

Château Malescot St. Exupéry 2015

CSPC# 753875

750mlx12

14.1% alc./vol.

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750mlx12

14.1% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot

Appellation

Margaux

Classification

Third Growth. Troisieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

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.

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.

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

took place between September 23 and October 15

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

After a run of unsuccessful vintages, Malescot has hit back in 2015 with a beautiful, stylish, vibrant wine, which hits all the right notes. The fruit is dark and brooding yet backlit with starry cranberry notes. There is an inky quality to the crème de cassis



Tasting Notes	palate, supported by firm, impressive, well-measured tannins. It remains vital and refreshing throughout and finishes with creamy, fruit coated tannins. The Chateau Malescot St. Exupery is a dark color with a fine crimson tint. The wine offers notes of ripe fruit, mocha and vanilla along with powerful yet harmonious and smooth tannins.
Cellaring	Drink 2022-2040
Production	8,871 cases made.
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018</p> <p>93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016</p> <p>91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2016</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 2017</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016 (score only)</p> <p>15.5+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2016</p> <p>89-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016</p> <p>95+ points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016</p> <p>15.5 points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>93+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018</p> <p>93-95 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016</p> <p>17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016</p> <p>17 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“Lovely steeped plum, fig and blackberry fruit is melded thoroughly with notes of alder, lilac and warm tar, giving this both treble and bass, while velvety tannins carry the finish with ease. Offers a long sanguine detail through the finish. Best from 2022 through 2040. 8,871 cases made.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“Very lush and warm, with delicious plum and boysenberry fruit flowing easily over the well-integrated structure. Generous in feel, offering a lingering black tea note. Very suave. Score range: 93-96 –JM”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2015 Malescot St. Exupery is scented of chocolate-covered cherries, cassis and red plums with touches of earth and bay leaves. Medium to full-bodied with ripe, grainy tannins and plenty of expressive fruit, it finishes long and pure.”</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“The 2015 Malescot-St-Exupery has an intriguing and complex bouquet with oyster shells and seaweed infusing the intense black fruit. It is certainly well defined with nicely integrated new oak. The palate is medium-bodied with crisp tannin, a keen thread of acidity, very pure and smooth in texture, gently unfolding towards the lightly spiced finish that lingers long in the mouth. This is a superb Margaux, surfeit with breeding and sophistication, though it will need 10-15 years in bottle.”</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“The 2015 Malescot St. Exupery, which showed so impressively in barrel, has developed a gorgeous bouquet with sea spray-infused black fruit, well defined with hints of shucked oyster shell. The palate is fresh on the entry with</i></p>

Reviews *a fine line of acidity, a Margaux that is tensile from start to finish without compromising fruit concentration. There is a lot of personality in this Malescot, real terroir expression on the finish and it has a very promising future."*

- NM, Wine Journal

"Some very rich and ripe red and dark berries here make for an impressive, engaging nose that has charming violet undertones. The palate is velvety and supple, while super smooth tannins deliver a long and plush, plum-soaked finish. Great wine and already drinking well. Try from 2023."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The beauty in the fruit here is so impressive. Full body, super fine tannins. It's very racy and incredibly long. Sexy and rich finish. Better than the legendary 2009? A blend of 70% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"91–93. Barrel Sample. This is a lightweight wine that's fresh and fruity, with an attractive suggestion of tannic structure and ample acidity. The wine will develop quickly."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Particularly glowing crimson. Light nose with some wildness about it. A hint of something animal! Distinctive wine that is a bit more daring than the average Margaux. Not the most tannic but very nicely balanced."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Lots of natural concentration and real elegance – the high percentage of Cabernet shows well with both grip and charm. Very good in Malescot's individual style."

- Decanter.com

"Relatively open on the nose even at this early stage, with lashings of freshly crushed black fruits. On the palate, the dominant flavours are cinnamon and freshly puréed raspberry and blackberry. It's not hugely intense and should be for medium term drinking. (JA)"

- JA, Decanter.com

"Dark in color, the wine offers a knockout nose of flower, black and deep red fruits, cigar wrapper, espresso, tobacco, smoke and truffle. The wine is concentrated, fat and intense. But it is also balanced, fresh, long, silky and complex. This is a stunner."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Inky in color, the wine offers a concentrated, plush, luscious, sexy character. The dark fruits are ripe, lush and polished, The nose, with its floral, dark cherry, blackberry and smoke filled nuances grabs you. This is a stunner."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Inky in color, concentrated, plush and polished, the texture is pure silk and velvet. The wealth of fruit in the finish just keeps on going."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Inky in color with a showy perfume of chocolate covered plums, black cherry liqueur, flowers, earth and smoke. Dense and concentrated on the palate, this wine remains focused, fresh and opulently textured -- a difficult combination indeed. The boysenberry filled finish is sensuous, polished and velvety, yet there is a freshness to the layers of sweet fruit, making it a sort of cross between the estate's 2009 and 2005 vintages. Produced from a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot, the wine reached 14.1% alcohol with a pH of 3.85 and will be aged in 80% new, French oak barrels for 13 to 15 months. The Grand Vin represents 75% of the harvest, which took place between September 23 and October 15, making Malescot St. Exupery perhaps the latest estate to finish picking in the Margaux appellation this year"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

“Deep and saturated look; deep and dark; fat nose; creamy cassis and sublimated fruits; concentrated and sublimated fruit tones; creamy style if a little fatiguing; chewy tannins on the finish. Stylistically very much at one end of the spectrum. If you enjoy wines with an intensely sublimated style, this is for you. Be interested to see this after élevage. As I say, bit fatiguing currently even of the depth is impressive. Drink 2020-2033. 90-92.”
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

“This is a 28 hectare Margaux property that has beefed up its wines in recent years. Michel Rolland consults here. Sometimes this is not very Margaux-like, but always impressive. The vineyard is planted with 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. Inky colour with a dense black fruit nose. The palate is rich with mouth filling tannins and a glycerol texture that gives oozing ripeness to the blackcurrant and black cherry fruit. The finish is pure cassis with a little creamy vanilla. Plush with no hard edges.”
- Farr Vintners

“Ripe black fruits the nose has depth the palate fleshy and supple. Ripe cassis is backed by dark chocolate but there is freshness bilberry and bramble balancing firmer at the back but sweet and ripe on the finish.”
- Derek Smedley MW

“A beautifully composed Malescot with layers of violets, cassis and sweet blackberry fruit. The nose is vibrant and lifted as well as the palate with silky tannins and a long finish. This is one of the property's best vintages produced.”
- JCL, asianpalate.com

“One of the highlights of the vintage, the 2015 Malescot Saint Exupéry is superb. Grilled herbs, smoke, black cherry, lavender, menthol and graphite literally explode from this glass. Huge swaths of tannin give the wine its shape and big, ample frame. Iron, smoke, graphite, grilled herbs and licorice punctuate the huge, powerful finish. Readers should be in no rush to open the 2015, as it is likely to require at least a handful of years to become approachable. 2025 – 2055”
- AG, Vinous

“The 2015 Malescot St. Exupéry is dense, powerful and rustic. Black cherry, smoke, leather, iron and dark spices hit the palate. Expansive, broad and juicy, the 2015 has more than enough depth to full out its broad-shouldered frame. As it often is, the Malescot St. Exupéry is a bit rough around the edges, but time in bottle should take care of at least some of that. The 2015 finishes with lovely density and a blast of pure power. Michel Rolland consults. Tasted two times.”
- AG, Vinous

“It does all of its requirements adequately in 2015 but there is a hint of dilution everywhere and this lets the senses down never to recover. The final straw is the tannin which finishes up blunt and charmless and far too abrupt on a wine of these dimensions.”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

“I put the 2014 Malescot St-Expuery up with the crème de la crème of this vintage and it offers a wonderfully complete, balanced, concentrated style offers loads of class and personality. With loads of blackcurrant and black cherry fruits intermixed with notions of graphite/lead pencil, spring flowers, and damp earth, it's medium to full-bodied, beautifully pure, layered, and ripe, with sweet tannin and rock-solid underlying acidity. This is a straight up gorgeous, classy, elegant Margaux that's going to benefit from 2-4 years of bottle age and shine for 15-20 years. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to taste the 2015 for this report.”
- Jeb Dunnuck
