

Château Margaux 2019

CSPC# 847781

750mlx3

14.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Margaux
Classification	First Growth. Premier Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://www.chateau-margaux.com/en/
General Info	<p>Château Margaux, a 1er Cru Classé property, has been owned by the Mentzelopoulos family since 1978 - since then it has consistently produced the finest wines in the Médoc.</p> <p>One of the grandest, most imposing buildings amongst the Médoc châteaux, Ch. Margaux in its current form was built in the early 19th century, although viticulture had been practiced on the estate for several centuries before. A chequered period of ownership in the 19th and early 20th century meant that the quality of some Margaux vintages was patchy, but the change which restored the property to its rightful status came in 1977 when it was bought by André Mentzenopoulos, Greek by birth but who had lived in France since 1958 and had made a fortune through supermarket retailing. André immediately instigated much-needed investment in vineyard and cellar, but his untimely death in 1980 saw his daughter, Corinne, take up the reins. Corinne's shrewdest move was the recruitment of young, talented winemaker Paul Pontallier to oversee the production.</p> <p>Paul remains at the helm nearly 30 years later, and in that time, Margaux has produced some legendary wines, but also displays a marvelous seam of consistency through good years and the not so good.</p>
Winemaker	Emile Peynaud & Philippe Bascaules
Vintage	<p>Globally, 2019 was the warmest year on record. In France, the average temperature was 13.7°C, 1.1°C to 1.2°C higher than usual.</p> <p>In Margaux, the winter of 2019 was mild at 1 to 2 degrees above the 30-year averages, with limited rain (30 mm less than the 30-year averages) and only three days of frost. Under these conditions, the date of bud-break ranged from March 29th to April 4th.</p> <p>Spring was mild and temperatures were near-normal for the season, with abundant rainfall at the end of April and again between June 5th and June 18th. Flowering occurred between the 1st and the 9th of June and went relatively well. Only some older parcels of Merlot showed some signs of coulure. The rain, which risked causing occasional outbreaks of mildew, had no sanitary impact and the vineyards remained in a very good state throughout the year.</p> <p>The summer stood in sharp contrast to the rainy spring. Anticyclonic conditions prevailed and only 64 mm of rain fell between June 21st and September 21st. However, the summer of 2019 will be best remembered for two heatwaves at the end of June and then from July 22nd to 24th when the temperature reached 39.9°C in Margaux!</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. Unusually in Margaux, there is a white wine made here, Pavillon Blanc, from 100% Sauvignon Blanc, while the two red wines are, of course, Ch. Margaux itself and Pavillon Rouge. Typically, about 30,000 cases of red wine are made, with the Grand Vin usually accounting for just over 40% of the total. Production of the white wine amounts to less than 3,000 cases.
Harvest	The red grape harvest began on September 18th in ideal conditions, and the Merlot grapes were perfectly ripe and concentrated when picked. A weather disturbance between September 22nd and the 29th did not affect the health of the grapes and allowed them to ripen more slowly under conditions that were less aggressive for the vines, better preserving the acidity levels, with ultimately not too high levels of alcohol. The grapes picked between the end of September and the beginning of October benefited from the concentration



Harvest	<p>developed after veraison (August 5th to the 10th), without being significantly affected by low slight dilution from the rain.</p> <p>The harvest ended on October the 10th.</p>
Vinification/ Maturation	<p>Fermentation takes place in oak vats and ageing for Ch. Margaux in 100% new barrels for 22 months. It is Paul Pontallier's firmly-held belief that it is the Cabernet Sauvignon grape which is responsible for most of the sheer class which characterises the wines of Ch. Margaux and we are seeing, in consequence, an ever-greater percentage of this varietal in the blend of the Grand Vin.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>The Grand Vin of Château Margaux 2019 is an excellent vintage and one of the precious wines we have been lucky enough to produce this decade, in 2015, 2016, 2018 and now 2019.</p> <p>Cabernet Sauvignon still forms the heart of the Château Margaux, accounting for 90% of the assemblage. Merlot accounts for 7%. In addition to our emblematic parcels, this year we have added the Merlots from the Haut du Jardin parcel which bring body and charm to the wine as a whole. The Cabernet Franc (2%) and the Petit Verdot (1%) complete the assemblage. Château Margaux represents 37% of the harvest.</p> <p>The Grand Vin of Château Margaux 2019 will be the first to take full advantage of the new facilities in the second-year cellar, the construction of which was begun by André Mentzelopoulos at the end of the 1970s. Modified several times over the years, it recently underwent extensive renovation work and has been completed, we are delighted to say, just as his grandson, Alexis Leven-Mentzelopoulos, joins the Château Margaux team. He and his sister Alexandra Petit-Mentzelopoulos represent the future of the Estate.</p>
Serve with	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Production	10,833 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2029-2069
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2022</p> <p>100 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>97-100 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>99-100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>98-100 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2020</p> <p>18.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - June 2020</p> <p>98 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2022</p> <p>98 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>100 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>98-100 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>97-99 points - Farr Vintners - May 2020</p> <p>99 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>96-98 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>99 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>98-100 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>97-100 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>98 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>98 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p>19 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Pretty gorgeous, with a cashmere feel right from the get-go as pure, unadulterated cassis, plum reduction and blackberry preserve notes sail through. The finish is laced with alluring red and black tea, violet, incense and savory notes, with a subtle mineral hint lingering to the very end. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Cabernet Franc. Best from 2026 through 2038. 10,833 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Is the 2019 Château Margaux the wine of the vintage? A strong case in its favor could certainly be made. Soaring from the glass with aromas of blackberries, raspberries, rose petals, violets, pencil shavings and vine smoke, it's full-bodied, layered, and sensual, with a strikingly vibrant core of fruit that's framed by ripe, powdery tannins and bright acids, concluding with a penetrating, mouthwateringly saline finish of almost interminable duration. Complex, elegant and utterly compelling, this is a brilliant Bordeaux that anyone with the requisite disposable income is going to want to own. (WK)"</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2019 Château Margaux is a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, accounting for 37% of the crop. The alcohol came in at 13.9%, the IPT was 75, and the pH was 3.66. Deep garnet-purple in color, the nose begins with intense scents of crushed blackberries, warm cassis, and plum preserves before fanning out into a whole array of floral, exotic spice and earth scents: iris, red roses, star anise, cassis, tilled soil, moss-covered bark, and black truffles, with an emerging waft of crushed rocks. The medium-bodied palate quivers with energy, emitting loads of mineral sparks, featuring bold freshness and fantastically ripe, finely grained tannins to support the delicate, perfumed layers, finishing very long and wonderfully poised. The juxtaposition between the acidity and the richness in this Château Margaux is just extraordinary!"

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Amazing aromas of crushed stones and wet soil with fresh mushrooms, then going on to violets and other flowers. Dark fruit, too. Full-bodied, yet agile and fine, with a linear flow of tannins that run through the center of palate. The finesse of the tannins is exceptional, like raw silk and changing all the time. Cool and energetic yet reserved. Zen-like. So well balanced that you can drink it now, but this is one to leave for a decade and more. Ethereal."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The fantastic quality of the cabernet sauvignon really comes through here with black currant, blueberry, and raspberry character. It's full-bodied with such tightness. It's so beautiful in the center palate. The tannins are wonderfully blended into the wine and flow across the palate. Rather leaner and racy. Ethereal. 37% of the production and 90% cabernet sauvignon, 7% merlot, 2% cabernet franc and 1% petit verdot."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This wine, packed with Cabernet Sauvignon, is dense but shows a majestic structure. By contrast and equally stunning, it has such perfumed fruits that are poised between power and elegance. The balance of this magnificent wine is there, bringing together black currant fruit and rich, sumptuous tannins. There is amazing aging potential here. (RV)"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. 37% of the production. Barrel sample. Deep colour to the rim. Super fragrance, the aromas pure and persistent with typical Cabernet cassis and graphite notes. Rich and full across the palate but definitely more freshness than the Pavillon. Plentiful tannins provide the drive but absolutely no aggression. Aromatic freshness on the finish aids persistence and length. (JL) 13.9%. Drink 2030 – 2050."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"Wonderful aromas on the nose, quite dark and concentrated contrasting the palate, which is abundant, juicy and immediately mouthwatering, giving a rush of bright red cherry and strawberry flavour. But it's the texture here that is so captivating - soft, light, bright, then deep and layered, the velvet tannins coming into support but harmoniously and effortlessly, nothing feels too much. A direct wine from start to finish with great drive and persistency offering a wonderful balance of having an immediate drinking appeal but also the structure, power and density to age. Sculpted, elegant and nicely framed. 37% of total production. Drinking Window 2030 – 2051."

- GH, Decanter.com

"This expands sideways, vertically, and downwards, with a creamy mid palate and a rose petal, peony, raspberry and cassis collision on the nose. This is chewy in its tannic structure, full on and yet delicate and sappy. Fresh, elegant, perfumed, and concentrated - clearly will age for decades. This is close in character to the 2009 or 2015, two exceptional vintages at Margaux and classic to the graceful yet concentrated signature of the property. 1% Petit Verdot to complete the blend, 100% new oak although barely discernible already. 37% of overall production in the 1st wine this year."

- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews

"A wine that you sink into, drink in the aromatics before taking a sip. You can sense the velvety texture from the first moment. There is so much density here, and yet each tannin plays its part with skill, holding the perfumed black and blue fruits in place without restricting their expression. A signature Château Margaux, with so many different elements lending momentum and energy, and a feeling of effortless balance. 37% of total production, 100% new oak. Loved En Primeur, but this is an up score."

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

"Dark garnet with purple accents in the hue tells you the wine going to be concentrated. The nose, with its showy aromatic display of lilacs, roses, herbs, cigar box, blackberries, dark red pit fruits, gun powder and violets inform you the wine is complex. On the palate, the wine is full-bodied, silky, and seductive. It starts off discreetly before moving to its sexy side. The layers of sweet, fresh, vibrant, black and red fruit come on strong and keep on going long after the wine has left the glass. The wine blends 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, reaching 13.9% alcohol. The Grand Vin was produced using only 37% of the harvest. Picking took place September 18 – October 10, making this a fairly leisurely harvest."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2019 follows a 2018 that received a potential 100 points from Lisa Perrotti-Brown, James Suckling and Jeb Dunnuck. Made from 37% of the crop this year. At 13.9% abv, the blend is 90% Cabernet Sauvignon 7% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. It will be aged in 100% new oak. The chateau describe the Merlot picked in September as very concentrated and similar to the 2018 fruit, but the Cabernet Sauvignon picked in October more like the fruit of 2016. Deep purple in colour, with an enticing nose of fresh blackcurrant, dark cherry and layers of cedar, tobacco, and vanilla from the oak. The palate is extremely silky, with cocoa-like tannins gently framing the palate and giving a cashmere mouthfeel. There is superb delineation of fruit, with violet, dark cherry and fresh blackcurrant interlaced with baked red plum. The oak is well judged, bringing layers of sweet and savoury spices, hints of cedar and sandalwood, and building both structure and complexity in the wine. This is a wine of superb precision, with a driven, focused finish of pure black fruit. Superb finesse."

- Farr Vintners

"The 2019 Château Margaux, bottled in July 2021, is absolutely divine on the nose. It unfurls to reveal exquisitely defined black fruit infused with graphite, Japanese nori and just a hint of potpourri and crushed stone. This is supremely well focused, refined, and correct, so much so that you would think it comes from a cooler growing season. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant, filigreed tannins that envelop the senses. Flavors of blackberry and bilberry, tinged with sea salt and black pepper, merge into a slightly more sensual finish that is still quintessentially Margaux. I used the word "effortless" in my note from barrel, and that rings true in bottle, though maybe there is now even more persistence. Quite stunning. (NM)"

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Château Margaux, like many other top names, was tasted in 12-hour intervals after opening. Like the Pavillon Rouge, it is tightly-wound on the nose initially and it is really only after 12-hours that it begins to motor, revealing enticing scents of blackberry, briary, seaweed and crushed stone, perhaps less florality, less violet-inspired aromas compared to previous vintages. The palate is medium-bodied with very lithe tannins that disguise the considerable backbone of this First Growth. This is imbued with a sense of linearity and focus, a strictness that gradually gives way to more sensuality. It is a beautifully proportioned Château Margaux, somehow "effortless", fanning out nonchalantly with residues of white pepper and fresh tobacco on the finish. Outstanding. 2029 – 2065."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2019 Château Margaux possesses off the charts richness to go along with plush contours and mind-blowing balance. All the elements are so wonderfully woven together. It's as if all the Château Margaux signatures are dialed up to eleven, but without losing any of the classic Margaux character. The purity of the red-toned fruit is just breathtaking. The Merlot was picked early, but then rain during harvest delayed the ripening of the Cabernets, which turned out to be a huge advantage. Drink 2029 – 2069. Estate Manager Philippe Bascaules and his team turned out two spectacular wines in 2019. Bascaules describes 2019 as an easy vintage. Flowering was normal and set was good. Yields came in at a healthy 47 hectoliters per hectare, more than 2017 or 2018, the summer heat spikes notwithstanding. Bascaules opted to pick the Merlot early and gave those lots very gentle extractions at low temperatures, whereas the Cabernet Sauvignon vinifications were a much more typical 20-22 days at 28-30 degrees Celsius. In tasting, the 2019s

Reviews *have more tannins than any other vintage, with the exception of 2018, and yet the wines don't show that at all. The bottled wines are every bit as impressive as the barrel samples."*

- AG, Vinous

"The 2019 Margaux is a total showstopper. A thrilling wine that melds together the textural intensity of the year with striking vibrancy, Margaux is just stunning. All the classic Margaux signatures are amplified in such dramatic fashion. The 2019 is a wine of pure and total sensuality. A second sample that arrived very late after having been stuck in customs was shockingly vibrant when I tasted it out of curiosity. I couldn't help myself. In the early going, Margaux is shaping up to be one of the wines of the vintage. Don't miss it."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2019 Château Margaux is another inky hued beauty from this estate that does everything right. Incredible notes of blackcurrants, blueberries, sandalwood, cedar, and loads of floral tones all dominate the bouquet, and this beauty hits the palate with full-bodied richness, flawless integration in its tannins, acidity, and fruit, building structure, and an almost 'iron fist in a velvet glove' like mouthfeel. Reminding me of the 2016, yet with even more density, it's a quintessential Château Margaux that will benefit from a decade of cellaring and keep for 50 years or more."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Dark ruby garnet, opaque core, violet reflections, delicate ochre edge. Black berries, dark heart cherries, fine spice nuances, a hint of nougat, candied orange zest, inviting bouquet, cardamom, and tobacco in the background. Juicy, good complexity, fine cherry fruit, silky tannins, fresh acid structure, heart cherries on the finish, salty and mineral, lingers for a long time, appears relatively light-footed, firm finish, reliable aging potential for decades."

- Falstaff Magazine
