
Château Margaux 2010

CSPC# 749584

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 1.5% Cabernet Franc, 1.5% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Margaux
Classification	First Growth. Premier Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.chateau-margaux.com/en/
General Info	<p>1st classified growth in 1855. The château, already known in the 12th century under the name La Mothe de Margaux, started only to resemble to what it is today when the Lestonnac family took it over in 1572 and undertook important restructuring. By the end of the 17th century, Château Margaux already covered 265 hectares (654 acres). At the beginning of the 18th century the estate manager Berlon was the first to vinify red grapes and white grapes separately and understood the importance of terroir. In 1810, a Basque, Bertrand Douat, Marquis de la Colonilla, owner since 1801, built the neo-palladian style residence of Margaux and the cellars which we still admire today. After several successions of owners, the Ginestet family bought the chateau in 1950 after being obliged by the serious economic crises to sell it in 1977 to André Mentzelopoulos, a Greek at the head of the grocery shops Félix Potin. André Mentzelopoulos sensed the opportunity and invested massively without expecting any immediate return in a market that was still depressed and a few years away from the new golden age for Bordeaux at the end of the 20th century. He made spectacular moves: in the vineyard, where better drainage was introduced and new plantations made; in the cellars, under the supervision of the oenologist Emile Peynaud, Pavillon Rouge was reintroduced with a considerable increase in selection; new oak barrels were used to age the wine, plans were drawn up for the first great cellar in the region to be built underground (a technical feat), and Pavillon Blanc was redefined. In the château and its outbuildings, under the supervision of the inspectors for Historic Monuments (Margaux is a classified monument), the reconstitution of the architectural heritage and the renovation of the interior were carried out. All of this was done with deep respect for the existing structures and with the determined aim of allowing the terroir to express its fabulous qualities. Since his death in 1980, his daughter Corinne Mentzelopoulos has been managing the estate and pursuing the investment program of her father.</p>
Vintage	<p>Winter was quite cold and dry, causing some delay in the budding. Mixed weather conditions in the spring made the flowering process uneven and caused a little coulure in some of the older Merlot plots. Yet, as always, the great terroirs appear to have set their own agenda and ignored the vagaries of the weather, enjoying a fast and homogenous flowering process with perfect results. Then again, the Cabernet Sauvignon, which is so well suited to these lands, is not very prone to coulure. From the end of June until the last grapes were harvested in October, we experienced, once again, the type of drought typical of great Bordeaux vintages. Indeed, while on the one hand, the vines were spared any excess of water, thereby preventing unwanted foliage, they benefited from just enough moisture to favour ripening as well as enhance concentration in the grapes. While the 2010 weather conditions were reminiscent of 2009 and 2005, vintages are never completely alike. The summer of 2010 was as dry as 2009, yet cooler. The absence of extreme heat combined with cool nights compensated for the drought and probably allowed some of the great terroirs' young plants to reach a new quality threshold. It also favoured the aromatic character in all grape varieties, particularly in Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet and enabled the maintenance of excellent acidity levels – the perfect foil for high levels of alcohol. (The picking began on 22nd September)</p>



Vineyards	The estate has 82 hectares under vine, with Cabernet Sauvignon inevitably dominant (75%) with 20% Merlot making up most of the rest, along with a smattering of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. Typically, about 30,000 cases of red wine are made, with the <i>Grand Vin</i> usually accounting for just over 40% of the total. Production of the white wine amounts to less than 3,000 cases.
Harvest	Picking started on 22nd September and finished on 21 st October, 2010
Maturation	Fermentation takes place in oak vats, and ageing is in 100% new barrels for 22 months.
Tasting Notes	Unbelievable as it may sound, Château Margaux 2010 is at least as great a vintage as 2009. Once again, the Cabernet Sauvignon made the most of this very dry and cool year. With as much as 90% in the blend, the Cabernet makes the wine, providing it with exceptional aromatic finesse, restrained power, and subtle freshness. There is not much room left for the Merlot (7%), Cabernet Franc (1.5%) and Petit Verdot (1.5%). The genius of these Cabernet plots is astounding. Château Margaux 2010 is sheer magic – think classic, with a twist. Classic indeed, thanks to its purity, finesse, and soft and refreshing finish. Add to these qualities astonishing aromatic complexity and outstanding power and the result is an exceptional year. Technology and stringent selection make it a “modern” wine, while its magnitude and charm ensure a timeless Château Margaux vintage. This 2010 is beyond the realms of time and fickle fashions.
Serve with	Chateau Margaux is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Margaux is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes.
Production	Approx. 12,500-13,500 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2013-2053
Scores/Awards	<p>98 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013</p> <p>96-99 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011</p> <p>99 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013</p> <p>96-98 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011</p> <p>99 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2013</p> <p>97-99 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011</p> <p>100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011</p> <p>98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2013</p> <p>98-100 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011</p> <p>91-94 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011</p> <p>19 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011</p> <p>20 points/5 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011</p> <p>99-100 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2012</p> <p>100 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - May 2011</p> <p>100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 8, 2013</p> <p>98-100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 19, 2011</p> <p>98-100 - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 21, 2011</p> <p>98-100 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011</p> <p>97-99 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2011</p> <p>Review only - Alex Lallo, JJBuckley Wines - April 2011</p> <p>20/20 points - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2011</p> <p>97 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 24, 2011</p> <p>99 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2011 (score only)</p> <p>20 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)</p> <p>19.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“A mouthwatering tobacco leaf note leads the way, quickly followed by steeped black currant and fig fruit, with dark tar and ganache on the back end. Roasted alder and juniper hints hang in the background. Extremely backward, with a firm, tannic structure, this is girded for the long haul. Judging from the finely beaded acidity and lilting echo of lilac that peeks in now, this should acquire sensational aromatics and incredible grace with age. Best from 2018 through 2040.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p>

Reviews *“Super focused and super racy, with torrents of cherry, raspberry and plum fruit. Offering terrific mouthfeel, this glides by effortlessly, with a fantastic perfume developing on the finish. Long and iron tinged. Really, really fine-grained. Other than 2006, this is the only vintage since 2000 with as much Cabernet Sauvignon (90 percent). Tasted non-blind. Score range: 96-99.”*
- JS, Wine Spectator

“The 2010 is a brilliant Chateau Margaux, as one might expect in this vintage. The percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in the final blend hit 90%, the balance Merlot and Cabernet Franc, and only 38% of the crop made it into the Chateau Margaux. Paul Pontallier, the administrator, told me that this wine has even higher levels of tannin than some other extraordinary vintages such as 2005, 2000, 1996, etc. Deep purple, pure and intense, with floral notes, tremendous opulence, and palate presence, this is a wine of considerable nobility. With loads of blueberry, black currant and violet-infused fruit and a heady alcohol level above 13.5% (although that looks modest compared to several other first growths, particularly Chateau Latour and Chateau Haut-Brion), its beautifully sweet texture, ripe tannin, abundant depth and profound finish all make for another near-perfect wine that should age effortlessly for 30-40 years.”
- RP, Wine Advocate

“Paul Pontallier was rattling off some interesting statistics about Chateau Margaux. The 2000 (a great, great wine) was 13.1% natural alcohol, the 2005 13.1%, the 2009 13.2%, and the 2010, the highest ever measured, 13.5%. That is still nearly one degree less than the Pauillac first-growth of Chateau Latour at 14.4%. This blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc (representing only 38% of the total production) has the classic, quintessential Margaux character of spring flowers, almost cool-climate precision, medium body, and a seamless integration of tannin, wood and alcohol. The blue and black fruit characteristics are present, and the wine restrained. The most measured and polished of all the first growths I tasted, it is also less concentrated than any of the other first growths, but the elegance is classic. The harvest finished on October 15, which was not their latest by any means. This is one of the few first growths of 2010 where the tannins are remarkably delicate and sweet, and the softness of this wine will provide magical drinking at a relatively early age, yet its balance and concentration will carry it for 20 or more years.”
- RP, Wine Advocate

“The Grand Vin is a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and 1.5% each of Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Bottled in late July, Paul Pontallier reminded me that the Grand Vin takes around six months before it settles down. Still, allowing several minutes aeration, it has a very intense bouquet of dark cherries, boysenberry, crushed stone and a hint of bay leaf that is beautifully defined, but as Paul mentioned, will need a month to blossom. The palate has a beguiling sense of symmetry: spine-tingling poise and tension. This is a magisterial Chateau Margaux with seamlessly integrated oak, pure dark berry fruit and an almost breathless, Burgundy-like purity on the satin textured finish. Utterly seductive, this is an incredible wine that will age for decades. Tasted November 2012.”
- NM, Wine Journal

“A blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and 1.5% Petit Verdot and 1.5% Cabernet Franc with a pH 3.65 (it was 3.75 in 2009.) The Cabernet Sauvignon dominates the nose more than any other vintage of Chateau Margaux that I have tasted out of barrel, lending it a Pauillac-like personality. Blackberry, graphite, and a soupcon of liquorice. The tannins are exceptionally fine, real backbone here and a sense of ambition that I think neither the 2008 nor even the 2009 demonstrated. The clarity on the finish is truly outstanding and it seems to mellow and gain more sensuality with further aeration. Tasted March 2011.”
- NM, Wine Journal

“This was phenomenal from barrel and remains so. The aromas are spellbinding. It smells like a bouquet of pink roses and then goes to currants, berries, and citrus. Full body, with wonderfully refined tannins. It starts discretely and then grows to different levels and dimensions like a slow but big high tide. The texture is so beautiful. Try it in 2020 or beyond.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

Reviews

"A great wine that is just starting out. The high proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend gives the structured, black currant character. Dark chocolate and layers of wood are forward, revealing how young the wine is. And then the fruit, so rich and powerful, brings deliciousness to the firm, dense structure. Age for many years."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"98-100 Very concentrated wood and tannins. With 90 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, this is initially more tannic than many Château Margaux vintages. Then all the elegance and style of Margaux comes through, with acidity, spice, and great ripeness. An outstanding wine."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"The 2010 Ch Margaux is amazingly dark purple. Very, very strongly Cabernet Sauvignon (90% of the blend - only 2006 matched it) with some light vegetation at first which opened out and mellowed to something utterly seductive in the glass. Dry and intense. Very rich on the front and amazingly supple – it smells as though it may be going to be a bit of brute but on the palate, it is still so intense and polished initially but then it is clear that there are masses and masses of tannins. There is noble, fine, perfectly confident, minerally fruit that opens out on the palate. It is thinkable to drink this already!"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"(90% cabernet sauvignon, 7% merlot, 1.5% cabernet franc and 1.5% petit verdot; 71IPT; from a yield of 39 hectoliters per hectare; 13.5% alcohol; a roughly 38% selection) Good, full, dark ruby-red. Aromatic nose offers red fruits, sweet spices, dried bay leaf, soy sauce and an intense saline note. Large-shouldered and powerful, with a distinctly salty, scorched earth quality to the cassis, herbal, inky and meaty flavors. The mounting tannins are dry and tough at present and will need extended aging to resolve. This broad-shouldered wine boasts plenty of power and freshness but seems a little disjointed presently. Though it spreads out impressively on the back end, I find that it lacks the finesse and balance of the greatest vintages of Chateau Margaux."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Shows superb colour, a lovely concentration of polished flavours that stay on the palate forever, unbelievable freshness and density, a truly great wine."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Their highest level of cabernet sauvignon since 2006, at 90%, blended with 7% merlot, 1.5% cabernet franc, 1.5% petit verdot. 3.65pH. Alcohol levels at 13.5% were high for Chateau Margaux, but not for the vintage. A strikingly concentrated attack, everything is so knitted together, and again, it is an intellectual wine, as so many of the best ones are this year. The impact stretches out in your mouth, takes it time to unravel. In the mid-palate, the damsons and pure cassis come in, with rich minerality, clear tingling tannins, but overall a lightness of touch and purity on the finish. It's a gorgeous wine. 99-100/100. Drink 2025-2050."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Possibly the greatest wine this illustrious château has ever produced, and that's saying a lot. The grand vin contains the highest-ever percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon, reflecting Paul Pontallier's belief in the grape's outstanding quality in 2010 and vindicating his decision to introduce a third-tier red wine to allow even greater selection. An even better wine than the impressive 2009, this is very dense for a Margaux, with sweet plum, bramble, and blackcurrant fruit, serious, yet silky tannins and a fine, refreshing, tapering finish. 20+ years."

- TA, timatkin.com

"The perfume teases you with its depth and intensity of what's to come with its aromas of violets, smoky oak, licorice, earth, vanilla and mélange of dark berries. From the first sip, the wine coats your palate and taste buds with pure, fresh, rich, thick, polished blackberries, silky tannins and a finish that builds and expands for close to 60 seconds! The wine continued to build and expand in the glass for the two hours we spent with the wine over lunch."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep purple in color, the wine offers a pungent nose of violets, cassis, smoke, oak, tobacco, earth and fresh picked blackberries. This rich, concentrated, velvet drenched, lush, opulent wine coats your palate with layers of pure silk. The long, precise finish is filled with crème de cassis, boysenberry, and plums. 98-100 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews

"2010 Margaux - A blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot and equal parts Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, the wine is defined in part because of the effective low yields. Only 38% of the harvest was included in the Grand Vin. The rest of the harvest was divided as follows. An equal portion of 38% went into Pavillon Rouge. The remaining wine was divided between their third and the new fourth wine. 210 marks what could be the lowest production ever recorded in Chateau Margaux. Deep ruby on color, with an enticing perfume filled with smoke, cedar, cassis, violets, oak, tobacco, spice, and black raspberries. But that's not where the excitement is found. In the mouth, pure elegance, silk, satin, and velvet, incredibly plush, refined, polished and long, this intensely pure Cabernet Sauvignon based wine remains on your palate for at least 60 seconds. 2010 Chateau Margaux exemplifies precision, purity, balance, and elegance with a seamless finish. Everything is in balance with perfect harmony. 98-100 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and dense but a very polished look; real vibrancy in the glass; blackcurrants, perfume, violets, layers to the nose and wonderfully cool; extremely seductive, the most beautiful aroma of all the first growths in 2010; palate very precise and deep; layered; lots of power here, hidden by the nimble acidity; intensity in the acid not the tannin; very long and elegant finish. Pure. Superb. 98-100/100"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"What a truly remarkable wine! A complex, multilayered, magnificent marvel; it really does possess true majesty. It has a real grace and power that has you fumbling for words to describe its quality with any degree of sophistication. There is layer upon layer of perfect dense red fruit wrapped around a kernel of ultra-fine, ultra-dense ripe tannins. Ch. Margaux 2000 and 2005 are some of the greatest barrel samples I have ever tried, and the 2010 is up there again, matching the incredible Ch. Latour as wine of the vintage. (90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 1.5% Cabernet Franc, 1.5% Petit Verdot)"
- SS, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

"The amazingly complex 2010 Margaux is a deep ruby colour, with striking aromatics of sweet violets, cedar, blackberries and ripe blackcurrants, leading to rich and really pure fruit flavours and deep velvety tannins on the palate, and a very long finish. The 90% Cabernet Sauvignon has clearly added density and richness to this wine, which will need at least 10 years of bottle age."
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"90% cabernet sauvignon, 7% merlot, 1.5% cabernet franc, and 1.5% petit verdot. Super perfumed aromas of crushed violet, black cherry, blackberry liquor and crushed rock flourish on the nose, trailed by vanilla and kirsch. The palate exhibits more blackberry and cassis, along with chocolate and exotic Asian spice. This shows amazing purity and elegance for a wine of such concentration and power and comes across as silky smooth, thanks to the fine-grained tannins. 13.5% alcohol. This is Margaux, a pure expression, and an absolutely stunning wine! Better than 2009 and perhaps one of the best ever. Tasted at Chateau Margaux."
- AL, JJ Buckley Wines

"Deeply-coloured. Nose of pure, fresh red fruit with subtle spice. A taut style with a refined, polished texture, superlative freshness, and great purity. Long and elegant. Wonderful vintage expression."
- en.gilbertgaillard.com
