

# Château Malescot St. Exupéry 2017

CSPC# 790547

750mlx12

13.2% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**Classification**  
**Website**  
**General Info**

58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 42% Merlot  
Margaux

Third Growth. Troisième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.  
<http://www.malescot.com/>

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**  
**Vintage**

Jean-Luc Zuger

2017 Margaux is the first appellation in the Left Bank to show frost damage. Some estates lost a good percentage of their crop. Château Malescot St. Exupéry lost close to 20% of their harvest to the frost. 2017 Margaux is a winemaker's vintage. The terroir, picking dates and choices in the cellar set the tone for the vintage. There are several good wines. But the wines are not at the level of the stunning 2015 vintage, or 2016. In Margaux the vintage started off with an early budbreak. Because Margaux is such a large appellation with terroirs that vary in quality, several vineyards were struck by the frost. The overall style of the successful wines displays soft tannins, freshness and purity, over concentration and riper, darker fruits. Margaux, which is prized for its aromatic qualities' shines in this department, with strong floral and red fruit notes. Alcohol levels are also lower than you find in more recent years like 2016 and 2015.

Many 2017 Margaux wines will offer pleasure in their youth, which is a good thing, because that will allow consumers to wait while their 2015 and 2016 wines evolve in the cellar.

**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**

The harvest took place September 19 to October 7.

**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**

Resulting from a delicate vintage, the Château Malescot St. Exupéry 2017 is a tribute to the estate's technical team that produced a wine with the class and signature of a great Margaux. The Château Malescot St. Exupéry 2017 is an ode to refinement with power and finesse along with an elegant and structured mouthfeel that reveals a lingering finish. A true benchmark to the Margaux appellation for a vintage that is full of promise.



<b>Serve with</b>	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.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink now-2033
<b>Production</b>	6,183 cases made.
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020</p> <p><b>95-96 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018</p> <p><b>15 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2019</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>15+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2018</p> <p><b>85-88 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p><b>93+ points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"The plum and cassis notes are pure and fresh, carried by a polished structure, while aromatic black tea, violet, bergamot and alder elements hang in the background. Very stylish and nicely rendered for the vintage. Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Drink now through 2033. 6,183 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A breezy and fresh style, with pretty damson plum and cherry fruit lined with high-pitched floral and savory notes. Elegant mineral details run through the silky finish. Pure and graceful, showing sneaky length."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2017 Malescot St. Exupery is a blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon and 42% Merlot aged in French oak, 70% new. Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, it is redolent of warm red and black currants, kirsch and raspberry pie on the nose with floral wafts, tobacco and wild sage in the background plus a hint of pencil shavings. Medium-bodied, it is packed with expressive red and black fruits and is velvety and refreshing, finishing long."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Malescot St. Exupery is scented of crushed red and black cherries, warm plums and mulberries with touches of roses and wood smoke. The palate is medium-bodied with plenty of vibrant red and black fruits and soft, plush tannins, with a long, perfumed finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Aromas of blueberries and stone with some dried-flower notes. The palate is medium bodied with firm, silky tannins and a medium finish. Linear and refined with a very fine line of tannins running through it."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"A fantastic 2017 from Margaux with a deep and ripe core of fruit in the center palate. Silky and juicy tannins. Full body, plenty of fruit and a long, flavourful finish."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is a fruit-driven wine, packed with a strong black-currant character and bright acidity. The tannins are light, though they lend ample structure for medium-term aging. It is more about freshness and attractive fruit. Drink from 2023."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p>

**Reviews** *“Dark greyish crimson. Smoky cassis nose. Pretty dilute on the mid palate. Fresh enough but really lacks a core to hold for the long term. (JH)”*

*- JH, JancisRobinson.com*

*“Starts out strongly, attractive high fruit aromatics on the nose, acidity a touch sharp but they do a great job of balancing it with plush well-expressed plum and cassis fruit, carefully placed with elegance and poise. (JA)”*

*- JA, Decanter.com*

*“This is fairly substantial on the palate, although the fruit is just a notch below full ripeness. They have done a good job here, producing an enjoyable wine. There is evidence of winemaking on show, which is skillfully carried out, but it just finishes a little short. Enjoyable medium-term drinking from owner Jean-Luc Zuger. (JA)”*

*- JA, Decanter.com*

*“Deep and rich in color, this wine quickly evokes dark fruits, tobacco leaf, espresso, smoke and earthy nuances. On the palate, you’ll find a sweet, soft, fruity, full-bodied wine that expands in your mouth and delivers freshness and verve. Created from a blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon and 42% Merlot, this reached 13% alcohol with a pH of 3.75. The harvest took place September 19 to October 7.”*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

*“Warm smoky and floral fruity oaky aromas. Some coffee and powerful red fruit scents. Juicy and serious with concentrated tannins, fresh acidity and depth. A serious and quite traditional style, muscular and profound. Barrel Sample: 91-93”*

*“Deep colour, particularly for Margaux this year. The nose is spicy, with lots of vanilla and Arabica coffee on the nose. The palate is chunky, rich and chewy, with fleshy cherry and plums, and flashy new oak. Perhaps not a typical style for the region or the vintage, but the sweetness and richness is certainly appealing and not overdone. If the oak integrates and settles with time, this should be a delicious, hedonistic treat. “*

*- Farr Vintners*

*“Fragrant and fresh the black fruits backed by red the start of the palate light. There is slightly more depth and rich fruit at the back, but it finishes fresh and lacking intensity. 2024-35”*

*- Derek Smedley MW*

*“The 2017 Malescot St. Exupéry was cropped at 38hl/ha and aged in 70% new oak for 13 to 15 months. This has a lovely plushness and purity on the nose with copious dark cherries, blueberry and violet aromas that blossom in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins, a fine bead of acidity, a subtle marine influence here with a precise and persistent finish. This is one of the best Margaux wines in 2017 and comes highly recommended. You know, this might improve further with bottle age. (NM) 93+”*

*- NM, Vinous*

*“The 2017 Malescot St. Exupéry has a simpler bouquet than recent vintages with high-toned red cherry and raspberry fruit, quite “warm” compared to its peers and it would benefit from a little more delineation. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin. It is not a complex Malescot St. Exupéry, but I admire the balance and focus. There is plenty of tightly wound red berry fruit laced with cedar and smoke, quite finessed towards the finish with a long spicy aftertaste. I would just like the aromatics to step up to the grade of the palate, so let’s see how this shows once in bottle. “*

*- NM, Vinous*

**Reviews**

*"The 2017 Malescot Saint Exupéry has really come together nicely over the course of its élevage. In this vintage, Malescot is a bit more fruity and less structured than it has been. Cedar, licorice, dried herbs, menthol and scorched earth notes give the 2017 a distinctly savory feel to match its somber, virile personality. The 2017 is a wine that keeps getting better each time I taste it, and that makes me very hopeful for the future; it will be interesting to see what happens here with aging, and, specifically, if a bit more structure emerges. This is a wine of great personality and character."*

- AG, Vinous

*"Malescot Saint Exupéry comes across as very ripe in 2017. There is no shortage of depth or intensity, but ripeness is pushed to the edge, while the wine's structure – arguably its greatest signature – seems to be lacking. I don't see much typicity in the 2017. Malescot Saint Exupéry is often one of my personal favorites in Margaux, but the 2017 left me wanting more of its typical character and personality. Tasted two times."*

- AG, Vinous

*"A ripe, fleshy wine, with lots of ripe blackberry and black raspberry notes, the 2017 Chateau Malescot Saint-Exupéry comes from a site in the heart of Margaux and 45-year-old vines planted in deep, gravelly soils. Nicely textured and medium to full-bodied on the palate, it has ripe tannins and a great finish. A blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon and 42% Merlot brought up in 70% new oak, drink this juicy, fresh yet nicely textured wine over the coming 15-20 years. Michel Rolland also consults here, and this estate consistently produces outstanding wines."*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"This is a dry wine and it is trying to 're-hydrate' its palate which is missing some much-wanted fruit. There is a shell of a decent wine here, but I cannot imagine that it will balance out with age. Close, but ultimately not ripe enough."*

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

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