

Château Malescot St. Exupéry 2016

CSPC# 790547

750mlx12

13.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation Margaux
Classification Third Growth. Troisième 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 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.

Winemaker

Jean-Luc Zuger

Vintage

The vintage is characterized by a wet and relatively cool beginning of the season, followed by a very dry summer, at a rarely reached level, and rather warm, with a dry and sunny autumn, with strong thermal amplitudes. As a result, the quality of the grape harvests was very dependent on the part of the work done on the vines in the spring, on the other hand the quality of rooting, which will have more or less responded to the water needs of the plant. The sunshine was generally faithful to the averages, but its particular distribution strongly contributed to the personality of the vintage. After a mild, dry autumn (November and December 2015 with above-average temperatures and 50% rainfall deficit compared to averages, with a constant south current), the months of January and February, until March 10, were mild and wet (1 ° C more than the average and three times the 30-year average over January, with 240 mm!). April was relatively dry, but overcast and with frequent rains, then May and June were rainy, with much lower sunshine than in 2015 and relatively cool (June 1 ° C below average, with only one hot episode at the end of month (33-35 ° C)). The flowers, between the end of May and the middle of June, forecasted harvest around September 26th.

The temperatures of the summer months were close to average, August slightly warmer than July. From the 28th, the nights were cool, around 15 °C. September remained summer until the storm of 13/09. Overall, it was mild, with rare rainy episodes, and dry with great temperature differences between day and night. This favored a slow maturation of the grapes, which remained perfectly healthy. October was dry, so that the beginning of the harvest could be delayed to 29/09.

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 October 1 to October 25

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

The 2016 is another wonderful effort packed with cool black and red berries with persistent and serious tannins laced with cranberry and cassis. This is another large-scale Malescot with excellent aging potential.



Serve with	Chateau Malescot St. Exupery is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Cellaring	Drink 2021-2045
Production	9,975 cases made.
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>98-99 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>87 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017 (score only)</p> <p>17 points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>88-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>92-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This opens slowly, showing a slight woody bent, with alder and mesquite notes leading off, but as it does the core of red currant, blackberry and plum fruit flavor fleshes out nicely, soaking up the woody element while adding in light savory detail and black tea and violet notes. A long mineral echo chimes through the finish."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A layered, ripe style, with warm ganache and tobacco notes set over a lovely core of plum sauce and blackberry fruit. A licorice edge on the finish rounds this off. Enticing and polished, with a sanguine hint adding range. Score range: 92-95"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Malescot sings of cassis, fragrant earth, tobacco and lilacs with a compelling waft of mocha. Medium to full-bodied and strutting loads of expressive fruit layers at this youthful stage, it's framed by ripe, grainy tannins and oodles of freshness, finishing with great length & depth."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Malescot-St-Exupery has an opulent, lavish and pure bouquet with billowing black cherry and blueberry fruit, a touch of mint and graphite emerging with time. I love the delineation to this Margaux. The palate is very well balanced, sensual and voluptuous in style, but that does not detract from the fine structure here and the precision towards the finish. Everything seems to be in its right place here; it is one of the best Malescot-St-Exupery that I have tasted, and it is wonderful."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A stunning red with currants, blackberries, roses and violets. Medium to full body, ultra-fine tannins and polish and finesse to the powerful tannins. A real stunner. Better than 2015. Take a serious look at it, beginning 2024."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is a superb wine. I didn't think it could be better than the 2015 but indeed it is. Full, layered and sexy. It goes on for minutes with dense fruit, yet it's also vivid and showcases sublime tannins and acidity balance. Great finish."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"92-94. Barrel Sample. This estate is really improving. The wine in this vintage is full of fragrant fruit, with the tannins making a fine backdrop to the juiciness. It's going to be a fine medium-term wine."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p>

Reviews *"Quite gamey and savoury on the nose. Then rather strung out and austere on the palate. Doesn't hang together. This bottle anyway is a disappointment in the context of the vintage. Austere."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Some coffee bean smudges across the nose give this a sexy, appealing edge right off the bat, followed up by chewy tannins that manage to hold the by rich, deep, beautifully extracted fruit without smothering it. This is one of the fuller expressions of the vintage, no question. (JA)"
- JA, Decanter.com

"Blackberry liqueur, boysenberry, espresso bean and dark chocolate over black cherry open up the nose. Fat, titillating, deep and lavish, this wine is ambrosial, powerful and mouth filling. The finish is fresh and packed with the ripest, sweetest, juiciest, dark red fruits. Produced from a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon and 37% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13.2% alcohol with a pH of 3.72. The Grand Vin represents 72% of the harvest, which took place October 1 to October 25."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.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. Dark purple in colour, with a toasty black fruit nose. Roasted coffee bean and opulent cassis fruit give weight and power to the palate, but this fleshes and freshens out as the complexity builds. Lots of ripe, fine grained tannins provide real structure for the long term but they fold into the bright, ripe flavours that burst through to the finish. A very impressive effort this year."
- Farr Vintners

"Rich and ripe on the nose the palate has concentration depth of flavour lots of cassis and black cherry. The tannins are firm but integrated the back palate has rich fruit and there is sweetness on the finish. 2025-36"
- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2016 Malescot Saint Exupéry has a well-defined bouquet of ample red currant, cranberry and strawberry fruit laced with rose petal and hints of graphite. There is something almost Saint Julien-like about the aromatics. The palate is medium-bodied with supple, graphite-infused black fruit, and quite linear and poised, but it conveys a genuine sense of energy and tension toward the classic finish. A magnificent Margaux. "
- NM, Vinous

"The 2016 Malescot is fabulous. Powerful and explosive on the palate, the 2016 offers serious intensity, but it also appears to be holding back quite a bit of its potential. Moreover, what impresses me most is that in 2016, intensity is delivered more with finesse than with the brutish power that is such a signature of Malescot. Deep and resonant, but also remarkably polished, the 2016 Malescot is a winner. Hints of iron, smoke, cedar, tobacco and scorched earth add nuance, but it is the wine's sense of poise that is most remarkable. I loved it."
- AG, Vinous

"The 2016 Malescot is superb. Powerful, virile and inviting, yet with tremendous balance for such a young wine, the 2016 captivates all the senses. Smoke, licorice, incense and a host of more soil-driven notes give the wine its signature aromatic profile. Malescot Saint Exupéry is a decidedly muscular Margaux, but the extraction also seems a bit dialed back."
- AG, Vinous

"The ruby/plum-colored 2016 Château Malescot Saint-Exupéry comes from vines in the heart of the Margaux appellation and is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Merlot, and the balance Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. It's a total rock star of wine and has fabulous notes of crème de cassis, barbecue smoke, graphite, and sandalwood that build beautifully with time in the glass. Medium to full-bodied, concentrated, layered, and seamless, it's incredibly impressive and I'd wager up with the finest vintages ever from this estate. Give it a few years and enjoy over the following 20-25. Bravo!"
- Jeb Dunnuck