

# Château Giscours 2005

CSPC# 758859

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot

## Appellation

Margaux

## General Info

The first written reference to the domain of Giscours, a deed confirming the sale of the Estate for 1,000 Pounds, dates from 1330 and refers to a fortified keep. Records of Giscours' vineyards go back to 1552. Giscours early reputation for fine wine became increasingly apparent as time went on. A century later, Giscours charmed the palate of the "Roi Soleil" Louis the 14th, who is said to have had a particular inclination for the wine. Subsequent owners came and went. The most noteworthy was the Count de Pescatore, a leading Parisian banker. In 1847, he laid the cornerstone of the remarkable chateau that still exists today. It was built in order to receive Empress Eugénie in the Renaissance style to which she was accustomed. 1855 was another landmark year, in which the wine of Château Giscours was officially recognised as a 3rd growth Margaux. Then, the domain had a number of other owners and the estate was purchased by Nicolas Tari after the Second World War. He undertook a modernisation programme. In 1995, the Société Anonyme d'Exploitation was acquired by Eric Albada Jelgersma. He immediately began investing in vineyard and cellar renovation. He also put together a new winemaking team in the spirit of generations of winegrowers who made this Estate the famous great growth it is today.

## Vineyards

The vineyards at Giscours are spread over four gravel outcrops in Margaux, with a poor quality, slightly sandy, pebbly soil. The estate nears 400 hectares in size, of which 85 hectares are designated vineyards, although at present there are just over 80 hectares planted up. The vines are planted at up to 10 000 vines/ha, a high-density arrangement, and include a significant number of old vines; 25% are over 40 years of age. They are predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon (60%) and Merlot (32%), the remainder Cabernet Franc (5%) and Petit Verdot (3%).

## Maturation

Traditional fermentation / the wine is left on the skins for a long time at a relatively high temperature. The wine is put into barrel after the malolactic fermentation. Traditional ageing in new oak barrels (50 %) for 16 months

## Tasting Notes

The 2005 presents a purple colour with hints of ruby. The nose reveals a powerful bouquet of firm-textured fruit (gooseberries, blackcurrants) complemented by sweet spices. The full-bodied, flavourful attack is followed by plump tannins; very harmonious finish with lingering aromas of stone fruit. A wine for laying down that suggests very enjoyable future drinking (ageing potential ~ 15-20 years)

## Production

20,830 cases made

## Cellaring

Drink 2010-2025

## Scores/Awards

**93 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008  
**92-94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2006  
**91 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008  
**91-94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #179 - April 2007  
**90-93 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006  
**92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012  
**90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2009  
**89-90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2006  
**95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2008  
**93-95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 20, 2008  
**90 (+?) points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - January 2012  
**91 points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - June 2008  
**17 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2006  
**17+ points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2007



**Scores/Awards** **17-18 points** - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2006  
**17.5 points** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2006  
**92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 30, 2013  
**92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 3, 2011  
**90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2, 2010  
**92 points** - Connoisseur's Guide to California Wine (no review)  
**94 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010 (no review)  
**Bronze Medal** - Decanter Regional Awards - October 2008  
**2 stars** - Le Guide Hachette des Vins 2009

**Reviews** *"Displays blackberry, cherry and hints of sweet tobacco. Full-bodied, with soft, velvety tannins and a long, caressing finish. Very pretty and solid. This is structured and chewy. Needs time. Best after 2013. 20,830 cases made."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Very big and juicy, with fabulous berry, chocolate and currant character. Full and round. Long. This could be the best Giscours ever. Score range: 92-94."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"This forward-styled 2005 possesses a dense ruby/purple color in addition to a big, sweet bouquet of roasted herbs, fudge, espresso, figs, and cherry jam. Opulent, even decadent, with low acidity, but high glycerin and fruit extract as well as a flamboyant fleshiness, this is a stunningly impressive, hedonistic, savory Margaux to enjoy between 2010-2025."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Giscours has been on a hot streak, fashioning full-bodied, powerful wines. The forward 2005 reveals notes of chocolate, sweet cherries, plums, figs, and dried herbs in its opulent, corpulent personality. With decent acidity, huge glycerin and concentration, and a long, fleshy, heady finish, it possesses an in-your-face, flamboyant style that is somewhat out of character for the vintage. It is an impressive, challenging, hedonistic as well as intellectually satisfying claret that should drink well reasonably young. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2025."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"A full-bodied, powerful Giscours, the 2005 displays a deep ruby/purple color as well as sweet aromas of red and black fruits intermixed with loamy soil, dried herbs, and a hint of pain grille. Good acidity, a plump, corpulent attack and mouthfeel, medium to full body, superb depth of fruit, plenty of glycerin (it must approach 14% alcohol), and a lusty finish suggest this beauty will be approachable young. Anticipated maturity: 2009-2022."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted at BBR's 2005/2009 tasting in London. This is the best showing so far for this Margaux estate. It has an impressive, powerful bouquet on the Giscours '05 with ripe dark berried fruit, truffle, mint and sage. Good definition and touches of espresso developing with time. The palate is medium bodied with a fleshy, meaty entry with subtle savoury fruit just beginning to develop. The oak is showing its hand just a little too much, perhaps? There is composure even if it could just do with a little more structure towards the finish. Tasted July 2011."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted single blind at Southwold. There is a little over-ripeness on the nose with hints of tinned prune and black olive, but very faint – just distracting more than anything. Fat chewy tannins, really coats the mouth, assertive, a little spice on the finish, lots of new oak, showy (something like Giscours?) Good length though. One for the cellar. Mouth-puckering finish. Tasted January 2009."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"An opulent sweet liquoricey nose with black cherries and iodine. A bit heavy-handed with extraction. The palate is very modern and voluptuous in style with blackberry and blueberries. A hint of soy. Focused, quite harmonious but there is a touch of astringency on the finish. Tasted April 2006."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

- Reviews** *"This chateau gets better and better. The wine has power, but it is harnessed by the intense fruits, the blackberry flavors, the density and the wood. With the power, though, comes elegance, resulting in a wine that is ready to develop over many years."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "93-95 Barrel sample. A poised, beautiful wine that brings out fine black fruits but also seems ready to spring forward, like a finely tuned athlete. Soft, dusty tannins round out the wine."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "(62% cabernet sauvignon and 38% merlot; 30.6 g/l dry extract; 13.5% alcohol): Dark ruby with purple tinges. Floral aromas of red berries, minerals, licorice and marzipan. At once dense and suave, with clean, fresh herbal and peppery nuances complicating red berry, chocolate, mineral and cedar flavors and contributing to the wine's impression of inner-mouth perfume. Finishes with building tannins and a juicy freshness, with a lingering note of smoky herbs."*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- "Good ruby-red. Lovely lift to the aromas of black fruits, licorice and minerals. Pure, intense and sweet, offering an enticing combination of black fruit, mineral and dark chocolate flavors. Finishes long and sweet, with plenty of tannic structure and a lingering note of bitter chocolate. A juicy, serious wine with some power. This has turned out very well."*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- "Very dark - distinctly blackish tinge. Sweet, brutal, almost New World wine on the nose. This is sumptuous - Napa sur Gironde - and very cleverly made. There is freshness and extraordinary immediacy. Utterly seductive. Smooth and transparent. Silky textured. It has enormous ripeness but freshness too. As you can tell from the note, I'm a bit alarmed by the nose but the palate and balance will win many drinkers over. Perhaps the lack of persistence is a bit of a worry though? Drink 2014-26."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "There is just the faintest edge of feral character here, along with dense berry fruit and still a firm presence of oak. It has a rather hard and serious structure on the palate, with sooty tannins offering a lot of drying grip, with a nice acid presence too. The tannins stand out a little from the gentle, lightly creamy texture, and my only concern is that the former may outlast the latter. Nevertheless, the potential is here. From my tasting of 2005 Bordeaux at two years of age. 17+/20 (October 2007)."*  
- CK, The Wine Doctor
- "CS 62%, M38%. A very deep colour here, leading out to a purple-black rim. Dense and concentrated nose, very evocative, with aromas of black fruits, white flower petals, tar and minerals. Very pure. Full, glorious palate, very complete, with a slightly soft texture. Ripe, full, firm tannins, with plenty of fat and fresh acidity. There is evident structure here, but the palate is also packed with flavour, whilst remaining quintessentially Margaux. Excellent. From my 2005 Bordeaux en primeur tasting. 17-18/20 (April 2006)."*  
- CK, The Wine Doctor
- "Giscours (3G). Black-red, rich Cabernet fruit, totally ripe, even perhaps a little over-ripe, but sheer exuberance of fruit, not at all raisiny, bursting with energy, lovely ripe tannins. Drink 2009-20."*  
- SS, Decanter.com
- "Mulberry tone, rich and ripe, dense warm red fruits. Cool entry, fine soft mid palate, black fruits and powdery tannins."*  
- Decanter.com
- "Lush, silky, red and black fruits with earthy, truffle notes welcome you to a soft, elegant, sensuous expression of Margaux that is already starting to drink well and will only get better with age."*  
- JL, Wine Cellar Insider

**Reviews** *“Blackberry, cassis, truffle, woody aromas with hints of flowers prepare you for this medium/full boded, refined Margaux wine. With its plush, silky textures, ripe dark berries, structure and balance, this will only get better with another 5-10 years of bottle age.”*  
- JL, Wine Cellar Insider

*“Cassis, earth, blackberry and spice aromatics are held together in this ripe, fresh, and round Margaux which ends in a tannic, cassis and blackberry filled finish. This wine needs time, at least another 5-7 years.”*  
- JL, Wine Cellar Insider

*“Wonderful, this is the best Giscours since 1970. A great waft of fruit on the nose is amply supported by a palate that epitomizes the best of 2005 Bordeaux: it is full and rich yet is also very fresh with ripe but firm tannins and a lovely minerality. Making 25% less of the Grand Vin than in 2004, this is reminiscent of the 1990 vintage but is cleaner with better acidity. This is very classic, masculine and serious and makes an ideal counterpart to the more approachable Du Tertre. Once again, the Margaux terroir shines through here, with wonderful concentrated fruit and a structure that marks it out as a real vin de garde.”*  
- Berry & Rudd Wine Merchants UK

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