



Château Montrose 2017



96-99

Lisa Perrotti-Brown

The 2017 Montrose is a blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Deep purple-black in color, the nose is a little closed at first, but with coaxing, it opens to reveal remarkable earth and exotic spice notes of crushed rocks, black truffles, star anise, cassia and fenugreek over a core of crème de cassis, blackberry preserves, violets and blueberry pie with touches of cigar box, charcuterie and black soil. Medium-bodied with a rock-solid frame and an exquisitely ripe, very fine-grained texture, it has wonderful freshness with electric energy and a very long, mineral finish. Possessing great poise and intensity, this is one of the greatest Montrose's I have tasted!

There was hardly any frost at Château Montrose this year, because of the vineyard's proximity to the estuary. Harvest took place from September 12 to September 29. These final blends were finished in January. "We've been working towards more precision, in the vineyards and with the blending," communications manager Hélène Brochet commented. "It was a shorter maceration this year with softer extraction. This vintage we were able to put what we wanted in the wines, using 82 different blending components. Now we have smaller vats and more of them to be able to separate and create more blending material for a more complex wine."

27-04-2018

JAMES SUCKLING.COM 

96-97

James Suckling

This is pure and tight with gorgeous cabernet sauvignon character of blackcurrants, blueberries and crushed stones. Full-bodied, yet compacted and polished. It shows a long and beautiful tannin texture at the end. Just rolls off the palate.

05-04-2018

Antonio Galloni
vinous
explore all things wine

94-96

Neal Martin

The 2017 Montrose represents 37% of the total production this year and it was cropped at around 45hl/ha. It has a little more volume and intensity compared to the Cos d'Estournel that was tasted immediately prior to my visit. Blackberry, raspberry, cedar and pressed flowers bloom in the glass, though there is a noticeable change with aeration after 20 minutes – hints of juniper and bay leaf, rendering a more nuanced and complex array of aromatics. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy tannin and it feels a little chalky in the mouth, yet also tensile and certainly extremely focused. There is already a palpable sense of energy in situ, well structured and vivid, though not as complex or as nuanced as the 2016 Montrose on the finish since the growing season forbade that. I appreciate the pastille-like purity on the aftertaste and the potent tang of cracked black pepper and graphite that hang

around for 45 seconds after the wine has departed. It is a fine, very classic Montrose and I suspect more approachable than those of yesteryear. Tasted twice at the château.

May 2018

92-95

Antonio Galloni

The 2017 Montrose is wonderfully polished and nuanced. Silky tannins and mid-weight structure confer finesse to a Montrose that possesses superb harmony from start to finish. All the elements fall into place effortlessly. In 2017, the Grand Vin (35% of the production) is 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. Because of the late season rains, Montrose has more Cabernet Sauvignon than is typically the case. The winemaking team opted for a large number of smaller-lot vinifications (82 instead of 50-ish, to be exact), in order to optimize picks according to ripeness. Although alcohol alone can never tell the whole story of a wine, at 13.5% alcohol, Montrose has a very attractive freshness to it. The Grand Vin represents about 37% of the chateau's production. The 2017 is all class.

May 2018

THE WINE CELLAR INSIDER

97-99

Jeff Leve

Deep and shiny in color, tobacco leaf, cedar wood, pencil shavings and dark fruits appear with no effort at all. Full bodied, lively, vibrant and juicy fruits, this wine is long and intrepid with a strong tannic backbone. The tannins are perfectly polished and there is an established purity of fruit and a structure to age for decades. Like all the top vintages of Montrose, you will need to allow it time in the cellar, at least 10 to 15 years, which in the world of Montrose is almost forward. The wine was made from blending 76% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Montrose, 3% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, reaching 13.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.65. The Grand Vin was made from 37% of the harvest, which took place September 12 to September 29.

25-04-2018

Wine Spectator

91-94

James Molesworth

Last but not least is Montrose, whose 220 acres of vines are now divided up into 110 parcels. Cellar master Vincent Decup vinified them all separately, thanks to the new range of vats installed in time for the 2017 vintage. It was not a vintage to extract, because the tannins and color came quickly from the thick skins," says Decup. "So only a little to no pigéage (punch-down) and maceration was shorter than in recent vintages, 18 or 20 days versus 21 to 24. And we only added 12 percent of press wine instead of the usual 14 or 15 percent." The 2017 Montrose grand vin, just 37 percent of the crop, keeps pace with its neighbors at Cos and Calon. The 76 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, 20 Merlot, 3 Cabernet Franc and 1 Petit Verdot blend represents the highest percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon since the 1996 vintage. The wine is tight, but filled with lovely raspberry, bitter cherry and plum fruit. It has enticing energy and seems really coiled, with bright iron and floral notes wrapping up the finish. It's long and very focused, with the chalky minerality really shining today.

28-03-2018

This has nice breadth, with cherry and cassis notes moving through atop light tobacco and warm earth flavors. Very bright savory and iron elements add lift and cut through the finish. Tight, but everything is in place.

03-04-2018