

Château D'Issan 2009

CSPC# 749550

750mlx12

13.9% alc./vol.

SOLD OUT

Grape Variety

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot

Negociant

Ginestet

Appellation

Margaux

General Info

There's evidence the property existed in the Middle Ages - then known as Teobon. The original *château* dated from at least the 15th century, and it has been suggested as the location of the English army's final stand following their defeat at the Battle of Castillon. But d'Issan's timeline really begins in the 17th century when the land was acquired by Bordeaux parliamentarian Chevalier d'Essenault - he christened the estate (later shortened to Issan) and built the splendid *château*. The knight's tenure ended abruptly (the Revolution again) and during the 19th century the Roy family began building an ever-improving reputation. That too ended rudely, as d'Issan was all-but ruined during the economic gloom of the 1930s.

Château d'Issan is a 3^{ème} Cru Classé Margaux property that produces richly aromatic and silky-textured clarets that are often amongst the best of the appellation.

The beautiful 18th century *château* is surrounded by a moat and is frequently described as the most romantic in the Médoc. D'Issan has been owned by the Cruse family since 1945 and is presently owned and run by Emmanuel Cruse, his wife, and their son, Lionel

Vineyards

D'Issan has 52 hectares of vineyards planted with Cabernet Sauvignon (70%) and Merlot (30%).

Maturation

The grapes are traditionally vinified, and the wine is then matured in oak casks (33% new) for 18 months. The wine is bottled unfiltered.

Tasting Notes

There is power on the nose with an attractive mix of fruits, very much black fruit in character. The sweetness on the mid palate is balanced by some red fruited freshness but towards the back the tannins tend to dominate, quite hard giving the finish a rustic quality.

Cellaring

Drink 2018-2035

Scores/Awards

91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012

88-91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010

93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012

93-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010

89-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010

92 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July 2012

89-92 points - Ian D'Agata, ST's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2010

17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 20, 2010

17.5 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2011

16.5-17.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010

17.5 points/4 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010

Reviews

"A strong effort from proprietor Emmanuel Cruse, d'Issan's 2009 was fashioned from minuscule yields of 18 hectoliters per hectare, and its 13.7% natural alcohol set a record at this estate. Composed of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot, it exhibits a classic Margaux fragrance of acacia flowers/violets, blueberries, cassia, licorice and camphor. Opulent and full-bodied with silky tannins as well as a rich, dense style, it will be interesting to compare the 2009 with the brilliant 2000 and 2005 over the next two to three decades. Anticipated maturity: 2018-2035+."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"A taut but fresh style, with plum skin, mesquite and mineral notes running along. There's a solid core of steeped blackberry fruit in reserve, and the perfumy finish has latent grip. Best from 2013 through 2023."

- JM, Wine Spectator



Reviews *“Blackberry and mineral aromas follow through to a full body, with silky tannins and a medium finish. Subtle and attractive but lacks a little concentration.”*

- JS, Wine Spectator

“Following the lustrous 2000 and 2005, the 2009 is another terrific effort from proprietor Emmanuel Cruse. Tiny yields of 18 hectoliters per hectare, 13.7% natural alcohol, and a blend of 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot have resulted in a wine boasting stunning minerality along with notes of flowers, blueberries, and black currants. Full-bodied with silky tannin, a tremendous opulence, and levels of density and richness never before seen at this estate, this brilliant d’Issan should age for three decades or more. (Tasted two times.)”

- RP, Wine Advocate

“Tasted at the chateau and then at a negociant. The d’Issan ’09 is quite austere compared to its neighbours, a little leafy perhaps but well-defined and harmonious, gaining intensity with aeration. The palate is well balanced, quite masculine with sous-bois and tobacco notes inflecting the black fruits, leading to a firm, almost foursquare finish that does not want to party. Moderate length. I think this will fatten out, loosen up through its élevage. Tasted March 2010.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“Bright medium ruby-red. Wild aromas of redcurrant, blueberry, mocha, smoke and game. Very rich and full for Margaux if a bit youthfully monolithic today following its silky entry, with black fruit flavors accompanied by medicinal chocolate and menthol elements. Has the stuffing and length to support its big, mouth dusting tannins. Offers impressive potential.”

- ST, International Wine Cellar

“(a 60/40 blend of merlot and cabernet sauvignon; 13.9% alcohol; ITP 72; pH 3.81) Very dark ruby, with black highlights. The nose is distinctly stricter and more austere than usual for this wine, with fresh blackcurrant, violet and cedar aromas nicely lifted by a mineral note. Enters bright and fresh, with lively acids nicely framing the sweet black fruit flavors. The long, clean, vibrant finish features building tannins that are youthfully aggressive and chewy. This very attractive, classically styled Bordeaux wine eschews overripe aromas and jammy fruit flavors and is very much Margaux in style and weight. Although it will need considerable time to resolve its tannins and open fully, it should appeal to those who prefer the daintier, higher-acid style of Bordeaux Forget about it in your cellar for about 10 years, then enjoy it for another 20 after that.”

- ID, International Wine Cellar

“May 11 hail have meant yield was just 35 hl/ha. We were shown a sarment with scars like machine-gun fire on one side and satin smooth on the other. Dark, intense nose. Very smooth and satin-like with the tannins extremely ripe underneath. Very similar blend to Blason, 40% Merlot, same as in 2005. Fresh and ripe and easy. With a nice kick on the finish. This should last a lot longer but it's very much in the same style. Drink 2015-2027.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Alcohol 13.9%, unusually high for Issan, and IPT 72 which doesn't seem extreme in the context of the vintage. The assemblage is 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, and this is 52% of the harvest. A dark and glossy hue, with a bright cherry-pink rim. The nose has a sweet dustiness to it, the fruit polished and sweet, although with a crunchy-crystalline edge. Gently honed but creamy start on the palate, maintaining this texture through the middle, with a delightful backbone of ripe and slightly spicy tannins here. Smoky fruit, very sweetly textured, there is grip underneath the fruit here. The acidity comes through on the middle although it seems on the low side at first. Very elegant, restrained, despite the fine intensity of flavour. Wonderful impressive density but with a clean, pure frame. Fine balance, long and spicy. Issan used to be a wine you could ignore; not anymore. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 17.5-18.5+/20 (March 2010)”

- CK, The Wine Doctor

“Dense red, rich, plummy black fruits, wonderful middle palate showing great structure over the lissome, fleshy fruit, lovely texture and very good tannins for the future. Drink 2015-28.”

- SS, Decanter.com
