

# Château Lascombes 2005

CSPC# 749576

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot

## Appellation

Margaux

## General Info

Chateau Lascombes was classified second growth of Margaux in the 1855 classification. It bears its name of its first owner, Chevalier Antoine de Lascombes, born in 1625. The existing chateau was built in 1867 after its acquisition by barrister Chai d's Ange. Alexis Lichine took over the property in 1952. He completely restructured Château Lascombes and renovated the vineyard and cellars. In 1971, he sold everything to the English brewer Bass-Charrington. In April 2001, Chateau Lascombes was bought by Colony Capital who undertook important restructuration works, reduced significantly the yields and introduced vats made of French oak.

## Vineyards

Comprised of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 50% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot

## Harvest

Grapes are entirely hand picked in ten-kilo crates. Yield 40 hl/ha.

## Maturation

Maceration time 37 days.

4 months ageing on the lees. 100% new barrels for 18 months

## Tasting Notes

The dark, beautifully deep colour displays brilliant purple hues. A subtle nose of spices, black fruits and licorice enveloped by subtle toasty notes with roasted coffee beans. The palate is explosive, whereas the discreet oak comes through subtly in the background, leaving the way for the fruit to come to the fore. The wine is structured around a perfect balance of freshness, power, roundness, smoothness and very elegant tannins.

## Cellaring

Drink 2012-2027

## Scores/Awards

**93 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008

**92-94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2006

**95 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008

**94-96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007

**94-96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006

**92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2009

**88-90 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2006

**91 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2008

**89-92 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011

**16 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2006

**15.8 points** - Decanter.com - November 17, 2008

**16.5 points** - Decanter.com - April 2006

**92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 15, 2011

**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 20, 2008

**15.5+ points** - Farr Vintner - April 2006

**93 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

**93 points** - Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine (no review)

**96 points** - Gilbert & Gaillard - November 6, 2009

**93 points** - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - October 29, 2007

**17.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

**18.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)

**2 stars** - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2009

## Reviews

*"Dark in color, with an impressive nose of licorice, toasty oak, chocolate and blackberry. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a long, caressing finish. Very pretty and structured. Best after 2012. 25,000 cases made."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Lots of very ripe fruit with blackberries and licorice. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins. Starts off slowly but grows on the palate. Long. Best in a long time from here. Score range: 92-94."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator



## Reviews

*"A gorgeous example of Lascombes, the 2005, a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot, continues the remarkable turn-around in quality that began five years ago. A stunningly opulent wine with a dense purple color, the 2005 possesses a beautiful perfume of spring flowers, blueberries, blackberries, creosote, and graphite, full body, silky but noticeable tannins, a layered mouthfeel, and a stunning, 45+-second finish. This is a brilliant, modern-styled Margaux that should age for 30-35 years."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Lascombes is again being offered for sale, but kudos to the most recent ownership that has returned this estate to its rightful place as one of the top wines of Margaux. This was quickly accomplished by implementing a draconian selection in the vineyard and investing in the winery. The stunning 2005, a blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot, boasts aromas of lead pencil shavings, incense, charcoal, spring flowers, blackberries, cherries, and espresso roast. A pure, fresh, full-bodied palate reveals moderate sweet tannin, a sensational, lush texture, and a blockbuster finish, but they do not compromise the floral elegance of the Margaux appellation. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2035."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The most profound Lascombes produced under the new ownership, the 2005 is a 25,000-case blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, and 3% Petit Verdot. It boasts an inky/blue/purple color in addition to an extraordinary perfume of charcoal, barbecue smoke, grilled meats, and sweet blackberries, cherries, and violets. With tremendous intensity, purity, freshness, definition, palate presence, and a moderately tannic finish (the tannin is sweet and well-integrated), this blockbuster is rich and concentrated yet maintains its Margaux typicity. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2030"*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted single blind at Southwold. Another Margaux that has ameliorated since bottling. It is a little dusty on the nose: macerated black cherries, a touch of violets but it never really gets going. The palate has ripe sappy tannins, good acidity, rather assertive with a deep, muscular finish of blackberry, sous-bois and cedar. It still lacks the finesse of other Margaux, but it is certainly beginning to meld together. Modern Margaux, polished and well-crafted. Drink 2014-2030. Tasted January 2009."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"This was just a bit OTT for me. The nose lacks a little lift and vigor whilst the palate seems to be excessive extracted with layers of super-ripe blackberry, raspberry and cassis. Lacks typicity. Thick chewy tannins on the finish, it just lacks finesse and sophistication. Tasted April 2006"*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Dark crimson. Rather wild, rusty nail notes on the nose. Very chewy finish with a void in the middle. Gawky. Fast fade. Tasted just once blind. Drink 2012-18"*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Lascombes is approaching the form its status as a second growth suggests. This wine is close, packed with dark fruits, figs and juicy black currant extract. The aftertaste has some bitterness, with layers of toast and spice coming through strongly."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"(52% cabernet sauvignon, 45% merlot and 3% petit verdot) Good bright ruby. Blueberry and licorice on the nose, lifted by spicy oak. Chewy, lush and dense, but with a sappy quality giving shape to the fruit. Very tactile, solid wine with a saline quality suggesting energetic extraction. But this offers impressive mouth coverage and finishes broad and long, with nicely restrained sweetness. Wait until 2011."*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

*"This one leaps from the glass. Quite big, ripe crowd-pleaser, though it needs time. Furry, tannic finish. Very good quality. Drink from 2012"*  
- Decanter.com

*"Black-red, deeply extracted yet balanced fruit, smoky with a touch of new oak, very smooth and rounded, solid, good tannins for the future. Drink 2009-18."*  
- Decanter.com

**Reviews** *"A joyous Lascombes, this is the first vintage to hit stride since the US investment firm Colony Capital took over in 2001. It's a meaty wine draped in fragrant tannin, built for long aging. It's also an exuberant wine, in both the bright, red currant-scented fruit and the bristle of the tannin. A playfully complex flavor lasts for minutes, the wine still youthful and fresh four days after it was opened. Margaux chic." 93 points Wine Spectator: "Dark in color, with an impressive nose of licorice, toasty oak, chocolate and blackberry. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a long, caressing finish. Very pretty and structured"*  
- Wine & Spirits Magazine

*"Pungent aromas of vanilla, blackberry, blueberry, licorice, black cherry and espresso. Thick, rich, dense, lush and polished, this powerful, fruit filled Margaux wine demands up to a decade to shed its oak dominated personality."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Rich, ripe and opulent. Filled with sweet, jammy black fruit, coffee and vanilla notes. As is the case for numerous Chateau in 2005, this is the finest Lascombes produced in modern times. While oaky at this stage, with this much concentration of ripe fruit, things should come together, and the oak will integrate for this wine with time."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"There has been a total transformation in quality here recently, quite similar to that which has taken place at Pavie. Thick, impressive wines are now being made here which are often criticized for not being very Margaux-like. Nevertheless, they are much better than the dreadful efforts produced at Lascombes under the former regime. Deep colour and a very roasted, enticing, modern nose. Thick and dense with loads of mouth-coating black fruit and new oak. Impressive concentration but little Margaux charm. The opposite of Brane Cantenac."*  
- Farr Vintners

*"Deep colour with young highlights. Delicate, extremely elegant on the nose where small black fruits integrate well with the woody background. Finely woven tannic structure, richness, elegant fruity aromas. Both racy and concentrated."*  
- en.gilbertgaillard.com

*"Delicious modern-styled wine. Dense and ripe with expressive fruit and some oak. Very stylish"*  
- JG, Wineanorak.com

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