

Château Giscours 2012

CSPC# 758855

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Margaux

Classification

Third Growth. Troisieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

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.

Vintage

In 2012, Spring was particular difficult, and the weather became favorable from mid-July. Indeed, the winter was very cold and dry, with a significant rainfall deficit. The Merlots sagged and their yields were low. The control of fungal diseases was possible thanks to the prophylaxis and healthy vines. Finally, the favorable temperatures in July helped to recover the delays. And the rains of September drove to the evolution of the skin and accelerated the ripening. The distribution of the bunches on the plant (low yields) and the sane status of the vineyard, added to a rigorous sorting of the berries were capital to optimize the quality of this difficult vintage.

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%).

Harvest

27 September until 18 October

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

This Classified Growth in 1855 is the first label of Château Giscours. It is of great finesse and elegance. Delicacy and power 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.

Production

23,330 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2030



Scores/Awards **90 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015
90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013
90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015
88-90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013
86-88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013
92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015
91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 12, 2013
86-89 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - April 2013
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013
16.75 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013
17 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013
90 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 11, 2015
90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 25, 2013
90-91+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 9, 2013
86 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)
90 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
15.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2013
85-88 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2013
16 points - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2013
93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 2014
91-93 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 16, 2013
18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
90-92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
16.5 points - Gault & Millau - 2012 (score only)
16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

"This has a noticeable pepper and charcoal backdrop, but the core of black tea, crushed plum and warm currant confiture holds sway overall, while refined tannins carry the finish. Should fill out a bit more with cellaring. Best from 2017 through 2022. 23,330 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"A polished, silky style, with cashmere tannins that let the supple plum and boysenberry fruit glide along. Suave black tea chimes in on the finish. Appears easygoing at first, but there's ample stuffing here. Solid. Score range: 90-93"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"The plump, rich and densely purple-colored 2012 Giscours, has turned out very well in this vintage, offering loads of fruit. A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, it has a moderate finish, and is medium to full-bodied, with excellent licorice and crème de cassis notes, and a broad, round, juicy mouthfeel. This is a wine that can be drunk young or cellared for 12-15 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"This deep, dark ruby-colored effort reveals developed and forward notes of licorice, roasted herbs, sweet black currants, incense and a touch of smoky barbecue/oaky characteristics. The tannins are soft and the wine is round, medium-bodied, plush and charming. While it is not the richest or most concentrated 2012, it is well-balanced and seductive. Enjoy it over the next decade or more."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted from a barrel sample at en primeur. The Giscours is a blend of 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc picked 27 September until 18 October, with optical sorting machine used for the first time (though used three times at de Tertre.) I tasted this wine in two occasions. Despite patiently waiting, the fruit remains frustratingly out of sight and there are simple undergrowth and earthy notes that lacks the intensity of its peers. The palate is medium bodied with pleasant, supple entry. It is nicely balanced, but it lacks body and depth. I think 2012 is just one of those vintages that did not favour Giscours. Tasted April 2013."

- NM, Wine Journal

- Reviews** *“Some red cherries and plums with cedar and clove notes on the nose. This is a full-bodied red with soft tannins, lovely acidity and a long, floral finish. Structured Giscours. Drink from 2018.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Plenty of delicious fruit in this wine with strawberry and raspberry. Full body, with creamy tannins and a fresh and clean finish. Gorgeous. Fine. 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, and 4% Cabernet Franc.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “93–95. Barrel sample. This firm, dry wine is solidly rich and full in the mouth. With fine acidity and black currant fruit that show through the tannins, it is a wine with considerable potential.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Full dark ruby. Dried redcurrant, red plum and coffee on the nose; turned increasingly herbal with air. Juicy and intense, with decent acidity giving a penetrating character to the musky flavors of dark plum, blackcurrant and cedar. Finishes with youthfully chewy tannins and decent cut and length, but a building dusty, oaky quality and a strong note of underbrush tempered my enthusiasm.”*
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- “Dark crimson. Hint of wood shavings on the nose. Well-melded fruit and great balance on the palate. Nothing forced, with real zest and great balance. Something a little meat flavoured about this - a welcome change from all the obvious sweetness.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Good, slightly briary/earthy fruit, quite rich and supple, firm tannins already blending in.”*
- SS, Decanter.com
- “Finely extracted cassis fruit, elegance and lift of Cabernet dominant, fine florality, purity and length.”*
- SS, Decanter.com
- “This goes to the ruby rich red spectrum. Nose is full rich and round, lacks a touch of definition. Some highly attractive oak, a little touch of heat on the finish, but there is plush fruit also. A wine with huge amounts of pleasure potential, good extraction, raspberry, well-textured fruits, not as long ageing perhaps as some from this property in recent years. 90 / 17. Highly recommended. Drink 2019-2030.”*
- JA, The New Bordeaux
- “Truffle, fresh herbs, blackberries and black cherry scents create the perfume. A few years in the cellar will help add more layers of complexity and softness to this charming wine.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Blending 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. Dark ruby in color, licorice, flowers, cocoa, cherry and cassis notes open to soft, refined, medium-bodied dark cherry- and cassis-filled wine with good freshness, supple textures and a red berry-dominated finish. 90-92 Pts “*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Deep core; vibrant edge; healthy; elegant and fresh aromas; ripe; blackcurrant, some plum; more-ish; violet perfume; fresh palate; lush entry with cool blackcurrant fruit; does very well. Nice balance. Elegance but with layers and flesh. 90-92. Tasted UGC Thursday April 11, 2013. [Earlier note] Mid depth; some purple at edge; stalky Cabernet on the nose with freshness and purity; no hard edges suggested; Cabernet again on the palate with a ripeness and good grip; elegant. Nice Margaux. Good length. Not a blockbuster but has real finesse and you’d expect it to fill out further. 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and 4% Cabernet Franc. 90-91+ Tasted UGC Tuesday April 9, 2013 Drink 2018-2025”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“Serious improvements are taking place here (and also at sister property du Tertre) under the Dutch manager, Alexander Van Beek. 69% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc. Impressive structure and weight here. Fresh, ripe cassis fruit is balanced by minerals and a firm tannic grip. Classic Margaux.”

- Farr Vintners

“The nose is very tight and although there is a mix of black fruits on the palate the tannins are tending to dominate and hold back fruit expression. Right at the back there is the feel of a little more fruit to show. 2020-30”

- Derek Smedley MW

“Rich, ripe, fresh red fruits abound in this utter gem of a wine and it is the lively and expressive Cabernet Franc that gives Ch. du Tertre its charm. I've just finished a case of my 2001 and am tucking into my 2002, which is drinking so well now. 2012 will be better than these two delightful vintages and hints are that it will be exceptional value this year too. I wouldn't bother with Magnums or other larger formats, just add a few cases of bottles to be enjoyed in 3 or 4 years. Scrumptious!”

- SS, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

“Lovely wine with smooth tannins and a vibrant flavour profile that ranges from fresh violets to cedar and sweet spices. The palate offers depth and focused intensity. A very successful vintage for Giscours in 2012. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Drink. (26-Mar-2014)”

- JCL, asianpalate.com

“Lovely nose of black fruits coupled with empyreumatic notes. Wonderful supple stuffing. Tannic presence. Good potential. (16-Apr-2013)”

- en.gilbertgaillard.com
