
Chateau Du Terte 2015

CSPC# 744968

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 10% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Margaux
Classification	Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://chateauduterte.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 Arsac 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 Arsac ». 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>
Vintage	<p>Simply put, 2015 Margaux is the result of a close to perfect growing season. Everything went right from start to finish. The winter was mild. Bud break and flowering were both quick, easy and uniform. Spring was warm and sunny most of the time. The summer months really helped make the vintage. July was hot and dry with temperatures averaging 10% higher than most vintages over the past 3 decades. The extended hot, sunny and dry conditions continued until late July. In August the thirsty vines were rewarded when the exact amount of rain needed arrived. Before the rains fell, the vines were becoming stressed, grapes were small and growers feared the results of continuing drought conditions for the 2015 Margaux vintage.</p> <p>The rain triggered the start of the ripening period. From that point forward, the vines enjoyed almost picture-perfect conditions with continued warm, sunny days and cool, refreshing nights right through the harvest. The small amount of rain that fell October 2 ranged from 13mm to just under 20mm, depending on where your vineyard was located. When you compare that with the 100mm that fell in the northern Medoc, especially in and around St. Estèphe, you get the picture on what took place in Margaux, and how it compares to parts of the Northern Medoc. The continued period of pleasant daytime temperatures and cold nights could not have been better. Most growers started picking their 2015 Margaux crop by Monday, September 21, finishing by October 7, with a few stragglers completing their harvest a few days later.</p>

Vineyards	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 Arsac. 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.
Harvest	Entirely manual.
Vinification	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 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 barrel, the wine is transferred by gravity feed rather than mechanical pumping.
Maturation	Clearly, with such care and modernisation in vineyard and cellar, the direction in which Jelgersma is taking du Tertre is up.
Tasting Notes	This Classified Growth in 1855 is the first label of Château du Tertre. It is of great sweetness and flavor. Silky texture and freshness are combined in this bottle to bring you the elegance expected of a great Margaux wine. The aging potential of this great wine is between 8 and 20 years or even more for the most exceptional vintages.
Production	13,333 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>90+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2017</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>96 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>90 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>15 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>89-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>89-91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>16.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>90-92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>16.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Gorgeous sandalwood, rooibos tea and warm raspberry aromas lead off, with silky and refined waves of cassis, blackberry preserves and black currant paste flowing through. The long, silky finish is laden with melted licorice, mesquite and iron notes. Best from 2022 through 2035. 13,333 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

Reviews *“Offers a velvety feel overall, with steeped plum and currant notes layered with accents of black tea and ganache, Shows a racy tobacco edge underneath. Score range: 90-93”*
- JM, Wine Spectator

“The 2015 du Tertre is medium to deep garnet-purple in color with a nose of baked cherries, blackberries and dried herbs with a waft of potpourri and fallen leaves. The medium-bodied palate is delicately styled with perfumed red and black fruits supported by firm, grainy tannins and it finishes with a refreshing herbal lift.”
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 du Tertre is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% each of Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Merlot, picked 9 September until 9 October, matured in around 47% new oak. The nose is impressive, more so than the 2014 twelve months ago with tightly wound but very focused raspberry, cranberry and iodine aromas that gently unfurl with aeration. The palate is medium bodied with good structure, impressive depth, a du Tertre with more substance and body than recent vintages. There is precision with satisfying length on the cedar and pencil lead finish. Alexandre Van Beek might have produced his best du Tertre to date.”
- NM, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 du Tertre showed well in barrel and it continues to do so in bottle. It has a clean and fresh bouquet with blackberry, bilberry, cedar and light iodine aromas that are well defined. The palate is medium bodied with grainy tannin. It is quite structured in style for du Tertre, perhaps a nod to Pauillac in terms of its graphite note toward the finish. It has closed down a little since I tasted it in October at the UGC tasting but it will open up next summer. Good potential here, but you might have to wait longer than for other vintages of du Tertre.”
- NM, Wine Journal

“Quite a lot of cocoa powder on the nose of this, and that really adds something to the rich fruit and suave tannins that give this intensity. If the finish were a little brighter this would rate even more highly.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“A very interesting wine with a great mix of savory, berry and delicate oak aromas. I love the balance of sweet fruit, fresh acidity and discreet tannins on the palate. That makes it very easy to enjoy right now, but it should hold through 2025 without any trouble.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“A wine with definition and refinement. Hints of tobacco and chocolate. Full body, super fine and flavorful. Juicy and savory. The walnut and spice on the end is gorgeous.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“This sister property to Château Giscours is firing on all cylinders with this wine. Rich, full of black currant fruit and dark tannins, it is dense while also supple. It has excellent aging potential and should not be drunk before 2024. *Cellar Selection* (RV)”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“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

“Fine briary fruit that is clear and well-structured with good density and nice lift on the finish. A classy wine.”
- SS, Decanter

“Full of a late summer evening feel, where the sense of exuberance fits the sheer languid sexiness of the thing. This has smoky oak, rich blueberries and charcoal. The ripe fruit is not precise so much as enticing; it's an unhurried and extremely beguiling wine. (JA) “
- JA, Decanter

Reviews

"Mid purplish crimson. Very well-married elements on the nose already. Sweet, very polished palate entry. Perhaps very slightly too sweet for refreshment value? But a well-made wine without excesses. Quite forward."

- Jancis Robinson

"Dark crimson. A meaty note to this charmer. Lots of freshness too. A fairly early developer with masses of sweetness but a good herald of the vintage. Perhaps not the great concentration of tannins for a long life. "

- Jancis Robinson

"If you wanted to bottle the quintessence of Margaux in 2015, this lovely, aromatic wine would be an excellent candidate. Pretty, floral and feminine with more tannin and backbone than you think at first and fresh, tangy acidity. Very appealing indeed."

- TA, timatkin.com

"Now we are talking. The red fruits are bright, sweet, soft and silky. The floral notes, coupled with earth, forest and kirsch a treat. The pure cherries in the soft finish offer polish and refinement."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Showing better than ever, this has a lot going on here. The wine is concentrated, sweet, fresh, vibrant, silky and complex. This will age and evolve quite well too."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"With a kiss of dark cocoa, earth, plum and blackberry to get things started, this wine is supple, silky, long and fresh. The sweet, dark, red fruits, drizzles of chocolate, spice and freshness feel lovely on the palate. From a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 10% Petit Verdot and 10% Merlot, this wine reached 13.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.8. The picking took place September 9 to October 9 and the wine will be aged in 47% new, French oak barrels."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Attractive colour; purple at edge; fresh looking; creamy blackcurrant and black cherry aromatics; nice purity as usual here; beautiful palate with lovely purity; blackcurrant tones; harmonious finish. Very good length too. Excellent du Tertre. Amongst my favourite affordable Margaux properties. [70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc, 10% Petit Verdot]. Drink 2022-2035. 91-93+"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"This 52-hectare Margaux classed growth is from the same owner and wine making team as Chateau Giscours. It is planted with 43% Cabernet Sauvignon, 33% merlot, 19% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. Medium ruby colour with a floral, forward nose of cherry and cassis. The palate is sweet, supple and rounded with no hard edges giving a forward structure that will allow the forest fruit character to shine through for early drinking."

- Farr Vintners

"Fragrant spring violets the start of the palate is bright and fresh a bilberry bramble mix. Richer in the middle the fruit is ripe fleshy with fine velvety tannins dense black fruits. Lighter at the back and the finish has freshness and good length."

- Derek Smedley MW

"An attractive du Tertre with vibrant floral and red berry aromatics. Wonderful precision and detail in this wine with layers of delicate floral, herbal and spicy notes. One of their most successful vintages with silky tannins and a fairly long finish."

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2015 du Tertre is a firm, potent wine with plenty of energy and overall drive. As it did from barrel, the bottled 2015 comes across as lacking a bit of mid-palate depth, which makes the wine its rather compact feel. There is good nuance to the savory, earthy flavors, but I would like to see a little more fruit and overall depth. Even so, the 2015 is an attractive wine with plenty of character. The blend is 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Cabernet Franc, 10% Merlot and 10% Petit Verdot. (AG) "

- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2015 du Tertre is dark, pliant and inviting. Black cherry, plum, mocha, exotic spice and lavender are front and center. This is an especially dark, virile du Tertre. A host of game, smoke, tobacco and more feral notes develop in the glass to give the wine its masculine, virile personality. Du Tertre is an especially brooding Margaux. In 2015, the blend is 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 10% Petit Verdot.”*

- AG, Vinous

“With some coffee and spice on the nose and decent density of cherry fruit this is a good stab at the vintage and a nice, balanced wine. There are touches of green and I suspect that the fruit wasn’t entirely all ripe, but these are interesting details as opposed to faults.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
