

Chateau Du Tertre 2020

CSPC# 758852

750mlx12

13.4% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Franc, 8% 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> <p>Château du Tertre announced new owners as of January 2021, with the Helfrich family of Grands Chais de France taking over from previous owners Albada Jelgersma family on a leasing and management basis.</p>
Winemaker	Menahem Israilevich. Cellar Master: David Fennelly. Consulting oenologist: Eric Boissenot
Vintage	The vines awoke very early this year, in mid-March. After a beautiful beginning to Spring in the first weeks, even with some very heavy rain though June, the skies of the Médoc opened up to lovely periods of sunshine. The Merlot and Cabernet took advantage of these windows to rapidly flower in the best conditions. Particularly dry weather with several very hot days continued into mid-August where little spurts of rain allowed the vine to suffer slightly, and to jump start the ripening with a restrained hydration. In September, the wind accompanied the new heat wave in this last ripening phase, bringing about a unique concentration of the fruit. Generous sun during the harvest did its work and therefore produced a beautiful vintage.
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.
Harvest	From September 14 to October 02. Each grape variety is harvested at optimal maturity. The Merlots are concentrated, the Petits Verdot are silky. Cabernet Sauvignon develop a great elegance, thick films, the whole is sublimated by the Cabernet Franc, powerful and tense.
Vinification/ Maturation	Manual and optical sorting Wood, concrete and stainless-steel tanks Maceration 21 days at 24 degrees French oak barrels 40% new wood Duration of aging 12 months in barrels.
Tasting Notes	This vintage is one of the smallest in production since 1991. The first tastings carried out reveal an exceptional



Tasting Notes	vintage. The Merlot is incredibly fruity and fleshy and are the best Merlots ever made on the property. The Cabernet Franc is powerful with tight tannins. The Petit Verdot is concentrated, with a good quality of black fruits, the structure is silky and dense. As for the Cabernet Sauvignon, the elegance of the fruit complements by the tannic structure and achieves the perfect balance. The blends reveal a magnificent Chateau du Tertre 2020 with a beautiful density.
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	6,000 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2025-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p>93 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>87-89 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>89 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p>17 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - November 2022</p> <p>93 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>88 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>90-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p>91-93+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>92 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>94-95 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p>92 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This throws a noticeable savory note out front, along with flashes of lilac and bay leaf in the mix, while the core of gently mulled red and black cherry fruit catches up. The silky finish has a light sanguine echo. 6,000 cases."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Wafting from the glass with aromas of sweet berries, pencil shavings, warm spices, and cocoa powder, the 2020 du Tertre is medium to full-bodied, supple, and seamless, with an elegant, suave profile that belies good depth and concentration. This terroir is never going to produce the most powerful wine in Margaux, and it's the prime example of an estate that gets lost in a mass tasting, but the restructuring of its vineyards, almost complete, is clearly quietly bearing its fruit."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Displaying a deep purple-black color, the 2020 du Tertre springs from the glass with pronounced blackcurrant pastilles, black cherry preserves and blueberry pie scents, with an undercurrent of dried Mediterranean herbs, pencil shavings, tar, and black olives. The medium-bodied palate offers compelling freshness with a soft, approachable texture and plenty of juicy black fruits, finishing with invigorating herbal notes."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Blackberry, graphite, and blueberry character. It's full-bodied, layered, and chewy with fine-grained tannins and a punchy finish."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"The black fruits and the juiciness of the wine are deceptive—they are just a front for the impressive structure, the rich tannins, and the spice. This is a wine that already shows great potential while also bringing something of the softer side of a grand Margaux. Barrel Sample: 95-97."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"Deep crimson. Pure, ripe dark fruit and sweetness of oak on the nose. Scented and subtly floral with a touch of crushed stones. The oak is present but not dominant, bringing a chocolate sweetness to all that lovely black fruit. Deep, but smooth tannins, really polished. Complete wine that finishes long and fresh."</i> - JH, JancisRobinson.com</p>

Reviews *“Spicy on the nose, with cinnamon, exotic spices, paprika and clove more than fruit at the moment. The palate is more lightly framed than some Margaux, more delicate with less overt texture and weight, but still quite high acidity so it comes across as a little less impactful, with a creamy milk chocolate, salty undercurrent. A little closed right now, although overall there's balance. Feels delicate and well worked, just not hugely forward and expressive at this stage.”*

- GH, Decanter.com

“A more sculpted feel to 2020 here than at many estates in Margaux, with touches of tobacco leaf and white pepper accompanying the raspberry and wild strawberry fruits right from the first moments. There is a vivacity to the tannins, which remain muscular and a little sombre on the finish once they have built up through the palate. Good stuff. 6% Petit Verdot completes the blend. A yield of 25hl/ha. 40% new oak. Barrel Sample: 93.”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Cedar, spice, forest leaf and dark red fruits appear on the nose. From there you find sweet, ripe, chewy, red fruits that meld into an herb, olive, and crisp, red berry finish. Drink from 2025-2045.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Following the initial shot of espresso you find flowers, wet earth, forest floor and dark red fruits. Medium/full-bodied, fresh, and juicy, with a spicy edge to the creamy soft, sweet fruits in the finish.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2020 du Tertre is bold and punchy, with an enticing mix of inky dark fruit and more savory, earthy tones. All the elements are so nicely integrated. The tannins are a bit burly, as is often the case, and yet the 2020 appears to have enough fruit to provide at least some balance. Scorched earth, licorice, tobacco, and game linger on the potent finish.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2020 Château Du Tertre is fresh and lively, with pretty red and blue fruits as well as lots of sappy herbal and floral nuances. It's nicely balanced and concentrated on the palate, with ripe tannins, a solid spine of acidity, and beautiful overall balance. The Margaux appellation was one of the more challenging places in the Médoc in 2020, but this looks to be terrific. Barrel Sample: 91-93+.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Dark ruby, opaque core, purple reflections, broadening at the rim. Fine herbal spices, red cherry, a little licorice, and tobacco nuances. Medium body, red cherry fruit, freshly structured, round tannins, mineral aftertaste. An elegant wine with ageing potential.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“On the nose it is aromatic, offers complexity, elegance, a nice freshness, a certain straightness (in elegance), depth as well as a little multi-layered side. Notes of pulpy blackberry and raspberry and lightly ripe red berries combined with hints of lily, cherry, camphor, fine hints of spice, licorice/star anise as well as a discreet hint of sappy, a subtle hint of Sichuan pepper and tea. The palate is fruity and offers juiciness, freshness, good definition, roundness, gourmandize, richness, depth, a nice finesse of grain, fat, and a little tension. The wine expresses the notes of pulpy/juicy blackberry, bright cassis and slightly fresh raspberry combined with hints of small ripe wild small red currants, hints of lily, saffron, tea as well as fine hints of tonka bean, toast and sweet spices and an imperceptible hint of coffee (in the background). The tannins are precise, fine, and mellow. A little chew on the finish/persistence. Gourmandize on the finish/persistence.”

- Vert de Vin

“Pure and floral nose with violet, cassis, raspberry, and some aromatic herbs. Ample palate with a rather rounded and supple texture, youthful but grainy tannin, some herbal flavours and good length.”

- AL, Tasted.com