

Château Malescot St. Exupéry 2012

CSPC# 753875

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 8% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Margaux
Classification	Third Growth. Troisième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.
Website	http://www.malescot.com/
General Info	<p>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.</p> <p>In 1855 Château 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.</p>
Vintage	<p>2012 marked the return of a great climatic classicism: a cold winter, especially in February, followed by a very wet spring, then a very dry summer before a return to rainy weather as from September 20th. The heavy rain which lasted until July 15th, created very favourable conditions for the development of mildew. However, this year we intensified our organic programme with great success: not only have we not used any insecticide on the estate for 10 years, but in 2012 we only used one chemical treatment, as opposed to the usual 7 or 8 on the great wine plots. We're almost there... From July 15th onwards, the weather was dry and moderately warm but punctuated by a few very hot days. Such conditions are typical of great Bordeaux classic vintages: they allow for the simultaneous ripening and concentration of the grapes. Only the less good terroirs and young vines suffered from the sudden transition from a very wet spring to a very dry summer. The weather changed again from the first day of autumn: the moderate rains, which fell regularly from September 20th onwards, arrived too late to greatly upset the ripening or health of the grapes, but probably prevented, by a few days, 2012 from being the great vintage it should have been.</p>
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	picked between 9 and 20 October
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	This was one of the highlights of the Margaux UGC. Lots of dry extract, but there is some freshness and precision here too. Starts with notes of smoky cassis and new oak; there is good purity of fruit, a bright core and well worked tannins. Not especially complex, but balanced and should become an interesting wine given time.
Cellaring	Drink 2017-2030



Scores/Awards **93 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015
93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013
93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015
89-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013
87-89 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013
93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2015
92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013
90-92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 11, 2013
88-91 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - June 2013
17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013
17 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013
94+ points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012
91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)
91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 11, 2015
90-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 25, 2013
87-89 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2012
15 points - Farr Vintner - April 2013
88-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2013
87 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2012
89-90 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 16, 2013
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
90-92 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"This is distinctive, with a roasted alder streak running through an enticing core of crushed plum, blackberry and black currant confiture flavors. Long and velvety on the finish, with bay, tobacco and black tea accents checking in. This is suave, with fruit and terroir in spades, particularly for the vintage. Best from 2017 through 2025. 7,500 cases made"*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Quite vibrant, with a racy core of dark raspberry, currant and boysenberry fruit that drives along a solid graphite spine. The long, alluring finish stretches out impressively. A very strong showing. Score range: 93-96"

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Another great wine in this vintage, the 2012 Malescot offers up tremendous level of black fruits, charcoal and intense, a medium to full-bodied mouthfeel, sensational purity, low acidity and ripe tannins. It is full-bodied, stunning, multidimensional, and a compelling example of this vintage. Anticipated maturity: 2017-2030+."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"This wine offers attractive floral notes intermixed with notions of lavender, black currants, black cherries, smoke and earth. It is another successful effort from an estate that has been consistently producing exceptional wines in all the finest vintages over the last 15-20 years. An attractive, seductive, dense ruby/purple-hued, medium-bodied 2012, it finishes with some shortness, but everything leading up to the finish is impressive. Like most of these 2012s that possess a certain forward appeal, it should drink well for 12-15 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"I tasted the Malescot St. Exupery on two occasions. It is a blend 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc and 8% Petit Verdot that was picked between 9 and 20 October. There is a lot of ambition evident on the "gourmand" like nose: blackberry, cooked meat and tertiary aromas emerging after a few swirls of the glass. The palate is fleshy and forward on the entry. There is plenty of sweet fruit, perhaps the oak imparting a few "seasoned" flavours, although there is decent definition on the austere, masculine finish. Tasted April 2013."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Beautiful aromas and flavors of cassis, ripe black cherries and raspberries. Some earth, too. This is a full-bodied red with silky tannins and a long, fruity finish. Juicy. Better in 2018."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews *"This is soft and pretty with currant and berry character and hints of wet earth. Full body, with fine tannins and a fresh and lively finish. Refined and beautiful. Juicy and long. Sweet fruit in the center palate."*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"90–92. Barrel sample. This concentrated wine brings out all the qualities of 2012 vintage—fruitiness, juicy black fruit and great swathes of fresh acidity. It's a finely balanced wine."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Good bright medium red. Lively, very pure aromas of blueberry, raspberry, mocha and violet. Dense and juicy, with bright acidity nicely framing the sweet dark cherry and floral flavors. Finishes long, with tannins that are firm but not dry. A major success in this vintage."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Very dense looking. Really interesting nose - draws you in. Cool finish. Pretty snazzy really. Nothing overdone. Great balance. Racy finish. Hint of foxgloves and masses of still unformed fruit. This should be interesting to follow."

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Fine fragrant red and black fruits, good extraction leading to depth and grip from natural tannins, a very good wine that needs time. "

- SS, Decanter.com

"Very dark plum colour, violet rim, slightly subdued on the nose, clearly because this has gone for high extraction of tannins and anthocyanes over a pretty floral nose. There is a very good balance though of tannin, acidity and (maybe not quite enough) fruit. One that will go the distance, no bitterness in the finish, lots of potential, one to retaste, expecting the score to nudge upwards. My concern is whether extraction has just nudged overboard for the amount of fruit. 92-93 / 17.75-18. Highly recommended. Drink 2019-2030."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Round, plush, lush and forward, the nose, with its licorice, floral and chocolate covered cherry personality earns some attention. Soft and easy to drink, a few years is all that's needed for this come around."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Malescot St. Exupery Blending 66% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot and 7% Cabernet Franc that reached 12.8% alcohol, which is similar to what the estate reached in 2008 and 2006. The medium-bodied wine will be aged in 90% new French oak barrels for close to 15 months. Flowers, smoke, tobacco, black cherry and black raspberry notes open to medium/full-bodied, supple-textured wine filled with chocolate-covered cherries and spice. 90-93 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and saturated; very lush; a boat load of ripe, lush fruit; saturated nose with sublimated fruit tones; violets, black cherry; more purity here; lots of lush fruit on the palate; some stinky cab too; lovely fruit here. Big and with a chewy finish. Overall more impressive than before. 91-93+ Tasted UGC April 11, 2013. [Earlier note] Deep and saturated; violets, cassis and coffee; very, very lush and sublimated style; lots of oak on the palate but lots of lush fruit. Feels like it fades a tad on the palate and lacks grip? 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc 13.2 degrees. 89-91? Tasted UGC Tuesday April 9, 2013. Drink 2018-2028"- JW,

winewordsandvideotape.com
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

Reviews *“This is a Margaux property that has beefed up its wines in recent years, but they are less powerful and extracted than those of Lascombes. Michel Rolland consults here. 56% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc, 8% Petit Verdot in 60% new oak. Sometimes this is not very Margaux-like but always impressive. In 2012 it has an extremely deep black colour for the vintage. This really doesn't look or taste like it is Margaux! Dense and powerful with some quite harsh tannins at the finish. Some impressive winemaking here but a little too extracted for our liking. In 2012 a more gently touch might have been better.”*
- Farr Vintners

“Red and black fruits intermingle on the nose all feeling ripe and sweet. There is a good weight of flavour on the palate some attractive sweet fruit and although the tannins are firm giving structure, they are not aggressive over dominating. 2020-30”
- Derek Smedley MW

“Vibrant, full bodied, modern Margaux with extraction and richness as well as overt new oak on the nose and palate. The flavours have good concentration but in this vintage, it tastes a bit forced rather than naturally balanced. Wait at least 5+ years before enjoying. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (06-Apr-2013).”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“Huge. Fairly muted on the nose with black fruit and vegetal aromas. Savoury acidity, freshness and suppleness on the palate. Quality fruit. (16-Apr-2013) “
- en.gilbertgaillard.com
