

Chateau Du Tertre 2018

CSPC# 758852

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc, 14% Petit Verdot
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 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>
Winemaker	Menahem Israilevich
Vintage	<p>The warmest year since the beginning of the 20th century, temperatures in 2018 were 3.24°F above the national average. In Margaux, the year began with a relatively mild winter with below-normal temperatures and occasional frosts in February which had no impact on our vines. The rest of the year was hot, sometimes very hot, compared with seasonal averages, marked by record-breaking temperatures in the last ten days of June and the first ten days of August, more than 7.2°F above the 30-year average.</p> <p>Rainfall in the first half of the year was heavy with nearly 25 inches in Margaux between January 1st and July 10th, making growing conditions challenging. Each rainy day made a good vintage less likely. But dry and warm summer conditions eventually reached our region and remained until the end of the harvest. Rainfall was very low between mid-July and late September at 2 inches. This rainfall pattern is reminiscent of 2009.</p> <p>Under these conditions, budbreak was relatively late between the 4th and the 10th of April. The vines flowered between the 25th and the 28th of May and, despite fairly poor conditions, we did not note, even in the relatively sensitive Merlot plots, poor or failed fruit-set. The greatest challenge was mildew which this year led to slightly lower yields than hoped for after the fruit-set.</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 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.</p>



Vineyards	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. The 2018 du Tertre was picked starting September 17 and finishing around October 12.
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 and freshness are combined in this flask 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
Serve with	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	13,333 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2036
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021</p> <p>91-94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>89-91 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2021</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>90+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p>90 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>90-92 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p>89-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p>92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p>93-94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p>17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Very seductive, with warmed plum sauce, cassis and raspberry confiture flavors stitched together with singed sandalwood and light mineral notes. Ends with a velvety edge while a flash of alder darts in the background. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Best from 2023 through 2036."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A bright sanguine thread runs from start to finish here, lacing up the damson plum, savory, bitter cherry and black tea notes. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Score Range: 91-94"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2018 du Tertre delivers a good intensity of stewed black plums, kirsch and black raspberry notes, plus hints of dried Provence herbs, tobacco leaf and cedar chest. The medium-bodied palate offers plenty of red and black fruit preserves flavors with a soft texture and loads of freshness, finishing with an herbal lift."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *“Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 du Tertre is a little reduced to begin, opening out to notions of baked plums, warm cassis and dried mulberries with hints of tar, chargrill and black pepper plus a waft of bouquet garni. Full-bodied with a firm, chewy frame, it has a good number of baked berries and herbal flavors with a sage-laced finish.”*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

“Aromas of meat and dark berries with some dried flowers. It’s full-bodied with round, chewy tannins and a juicy finish with some dark chocolate. Give it three or four years to soften and come together. Try after 2024.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“A tight and precise du Tertre with deep and dark fruit, as well as fresh flowers. Medium to full body, firm tannins, and a clean and beautiful finish. The tannins are folding into the wine here.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“From the partner estate to Château Giscours, this wine is as elegant as you would expect. While it is structured, it also has ripe fruits, rich tannins, and great potential. The dry and firm core of this wine will propel it forward. Drink from 2027.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Darker and more savoury than the Sirène de Giscours, tasted alongside, with a fine note of crushed rocks. Really pure, delicately floral, smells – and tastes – elegant. Fine texture, dry tannic finesse. Unusually pretty in this vintage. Lots of freshness through to the finish. Already showing real refinement when many wines are too concentrated to show their likely future.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“30% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 16% Cabernet Franc, 14% Petit Verdot. 50% of the crop went into the grand vin – less than usual. 50% new oak. Barrel sample. Darker and more savoury than the Sirène de Giscours, tasted alongside, with a fine note of crushed rocks. Really pure, delicately floral, smells – and tastes – elegant. Fine texture, dry tannic finesse. Unusually pretty in this vintage. Lots of freshness through to the finish. Already showing real refinement when many wines are too concentrated to show their likely future. (JH) 13.9%. Drink 2024-2032.”

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“Brushed grilled cedar edge on the nose here, deep silky texture and lots of lovely fruit. Touches of heat on the finish but a clear bitter chocolate ending keeps things focused. 50% new oak. 14% Petit Verdot makes up the blend.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Earthy, with leafy tobacco, mint, flowers and red currants with spice on the nose, the wine is energetic, sweet and soft, with a polish to the tannins and lift to the fruit. This is the finest vintage du Tertre has ever produced. The wine blends 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc and 14% Petit Verdot and is the product of very low yields.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The wine is bright, focused and fresh. The fruits are succulent, polished, and vibrant. The finish is all about the juiciness in the red fruits and silk in the tannins. From a blend of 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc and 14% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.8% alcohol. Due to issues with excessive rains and mildew du Tertre lost close to 40% of their crop. The harvest took place September 17 to October 12.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep ruby colour with a floral, fresh nose of red fruits and crunchy black cherries. The palate is elegant and fresh, with violets, blackcurrant leaf and crunchy Medocain tannin. Sweet cinnamon and clove come through from the oak to bolster the fruit, leaving an elegant and lifted finish.”

- Farr Vintners

Reviews

“The 2018 Château du Tertre, this estate sold by the Jelgersma family during my tastings, has an intense bouquet of iris and pencil lead aromas infusing the black fruit, and a touch of ash in the background. I like the chutzpah here. The palate is medium-bodied with grippy tannins on the entry, quite firm and earthy, with just a little dryness on the graphite-tinged finish. This is decent du Tertre that just needs to muster a touch more finesse in bottle.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 du Tertre was picked starting September 17 and finishing around October 12, and matured in 50% new oak, including recently introduced foudres, for around 14 months. It has a clean, precise, quite floral bouquet of black fruit infused with hints of lavender and iris flower; there is fine cohesion here. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins, the Merlot really lending flesh and roundness to the texture, and a fine bead of acidity. Touches of brown spice appear toward the fresh, engaging finish. This is a very pleasurable du Tertre in the making and I suspect it should drink well after just four or five years.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 du Tertre is dense and powerful. Scorched earth, game, tobacco, licorice, and incense give the 2018 its decidedly feral, pungent character. The 2018 seems quite marked by the radiant intensity of Merlot in its fruit and Petit Verdot in its savory overtones. The blend is 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc and 14% Petit Verdot.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2018 Château Du Tertre is solid, offering an attractive bouquet of red and black fruits, vanilla bean, dried flowers, balsam (which I always seem to find in this wine), and sandalwood. It's beautifully complex, has medium-bodied richness, moderate tannins, and a forward, charming, already delicious style that's ideal for enjoying over the coming 15 years. “

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Strong ruby garnet, violet reflections, subtle lightening of the edges. Nuances of dark cherries, delicate forest berry confit, a hint of liquorice, figs, and orange zest. Velvety, extract-sweet, freshly structured, integrated, supporting tannins, mineral-salty aftertaste, a multi-faceted food accompaniment. (2020 - 2040)”

- Falstaff Magazine
