

Château Malescot St. Exupéry 2011

CSPC# 753875

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc, 4% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Margaux

Website

<http://www.malescot.com/>

General Info

The estate already produced wine in 1608. In 1697 it was sold by Louise Simon Ecoisses Malescot, consul of King Louis XIV at the Parliament of Bordeaux. He gave his name to the property, and his descendants took good care of Malescot and added a large dwelling house and numerous outbuildings, but after the revolution, the property was divided several times between different descendants and sold to different buyers before becoming the property of Count Jean-Baptiste Saint-Exupéry in 1827 who added his name to that of Malescot.

In 1855 Chateau Malescot Saint Exupéry was ranked third grand cru before being sold to a banker from Bordeaux named Fourcade, who renovated the winery and enlarged the vineyard. The chateau passed again through the hands of various owners including Mr. Boissac who built the current castle in 1885 but sold it again in 1901. Many owners succeeded again, and the estate slowly declined until, on 1st June 1955, Paul and Roger Zuger bought it with only seven hectares of vines left. After nearly 30 years of sustained efforts and attention, the blason of Malescot regained its rank and its desire to go ever higher. Today, the son of Roger, Jean-Luc Zuger, is at the head of the estate that was extended to 23.5 hectares, and he continues the work begun by his grandfather and his father.

Vineyards

28 hectares of which 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. Soil gravel overlaying chalk or marl which slopes towards the Gironde. Fruit picked into trays to prevent crushing.

Harvest

Each plot is monitored by sampling in order to check the grapes' phenolic maturity and thus set the date for harvesting. The grapes are hand-picked and then sorted by hand to ensure only the best go into the final wine. For the 2011 Malescot St Exupery, they started harvesting the Merlot September 20 and finished harvesting the last of their Cabernet October 5.

Vinification/

Maturation

Temperature controlled and matured in 100% new oak and undergoes malolactic in barrel depending on the vintage. Aged on lees with stirring. 13-14 months barrel ageing before being racked without fining or filtration.

Tasting Notes

I always love this wine, and this year is no different. Very fresh and sweet, with crushed blackberries and red currants. Good balance and length; the tannins are integrated and ripe, balanced and pure.

So smooth, deep and rich, this wine has dark red fruit, hints of milk chocolate and great density. Wow! Jean Luc Zuger agrees 2011 Malescot St Exupery lacks the density of 2009 and 2010, but feels the wine is as good as, or better than 2006 and 2008.

Cellaring

Drink 2012-2027

Scores/Awards

92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2014

90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014

91-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012

89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012

91-92 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012

90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 11, 2012

88-91 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - April 2012

16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012

17 points - Decanter.com - April 2012

88 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)

94+ points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012



Scores/Awards **88 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 17, 2014
91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 19, 2012
87-89 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012
90-91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
Review only - Justerini & Brooks Wine Merchants - April 2012

Reviews *"A bit woody in feel now, with a youthfully raw edge, as singed sandalwood and alder notes liberally frame the core of dark cherry, plum and black currant fruit. This has length and drive, with a smoldering feel echoing. Should be among the top examples of the AOC in 2011 after it settles in fully. Best from 2016 through 2028."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This is very solid, with a delicious beam of dark currant and plum fruit framed nicely with graphite and espresso notes. Shows depth and length, with well-embedded acidity. Score range: 90-93"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"This small estate (only 130,000 bottles were produced in 2011) has been on a qualitative tear for a number of years. A fragrant perfume of spring flowers, black raspberries, blueberries and cassis is followed by a wine with medium-bodied, juicy flavors, sweet tannin and a broad, generous mouthfeel. A terrific 2011, it should be at its peak in 2-4 years, and last for 15 or more. Bravo!"
- RP, Wine Advocate

"This dense ruby/purple-colored, opulently-styled 2011 displays terrific fruit intensity, velvety, well-integrated tannins, surprising density and richness as well as decent acidity. Notes of ink, blueberry liqueur and creme de cassis are present in this medium to full-bodied, flamboyant Margaux. It should drink nicely for 15 or more years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, the Malescot has a perfumed bouquet with dark plum, raspberry and wild strawberry fruit. It has very fine lift for the vintage. The palate has good weight on the entry with plump mulberry fruit laced with spice. It is a little chunky compared to the 2010 but it makes a good effort in a difficult vintage, plus the oak is well integrated towards the finish. This may warrant a higher score after bottling. Tasted April 2012."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Black licorice and blueberries on the nose and palate. Medium to full body, with fine tannins and a juicy finish. Delicate and caressing"
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"90-92. Barrel sample. This wine feels solid, with its tannins forming a base for the juicy red- and dark-berry flavors. It shows a dry side and a dense finish."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Fully saturated ruby-purple color. Perfumed nose offers cassis, bay leaf, cocoa and minerals. Fresh and precise in the mouth, with delicate dark berry and incense flavors. More fruit here than in most other Margaux in 2011, with lively acidity providing clarity and cut. Boasts excellent stuffing but finishes with mounting, slightly dry tannins."
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Elderberry juice, black core. Sweet damson fruit. Gently inviting though there's no sense of excitement. A bit lean on the palate, fresh enough but the structure overpowers the fruit so the tannins finish dry – though maybe it will gain flesh? Score assumes so."
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews *“Strikingly aromatic blackcurrant fruit, very good natural richness of flavour, a slight greenness that will blend out, good potential and good length. Drink 2015-2025.”*

- Decanter.com

“Good extraction here, some velvet tannins, some firm black fruits, and quite clear coffee and almond toasting, good 92+”

- JA, The New Bordeaux

“A solid wine in a difficult vintage, deep in color, with licorice, coffee bean, black cherry, flowers and truffle in the perfume, the wine delivers soft, round textures, and a lush, round, slightly short finish. This should drink quite well on release and have the ability to improve with a few years of bottle age.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“From an assemblage of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, the alcohol reached 13.5%. With yields of 38% hectoliters per hectare, the wine will be aged in 100% new oak. With coffee, truffle, tobacco, licorice, blackberry, vanilla and black cherry liqueur in the nose, this supple, round, polished wine offers sweet black cherry and chocolate in the round finish. 91-93 Pts”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep and saturated look; ripe, lifted, the same as Marquis de Terme; more jammy note; red fruits, thick on the nose; will appeal to some; palate creamy [MLF in barrel?], ripe red fruits, lots of guts and saturated with flavour – very worked. 2009 managed all this but with great violet fruit. This feels simply overdone. 87-89. 2020-2030”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“Full bodied and generous, this wine year after year consistently produces high quality wine in the past decade. Excellent balance, ripe tannins and good depth ending with a fairly long finish. Well made wine with plums and layers of blackberry fruit and cedar. The flavours are restrained by an enormous amount of tannins, but given the depth of the fruit, there is promise that this wine will show its best with at least five years of bottle age.”

- JCL, asianpalate.com

“This was one of the few successes at the Margaux UGC. Produced from 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 8% Cabernet Franc and 4% Petit Verdot, this Michel Rolland creation offers a complex bouquet of minerals, violets, stones and cassis. The palate is packed with bright plum notes and blackcurrants. There is an opulence and ripeness to the fruit which is very alluring. Fragrant, with hints of mocha amid the sweet sexy fruit. A really impressive wine in a challenging vintage for Margaux.”

- Justerini & Brooks Wine Merchants
