

Chateau Du Tertre 2014

CSPC# 744968

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 12% Petit Verdot, 10% Merlot
Appellation	Margaux
Classification	Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://chateaudutertre.fr/en/
General Info	<p>5th growth classified in 1855. Château du Tertre's history goes all the way back to the 17th century. Whilst the old Médoc Seigneuries were in the hands of the Bordeaux nobility and became top wine estates, Du Tertre left the Arzac Seignury and in 1724 was purchased by Pierre Mitchell, an Irishman, who was the leading bottle manufacturer of the Bordeaux region. During the course of the 19th century, under the control of ingenious owners such as Henry de Vallande or Baron Henri de Koenigswater, the wines of the estate gained world renown, culminating in their inclusion in the 1855 Médoc classification. Down a path, just past the village church, the remarkable outlines of Tertre's gravel outcrops come into full view. These were described by 19th century writers as « the lovely Tertre (hill) of Arzac ». The Margaux soils reach their highest point here, and it is one of the highest gravel outcrops of the Médoc area. Today, Château du Tertre is indebted to the Albada Jelgersma family for having rediscovered its aristocratic pedigree. Since 1997, Château du Tertre's destiny has been in the hands of Eric Albada Jelgersma, a Dutch businessman, who has long been a keen Francophile, a great art lover and a passionate admirer of the Médoc. Eager to get the very best out of his outstanding soils, which are exceptionally homogeneous and recognised as having some of the highest potential in the Margaux appellation, Eric Albada Jelgersma now sees his team rewarded for their efforts. Though having modernised the estate, Eric Albada Jelgersma has managed to maintain traditional methods while taking advantage of the latest innovations, making the wines of Château du Tertre superbly powerful and elegant with excellent ageing potential.</p>
Winemaker	Jacques Boissenot
Vintage	<p>After a very wet and mild winter, without any significant cold spells, spring was « normal »: May was rather cool and June was quite warm, so flowering happened on the usual dates, and under very favourable conditions; it was therefore very quick and homogenous, contrary to the previous year. July didn't bring us any great surprises, but August was particularly cool, without doubt one of the coldest we have seen in recent times. These low temperatures made it difficult for the grapes to change colour, which took a long time. Fortunately, it didn't rain much, but in neither July nor August did we have a really dry spell. As it often happens in Bordeaux, at the end of August anything was still possible; a prospect of a good vintage as well as of a mediocre one...</p>
Vineyards	<p>The du Tertre vineyards are remarkable for being in a single, coherent block adjacent to the <i>château</i>, covering 52 hectares of the aforementioned plateau in Arzac. This is a gravelly, pebbly mound typical of the region, planted with 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. The vines average about 35 years of age, with many dating from the 1950s and 1960s, the average age brought down by the planting of 4 hectares of Cabernet Sauvignon and a little Merlot in 1999. With the arrival of Jelgersma, however, there was a new attention to detail in the vineyard, with better training and care of the vines, and a green harvest, all destined to improve quality.</p>
Harvest	Entirely manual. Picked from 26 September until 16 October
Vinification	<p>The harvested fruit is fermented in traditional wooden vats stretching up to the first floor, with temperature control, and a maceration of up to three weeks. As well as the in-house team Jelgersma has engaged the services of local oenologist Jacques</p>



Vinification	Boissenot in ratcheting up the quality. The wine spends 15-18 months in oak (45% new wood from central France, and 55% 1-year old barrels), with racking every three months and an egg white fining at the end. Throughout the process, from harvest to
Maturation	barrel, the wine is transferred by gravity feed rather than mechanical pumping. Clearly, with such care and modernisation in vineyard and cellar, the direction in which Jelgersma is taking du Tertre is up.
Tasting Notes	A beautiful savoury nose that's rich and enticing. Black fruit dominance which is slightly different to other years. Not better or worse because of it but different and still moreish and will offer relatively early access to its undoubted charms. Will be a bargain too. Come one. Come all.
Serve with	Chateau du Tertre is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau du Tertre is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau du Tertre is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese.
Production	10,000 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2028
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2017</p> <p>89-91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2015</p> <p>89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - March 2017</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2017</p> <p>93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2015</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2017</p> <p>93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2015</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2018</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2015</p> <p>89 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2015</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017</p> <p>89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015</p> <p>91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2015</p> <p>Review Only - Farr Vintner - March 2015</p> <p>87-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015</p> <p>88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2015</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - June 2017</p> <p>88 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2018</p> <p>91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017</p> <p>89 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - October 2016</p> <p>16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2018</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Lilac and singed sandalwood notes lead the way here, though this fleshes out steadily throughout, with the core of plum, currant and blackberry fruit melding with accents of juniper and warm stone on the finish. Well-embedded acidity gives this latent length and drive. Best from 2019 through 2028. 10,000 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Pepper and savory flavors lead the way, followed by slightly brisk damson plum, cherry pit and iron notes. Not dense but shows a good racy edge on the finish. Score Range: 88-91."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2014 Du Tertre has a light blackberry and raspberry scented bouquet with a noticeable undergrowth element that I was not anticipating. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin. There is not enormous weight or body here, but it is certainly balanced with neatly integrated oak towards the poised finish. Probably an earlier-drinking Margaux to enjoy over the next 10-12 years. Maybe I was just expecting a little more substance in view of its showing in barrel, nevertheless it is still a respectable 2014 from Alexandre van Beek and his team."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The Château du Tertre 2014 is a blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 12% Petit Verdot and 10% Merlot picked from 26 September until 16 October. It has a slightly more opulent nose than the Giscours at the moment with red plum and crushed strawberry fruit, a slight gravel accent coming through with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannin, crisp acidity, and more weight than the Giscours. It feels harmonious and fleshy, lightly spiced with a long tender finish. Alexandre van Beek has overseen a very commendable Margaux for the vintage, and it should drink well over the next 15 to 20 years."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"A little bit shy on the nose, but the balance of good concentration and powdery tannins creates a creamy impression that extends through the long finish — one that's already smooth enough to give a lot of pleasure. Try drinking in 2020."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A fantastic Tertre. One of the best in years with so much dark fruit, earth, and light meat character. Decadent yet classy. Full body, polished tannins long finish."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Made by the same team as Château Giscours, this estate continues to impress with its quality. The wine is certainly structured, but it also has lush layers of ripe fruit. Blueberry and black-currant fruitiness give the wine richness and potential. Drink from 2023."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"93–95. Barrel Sample. This is a rich, smoky wine, with medium weight and concentration. It offers spicy notes, solid tannins, and swathes of fresh fruit. This is going to be a seriously good wine."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Tasted blind. Transparent crimson. Sweet and easy and fresh but not much complexity yet. Opulent. Drink 2023–2040"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Dark crimson with a blackish tinge. Something unusual, almost animal, about this on the nose. Much more fruit than tannin. Very worked. Intriguing! Richer than most of its peers. Impressively persistent."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Quite robust, meaty nose. There's good fruit but it's not yet showing the usual Margaux lift which will come in time along with more expression."

- SS, Decanter

"Forward in style, this will offer its charms young. The fruit has a softness, sweet and fresh character that is quite successful for the vintage and will drink well young. The wine was made from a blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 12% Petit Verdot and 10% Merlot."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Bright, fresh, vibrant, energetic and spicy, with loads of tobacco, earth and herbs on top of sweet, fresh cherries are all right there, in this medium bodied, charmer."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"It's not difficult to sense the flowers, blackberry and a bit of chocolate on the nose and easy to enjoy the smooth, softness coupled with the sensation of freshness on the palate. The sweet cherry finish makes this vintage already easy to drink. From a blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Cabernet Franc, 12% Petit Verdot and 10% Merlot, the wine reached 13.2% alcohol."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“This Margaux classed growth is from the same owner and wine making team as Chateau Giscours. Usually soft and supple with fleshy ripe tannins complimenting the cherry fruit.”*

- Farr Vintners

“There is good depth of fruit on the nose the start of the palate firm with a strong black cherry character. Sweet in the middle then fresh at the back the finish is bright with good length. 2026-38.”

- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2014 du Tertre has a slightly muddled bouquet with blackberry, graphite and light rose-petal scents. The palate is medium-bodied with edgy tannin, crisp and taut, but there is something sultry about this Margaux, as if it does not want to play ball at this early stage. This is just a bit opaque at the moment. Tasted blind at the annual Southwold tasting.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2014 du Tertre is a bold, powerful wine. Smoke, licorice, wild dark cherry, and game are front and center. Though it is a touch rough around the edges, the 2014 possesses notable depth and intensity. Time in bottle may help soften some of the tannins, but this is never an especially refined wine. (AG)”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2014 du Tertre is intense and powerful from the very first taste. Game, smoke, tobacco, leather, and cedar all open up in the glass, adding considerable nuance to a core of dark red stone fruit. The 2014 is decidedly powerful and virile in style, with all of the elements in the right place. Bright acidity and firm tannins give the wine much of its energy and also suggest the 2014 will require at least medium-term aging to show at its best. The blend is equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot.”

- AG, Vinous
