a great finish"*

- Jeb Dunnuck

**Reviews** *“Deep dark ruby, purple reflections, delicate bright rim. Delicate black cherry fruit, a hint of blackberry jam, a touch of herbal savouriness, some nougat. Juicy, fine fruit extract, ripe cherries, integrated tannins, chocolatey touch on the finish, a multi-faceted food wine.”*  
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

*“The nose is fruity and offers concentration, juiciness as well as a juicy/pulpy fruit. It reveals notes of juicy wild cassis, ripe/juicy red fruits and small notes of flowers associated with touches of berries, liquorice as well as discreet hints of spices. The palate is fruity, elegant, well-balanced and offers a beautiful definition, minerality, freshness, richness/concentration, a beautiful precision, tension, gourmandize, a small creaminess, density (full of finesse) as well as a beautiful finely tight grain. On the palate this wine expresses notes of fleshy/juicy blackberry, ripe/juicy cassis and small notes of chocolate associated with fine touches of black cherry, cornflower, vanilla as well as a discreet hint of iris and fine hints of cardamom. Tannins are elegant. There are fine hints of caramelization on the finish/persistence (bring gourmandize).”*  
- Vert de Vin

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