

# Château D'Issan 2010

CSPC# 749550

750mlx12

13.7% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

61% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot

## 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<sup>ème</sup> 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

Bags of fresh black fruit on the nose and very good intensity lead to fresh, crunchy and focused fruit on the palate; this is a very sexy, classic Margaux with a lovely, long and very well-balanced finish. Emmanuel Cruse and his team are certainly bringing this estate to the Margaux Premier League; it is getting better and better... chapeau!

## Cellaring

Drink 2016-2051

## Scores/Awards

**91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013  
**89-92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011  
**95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013  
**94-95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2013  
**92-94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011  
**94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013  
**93-94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011  
**94-96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011  
**91-94 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011  
**17.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011  
**18 points/5 stars** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011  
**94+ points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 14, 2011  
**94-95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 21, 2011  
**89-92 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011  
**16.5+ points** - Farr Vintner - April 2011  
**Review only** - Alex Lallo, JJBuckley Wines - April 2011  
**17 points** - Sara Guiducci, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2011  
**94 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2011 (score only)

## Reviews

*"This red offers a grippy, charcoal-laced feel, cloaked by very fleshy plum, currant and blackberry confiture flavors. The long, tarry spine drives the finish, with extra bay leaf, maduro tobacco and warm stone notes. A touch taut but should be ready to open soon enough. Best from 2014 through 2024"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator



**Reviews** *"A juicy, ripe, forward style, with lots of kirsch and blackberry notes filled in with apple, sweet spice and red licorice, followed by a juicy finish. Not quite as vivid as the top examples, but solid. Score range: 89-92."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"A complete, medium to full-bodied, exquisite Margaux from this medieval, moat-encircled, compellingly beautiful estate in the southern Medoc, D'Issan's 2010 is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot. The deep, gravelly soils mixed with clay have provided extraordinary aromatics. The yields were ridiculously low (22 hectoliters per hectare) and the wine tips the scale at 13.7% natural alcohol. Production was small after the selection for the grand vin, and the result is a dense, purple-colored wine with beautiful aromatics of spring flowers, blueberries and black raspberries as well as hints of cassis, tar and charcoal. The wine is gorgeously pure, well-balanced, and soft enough to be approached in 4-5 years or cellared for 25-30."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Emmanuel Cruse has done a superb job at this moated castle on the southern approach to the appellation of Margaux. The dense blue/purple-tinged 2010 reveals notes of violets, blue and black fruits, a striking minerality, excellent purity, texture and length, a medium to full-bodied mouthfeel and noticeable but sweet, well-integrated tannins. It should drink well in 5-6 years and last 25-35."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted at an impromptu visit to the chateau, the d'Issan 2010 (a blend of 39% Merlot and 61% Cabernet Sauvignon representing 53% of the crop, raised in 55% new oak for 12 months) has an intense bouquet of blackcurrant, a hint of creme de cassis and blueberry. This really captures the essence of Margaux: floral and feminine. The palate is soft and caressing on the entry with light but tensile tannins encasing the mineral-rich black fruit. It is very well balanced, nicely focused with a lingering hint of black pepper on the finish. Harmonious and long, this is a superlative d'Issan from Emmanuel Cruse and his team. Tasted November 2012."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"A blend of 39% Merlot and 61% Cabernet Sauvignon, cropped between 27th September and 14th October at 42hl/ha representing 53% of the crop, clocking 13.7% and a pH 3.81. It has a tightly coiled, mineral-rich bouquet with blackberry, wild hedgerow, a touch of blueberry and crushed violet. Good definition and very controlled. The palate is medium-bodied with firm tannins on the entry, a little earthy with some sous-bois and cigar box emanating from the ripe Cabernet, good weight but not overbearing towards the finish. Very natural. This is not a show-stopping wine, but a d'Issan that you will gladly have on your table and deserves several years cellaring."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Gorgeous ripe fruit in this with plum, black cherries and spices on the nose and palate. Full body, with soft tannins and a long, long finish. Very refined and focused. Best from here in decades. Try after 2018."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Starts off elegant and balanced with blueberry and floral character. Full and silky. But turns chewy and mouth puckering. Very extracted. But will turn out, outstanding. Best from here in decades."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"94-96 A very structured wine, retaining great acidity and freshness. The tannins cut right to the heart of the wine. The aftertaste is solid and chunky."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"(a 69/31 blend of cabernet sauvignon and merlot; 72 IPT; 3.81 pH; 13.7% alcohol) Deep, bright ruby-purple. Classic highly perfumed aromas of blackcurrant, violet, crushed stone and gunflint. Bright, clean and concentrated but currently backward, with densely packed black fruit and mineral flavors displaying a wonderfully precise, penetrating quality. Finishes long and subtle, with an austere quality and a lingering note of violet. This will need plenty of time to show its best: I find that the better vintages of Issan age gracefully; while never turning into behemoths, they put on weight and flesh with bottle age. For example, the 1999 is drinking splendidly now. Enjoy this one from 2020 through 2040."*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

**Reviews** *"55% new oak. Very dark crimson. Heady and perfumed and very Margaux. More subtle on the nose. Very sweet start with good freshness. Tighter and introvert. Needs a long time. The grown-up version of Blason d'Issan. Lovely delicacy. Very fine tannins on the end but with Margaux polish."*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Fine fragrant nose, perfect extraction, already beautifully textured, great future, probably the best d'Issan yet."*

- SS, Decanter.com

*"Licorice, cassis, jammy blackberry and earthy scents open to full bodied, structured Bordeaux wine with round, polished tannins. This Margaux wine ends with a long, fresh, ripe, sweet dark berry filled, fresh finish. 2010 d'Issan was offered at 48 Euros, which was higher than they asked in 2009. This is the finest vintage of Chateau d'Issan I have tasted yet. 94-95 Pts"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"2010 d'Issan from a blend of 61% Cabernet Sauvignon and 39% Merlot, the Margaux wine will probably be aged in 55% new oak for close to 18 to 20 months. 2010, with its dark, inky purple accents stains the glass as it's swirled. Oak, cassis, forest floor and graphite scents are on display with little coaxing, offering a big mouthful of ripe cassis, vanilla, licorice and sweet tannin, there is a lot to like about this wine. More classic in style than 2009, 2010 is a little richer and more powerful than the 2009. Emmanuel Cruse feels the wine is one step up from the 2009. I agree. He added, "Even though the IPT levels are the same in both vintages, 2010 feels denser and offers more structure." d'Issan is one of the Medoc properties with slightly lower alcohol levels in 2010, when compared with 2009. 2009 reached 13.9%. In 2010, the wine is at 13.7%. 94-95 Pts"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Black fruits give some weight on the nose refreshed by red fruited acidity. The palate has power, a good weight of fruit at the start with cassis and bramble backed by some fresher red cherry. The sweetness of the fruit and rounded tannins ensure richness at the back."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"This Margaux property is planted with 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot and the wine is aged in 50% new oak. Dark, quite tannic wine with black cherry fruit and cedary Medocain tannins. Quite long, serious and with a firm backbone."*

- Farr Vintners

*Having suffered greatly during both World Wars, Ch. d'Issan sadly underperformed for decades. But all has changed at this pretty Third Growth property due to serious vineyard replanting and cellar refurbishments by the Cruse family.*

*The vines are now reaching maturity and the quality in recent years has been superb (with Parker points to match). It has shed the angular firmness and replaced it with Margaux style elegance and charm. With few properties in the commune of Margaux producing quality wine, Ch. d'Issan is a property to watch. With a small annual production of around 5000 cases of Grand Vin this is a must have.*

*2010 d'Issan is beautifully perfumed with a rich silky dark fruit palate of blue plums and morello cherries, balanced by a surprising freshness and a very fine but obvious tannic structure."*

- SG, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

*"61% cabernet sauvignon, 39% merlot. Average age of vines is 35 years planted in deep gravel. Merlot was harvested between Sep 27 and Oct 5. The cabernet was brought in between Oct 5 and 14. The net yields were an amazingly low 22 hl/ha! Aged in 55% new oak barrels and 45% one-wine old barrels for about 18 months. Alcohol is 13.7%. The beautiful nose displays red currant, cherry, and loganberry. Complex flavors on the palate feature more darker notes of coffee, bittersweet chocolate, and Asian spice. Lots of texture and structure here, this lush effort retains its freshness throughout. The d'Issan is top notch in 2010. Enjoy this beauty over the next 3+ decades. Jacques Boissenot consults."*

- AL, JJ Buckley Wines