

Château Giscours 2015

CSPC# 744970

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

CSPC# 758854

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot

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

Simply put, 2015 Margaux is the result of a close to perfect growing season. Everything went right from start to finish. The winter was mild. Bud break and flowering were both quick, easy, and uniform. Spring was warm and sunny most of the time. The summer months really helped make the vintage. July was hot and dry with temperatures averaging 10% higher than most vintages over the past 3 decades. The extended hot, sunny, and dry conditions continued until late July. In August, the thirsty vines were rewarded when the exact amount of rain needed arrived. Before the rains fell, the vines were becoming stressed, grapes were small and growers feared the results of continuing drought conditions for the 2015 Margaux vintage.

The rain triggered the start of the ripening period. From that point forward, the vines enjoyed almost picture-perfect conditions with continued warm, sunny days and cool, refreshing nights right through the harvest. The small amount of rain that fell October 2 ranged from 13mm to just under 20mm, depending on where your vineyard was located. When you compare that with the 100mm that fell in the northern Medoc, especially in and around St. Estèphe, you get the picture on what took place in Margaux, and how it compares to parts of the Northern Medoc. The continued period of pleasant daytime temperatures and cold nights could not have been better. Most growers started picking their 2015 Margaux crop by Monday, September 21, finishing by October 7, with a few stragglers completing their harvest a few days later.

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

picked between 22 September until 16 October



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| 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 |
| Production | 23,333 cases made |
| Cellaring | Drink 2020-2035 |
| Scores/Awards | <p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>92 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>94-96+ points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>89 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>16+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>89-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>92-94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>16 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p> |
| Reviews | <p><i>"Polished and rounded in feel, with a solid core of plum and blackberry compote flavors, lined with light hints of charcoal, tobacco and violet. Nice perfumy tobacco and warm tar notes show on the finish. Very well-integrated, making this approachable now, but there's no rush. Best from 2020 through 2035. 23,333 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Solid, with warm plum, fig and blackberry reduction notes, inlaid with a lovely alder accent. Flows beautifully through the long, velvety finish. Score range: 92-95"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2015 Giscours opens with expressive cassis, blackberry and red currants on the nose with touches of cedar chest, roses and pencil lead. Medium to full-bodied with a good core of muscular fruit and firm, grainy tannins, it finishes long."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Giscours is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot. That is in stark comparison to older vintages, for example the 2000 Giscours that was 50/50 Cabernet and Merlot. This vintage is matured in 50% new oak. Winemaker Alexandre Van Beek told me that the 2015 "...reflects the true terroir at Giscours that created the great wines of the 1960s and 1970s." That is something to live up to with fresh memories of the 1961 in my brain. The bouquet is very intense and almost "untamed" at first, but it calms down in the glass, revealing attractive scents of blackberry, raspberry, cedar, and graphite. This is a Giscours determined to make a good impression...and it does. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, very pure, a little spicier than recent vintages, adorned with a gentle crescendo in the mouth towards a really quite fantastic,</i></p> |

tensile, complex and compelling finish. Having tasted the 1961 and 1970 Giscours just a few months ago, I wager that the 2015 will be the best since the 1961. Time to fall back in love with this great Margaux property"

- NM, Wine Advocate

"The 2015 Giscours showed magnificently when I tasted it from barrel and I made allusions to the legendary 1961, which I have been fortunate to taste two or three times. I have no reason to change this view. It has a very refined bouquet that is almost understated at first, but then blossoms in the glass with copious blackberry, raspberry, flint and graphite aromas. The palate is very well balanced with great depth and real vibrancy. There is a slight chalkiness to the texture, extraordinarily fresh with superb mineral tension on the long finish. This is a great Giscours that will age beautifully over many years."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Plenty of violets and dark berries on offer here. This has a striking sense of purity as well as an energetic, regal palate. The structure is impressively groomed with effortless depth and length. A standout wine. Try from 2022"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This sets a new level for Giscours with blackberry, black truffle and blueberry. So much walnut and cedar. Full body, dense and incredibly long and powerful. Clearly the best Giscours since 1970 and 1975."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This firm wine shows the tannic side of the vintage. Those tannins are dusty, enriched with black-currant fruits and a dense backdrop. The wine is concentrated and elegant, very age worthy and not likely to be ready before 2025."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"94–96. Barrel Sample. This wine is firm and rich, with ripe black-plum flavors and dense tannins. Firm and concentrated, this is an impressive wine that will age well."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Perfumed, seductive nose. Rather salty and salivatory. A little bit chunky and earthbound but lots of pleasure is available here. A nice typical wine that expresses the charm of the vintage well."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Dark crimson. Relatively light nose. Very luscious, sweet fruit on the palate - a very winning wine with a medium charge of tannin. Just a little inky on the finish. But good and appetising."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Slightly smoky cassis nose then good florality and fine depth of Cabernet fruit and fine tannins. Has the classic Giscours charm with more weight than usual; will show very well."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Deep, plush fruit which is hard to push through at first - it resists rather than giving way. There are layers of muscular fruit on the palate with some gorgeous touches of tobacco and charcoal. This is one to age - and to double-decant if you're thinking about opening it up in the next decade. 50% new oak. (JA)"

- JA, Decanter.com

"This is just great wine. Everything is in balance here. Full bodied, and loaded with sweet, fresh, ripe, masterfully, pure, cherry, plum and blackberry notes, the wine is elegant, long, and complex. The complex notes of cedar, tobacco leaf, forest floor, and spring flowers add to the ripe, juicy, deep red fruits. The finish lingers and expands. This should provide at least 3 decades or longer of pure pleasure. This is clearly the best wine ever produced at Giscours!"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"Firing on all cylinders today. There is a lot going on here, with all its floral, truffle and pure fruits, this is already sublime. Add the silky polished textures and you have a real winner. This is probably going to be at, or better than the 2009 and 2010, this is a beauty that will easily hit the top of my score range."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"With a dark, ruby color, the violet aromas really get you going, that is until you get hit with the sweet, black, juicy plums, cocoa, black cherry and thyme. Full-bodied, plush, and polished with more concentration, structure and opulence than you normally find at Giscours. The finish is all about the freshness and focused vibrant, spicy, sweet, ripe, dark, red berries. This wine was produced from a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, reaching 13.7% alcohol and a 3.6 pH. The picking ranged from September 10 to October 9 and the Grand Vin represents 68% of the harvest"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and attractive colour; violet at edge; blackcurrant aromas; some cream; very pure and polished; very pretty and pure blackcurrant fruit; lovely entry on the palate; pure blackcurrant and blackberry notes; some smoke; nice texture and precision. Elegance and Rolls-Royce refinement to the tannins. Lovely Giscours. A real beauty. The best primeurs sample I've yet had from this estate. [70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 13.7% alc]. Drink 2022-2035. 94-96+"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Serious improvements are taking place here (and also at sister property du Tertre) under the Dutch manager, Alexander Van Beek. The 95 hectares of vines are planted with 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. Deep ruby colour, with a little toast from new oak showing through black cherry and damson fruit. The palate is plump and polished with refined tannins allowing smoky tobacco and menthol to shine through and add a savoury quality. The sweet-savoury balance on the finish is precise and lifted, resulting in a classic Margaux florality. Very good this year."

- Farr Vintners

"Generous and rich on the nose the start of the palate lighter perfumed with bilberry and bramble. Depth in the middle fleshy, silky, and rich the ripe fruit backed by fine tannins. The back palate has depth and generosity, yet the finish is lighter quite firm with mineral freshness."

- Derek Smedley MW

"There is wonderful depth in this wine that can easily be overlooked because of its elegance and restraint. However, on the mid palate and length, there is power and wonderful layers of flavors with firm, ripe tannins. One of the best Giscours since 2010."

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2015 Giscours is every bit as compelling from bottle as it was from barrel. Deep, powerful, and virile in style, the 2015 has a lot to say. There is a purity to the aromas and flavors in the 2015 that I don't recall seeing in the past. Ripe and ample, with terrific freshness and nuance, the 2015 is compelling in every way. In 2015, the blend is 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, with no Cabernet Franc. 94+ points. (AG)"

- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Giscours is terrific. In fact, this may be one of the very best recent vintages I have tasted here. Ample and quite broad in its first impression, the 2015 possesses magnificent depth from start to finish. Even with all of its intensity, the 2015 retains striking freshness and delineation. Succulent dark cherry, plum, blood orange and sweet spice notes all flesh out in the glass. Creamy, silky tannins add to the wine's considerable appeal. The purity of the fruit here is striking. The blend is 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, with no Cabernet Franc this year. The 2015 is a terrific Giscours."

- AG, Vinous

"This is a pretty, blushing Giscours with delicate floral notes and an attractive scent. I am very impressed because the segue between the alluring perfume and the deeper thrum of fruit is very well-judged. At the back of the palate there is a luxurious, oak-soaked black cherry compote and this makes it a very successful wine from this oft-confusing property."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
