

# Château Giscours 2011

CSPC# 758855

750mlx12

13.2% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot

## Appellation

Margaux

## Website

<http://chateau-giscours.com/en/>

## 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%).

## Vinification/

## Maturation

Giscours' priority this year was, once again, to preserve the flavours and let each of their terroirs express its potential. The vats were pumped over very few times and always at moderate temperatures. Traditional fermentation / the wine is left on the skins for a long time at a relatively high temperature. Traditional ageing in new oak barrels (50 %) for 15-18 months

## Tasting Notes

Dark roasted espresso, black cherry. Good fruit. Quite nice. RS: Has a lovely, fresh nose, with strong, regal, old vine fruit that still retains its elegance with a long, round, but crisp finish. Complex wine!

## Cellaring

Drink 2016-2027

## Scores/Awards

**91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014  
**88-92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012  
**88 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014  
**88-90 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012  
**91-93 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012  
**92-93 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012  
**94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2014  
**90-92 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012  
**88-91 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2012  
**17.5 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 18, 2011  
**17 points/4 stars** - Decanter.com - April 2012  
**89-91 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012  
**90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 17, 2014  
**90-92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 19, 2012



**Scores/Awards** **90-91 points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - October 2013  
**89 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2012 (no review)  
**92 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2012 (no review)  
**17 points** - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2012  
**90-91 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012  
**18 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine - 2012 (score only)  
**93 points** - Gilbert & Gaillard - May 2012  
**93 points** - Falstaff Magazine - 2012 (score only)  
**17 points** - Gault & Millau - 2012 (score only)  
**16 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

**Reviews** *"Offers a solid core of violet, plum, red licorice, currant paste and sanguine notes that fill out steadily through the fleshy finish. A mesquite hint lurks in the background and should emerge more with cellaring, as there's ample stuffing in reserve here. Best from 2016 through 2027"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"This has nice ripeness, with cassis and blackberry paste flavors allied to sweet tobacco and roasted spice. Has a plump, weighty feel, but good focus, too. Score range: 89-92"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"A dense ruby/purple color is accompanied by juicy black cherry and black currant fruit notes, a velvety texture and a supple-styled Margaux that consumers will enjoy. It is not a big, powerful, concentrated wine, but it is well-balanced and cleanly as well as correctly executed. This is a stylish, sensual Margaux to drink over the next 10-12 years."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The powerful, concentrated 2011 Giscours is not terribly dissimilar from their 2005. Composed of two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon and one-third Merlot, it exhibits a deep ruby/purple color along with scents of charcoal, underbrush, forest floor, licorice, black currants and a hint of wood smoke. This rich, medium to full-bodied, dense effort should be consumed over the next 10-15 years."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The Giscours 2011 is a blend of 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. The nose is fleshy and ripe with lifted strawberry and raspberry aromas, the oak present but well integrated. It has a pleasing purity for the vintage. The palate is medium bodied with a fleshy, sensual mouthfeel. I feels just a tad worked in the winery, but I still appreciate the balance and soft silky tannins towards the finish. Very fine. Tasted April 2012."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"This is very precise and pure with very fine tannins and a lovely currant and light citrus undertone. Balanced and very pretty. Long finish."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Power and ripeness walk hand-in-hand with this major player. The wine is opulent and extracted with flavors of rich blackberry fruits but shows a firmness in tannins and dense texture. Drink from 2018 and it's sure to be a great success."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"90-92. Barrel sample. Ripe, rich and soft, this wine has open, juicy fruit and attractive red plum flavors; it already shows its fruity character."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Deep, saturated ruby-purple. Fresh, fragrant aromas of violet and sweet berries. Creamy and juicy in the mouth, with lively acidity lifting the pure dark berry and floral flavors. Finishes long and clean, with a return of the fresh blackcurrant and mineral elements. Despite the fact that many 2011 wines are tannic and more or less austere, Giscours has managed to turn out a wine in its usual creamy, soft style."*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

**Reviews** *“Deepest crimson. Fragrant with cherries and a hint of violets. Rich and soft and very rounded but perhaps a little short on acidity, surprisingly. Easy going, lacks a bit of edge and energy.”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“Fine blackcurrant Cabernet fruit, good structure and aromas that flow through to the palate, an elegantly expressive wine.”*  
- Decanter.com

*“Like this nose, full and confident but not shouting. What a shame that the finish whacks you a little too hard on the oak. Still, things regain their balance, this is just a wine that needs a little time, and is taking a lot of new oak characteristics at this stage in its evolution 89-91”*  
- JA, The New Bordeaux

*“Spicy berries, forest scents, black plum and wet earth notes greet your nose with little effort. This early drinking vintage of Giscours offers fresh, peppery dark red cherries and spice in the finish.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Blending 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.2% alcohol. With flowers, spice, black cherry, cassis and coffee, this medium-bodied wine is round and fresh with ripe black cherry. 90-92 Pts”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“2011 Deepish colour; slightly nutty note initially’ certainly intense and inky; again, inky palate with depth and chew. Vibrant and harmonious. Not over extracted. Fresh. Drink 2016-2026 88 UGC Oct ’13 [Earlier note] Deep and saturated; more floral and perfumed with blackcurrant cassis; more delicacy and vibrancy than many; freshness – not to say there aren’t red fruits and some jam; palate has a satiny note with nice acid. Fresh will work well. Nice balance. 90-91+ Drink 2018-2025”*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

*“2011 is another masterful vintage from this great Margaux estate. I’m drinking my 2001 and 2002 Ch. Giscours at home at the moment, and both are singing. The 2011 is going to be even better. Not quite 2009 or 2010 level but only a fraction behind and will drink earlier than those two great years. Sweet black fruits with a real sense of richness and depth that few properties have this year. Exceptional 3-minute finish which only makes you want it to mature faster so you can pull the cork and get on with it! Delicious.”*  
- SS, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

*“Lovely perfume with lifted aromatics and wonderful velvety tannins. A fantastic wine with great consistency and quality - surprising that this vintage is nearly as good as the previous two vintages given the tougher weather conditions. A generous red with supple, firm tannins and sweet, plummy flavours on the mid palate. The second sample was less good but assume that the better sample represents the real Giscours.”*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com

*“EN PRIMEUR - Deep garnet-red. Warm nose of fruits in brandy, plum and liquorice. On the palate, fullness, power, heat and fruits in brandy. Stays harmonious despite its power.”*  
- en.gilbertgaillard.com

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