

Château Margaux 2021

CSPC# 847781

750mlx3

13.1% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation Margaux
Classification First Growth. Premier Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website <http://www.chateau-margaux.com/en/>
Analysis ITP: 75
Sustainability Aurélie Dutreux is the Sustainable Development officer for Ch Margaux. will help us make progress in our water management and energy consumption, control our environmental impact along with the treatment and recovery of waste generated by our activities. We also want to make our employees aware of sustainable development issues.

General Info 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.

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.

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.

Winemaker Emile Peynaud & Philippe Bascaules

Vintage The winter of 2021 was relatively mild, although quite wet, with more than 230 mm of rain falling in the first two months of the year. With the month of March being drier and warmer, our vines flowered between the 23rd and the 30th of the month. Spring was marked by frequent and severe episodes of frost, testing the frost protection sprinkling systems on our white grape vineyards like never before. Temperatures fell so drastically that we lost close to a hectare's worth of our white harvest. On the other hand, our red grape vineyards were less affected by the cold, with only a few vines hit by some morning frost.

May and June recorded quite a bit of rainfall, and we had to be watchful to prevent the spread of fungal diseases. The determination of our team eventually paid off and we were able to maintain the grapes and leaves in good health. Budbreak occurred between the 1st and the 6th of March in average conditions, however the fruit-set was excellent, with only a few of the older plots falling prey to coulure or shatter. After the rainy month of July, August and the first half of September were extremely dry. Just after we had finished picking the white grapes, we had about 45 mm of rain, raising concerns of a poor red harvest. As in the 2017 vintage, we were faced with the following choice: pick grapes that were not fully ripe before they could potentially be attacked by Botrytis or wait till the end of September to harvest the grapes when they would be riper and more concentrated from the additional sunshine. And as in that year, the decision was made to prioritize the quality of the grapes. The season definitely presented its fair share of challenges, but the quality of our work and attention ensured we had an elegant and dense vintage.

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



Vineyards	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.
Harvest	The early Merlot plots were harvested on the 24th of September while the later Cabernet harvests only began by the 4th of October. The harvest was completed by the 13th of October.
Vinification/ Maturation	<p>The Grand Vin of Château Margaux 2020 follows in the footsteps of those of 2018 and 2019. It is very rare for three consecutive years in Bordeaux to be so homogenous and of such high quality.</p> <p>The final blend is very similar to those of the most recent vintages: Cabernet Sauvignon accounts for 89% of the blend, completed by 8% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. The Grand Vin represents 36% of the harvest. There is a perfect balance between the density and the fineness of its tannins.</p> <p>Several factors contributed to making this a superb wine: homogenous flowering, summer conditions that favoured small berries and therefore concentrated wines, and excellent harvesting conditions. Only the yield was not as we had hoped. The fertility of the grape varieties was lower than in previous years, with 1.6 bunches per shoot, compared to 2 in 2019. The average yield on the estate was therefore 36 hl/ha.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>The 2018, 2019 and 2020 vintages were so exceptional that it would be difficult for the 2021 vintage to claim any comparison with them. During the wine-making process, we did not want to artificially extract tannins for fear it would increase the astringency. We opted instead for a gentle extraction process and were quite pleasantly surprised at the concentration we achieved despite such a difficult growing season.</p> <p>The initial tastings from the first batches of our vineyard selections, just after the fermentation process, amazed us with their density. The polyphenol content was close to, if not at the same level, as the vintages from the "hotter" years. Merlot makes up 8% of our Grand Vin, while Cabernet Sauvignon still forms the heart, accounting for 87% of the blend. Delicious Cabernet Franc (3%) adds structure, while Petit Verdot (2%) completes the blend. Château Margaux 2021 represents 36% of the harvest. (April 2022)</p>
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. 12,000 cases made annually.
Cellaring	Drink 2030-2055
Scores/Awards	<p>95+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>95-97+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2022</p> <p>17.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p>97 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2024</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>96-98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>95-97 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>95-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>96+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2024</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>19.5 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>97 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>98 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>96-97 points - Bettane & Desseave (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"The 2021 Château Margaux saw a traditional élevage in new barrels, with bottling in July, and as readers will remember, it's a blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot that benefited from late picking, appreciable percentages of saignée, and a strict selection. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of cassis, blueberries and raspberries mingled with hints of licorice, white flowers, and charcoal, it's medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, with a broad attack, lively purity and sweet structuring tannins, concluding with a long, penetrating finish. It's a classic that will richly reward bottle age. Drink 2030-2055. Château Margaux has turned out a brilliant performance. A challenging growing season, which saw Margaux touched by spring frost and end-of-season rot, delivered a heterogenous crop, but the estate can afford both</i></p>

Reviews *to take risks (harvesting reds between September 24 and October 13) and select rigorously. Philippe Bascaules opted to saignée his tanks to concentrate the musts, especially the Merlots, and then vinified gently. "After a saignée, you really have to ease off on extraction if you don't want to overdo it," he explained. But the concentration of the ensuing wines took him aback, exhibiting analytically similar levels of tannins to the superb 2019s. Margaux always produces fresh, vibrant wines, so pHs are similar to was attained in other recent vintages; what's different, however, are alcohol levels, around 1% lower than 2018, 2019 or 2020. As the accompanying tasting notes attest, the grand vin itself and Pavillon Blanc both number among the wines of the vintage in red and in white."*

- WK, Wine Advocate

"The 2021 Château Margaux is clearly one of the finest wines of the vintage. Offering up a deep bouquet of raspberries, wild blueberries and plums mingled with sweet spices, violets, licorice, and hints of cigar box, it's full-bodied, layered and multidimensional, with terrific depth at the core and beautifully refined, powdery tannins, concluding with a long, floral finish. Combining the vibrant flavors and moderate alcohol (13.1%) of a vintage of the last century with all the precision of the present in extraction and élevage, it is a timeless classic; and lest that be mistaken for a euphemism for a lack of concentration, note that the wine is analytically as high in polyphenols as the brilliant 2019. Representing only 36% of the estate's production, the 2021 is a blend."

- WK, Wine Advocate

"Deep garnet-purple in color, it is a little closed and broody to start, with notions of tar, licorice, fertile loam, and truffles leading to a core of fresh blackcurrants, juicy blackberries, and black raspberries, plus a touch of iron ore. Medium-bodied, the palate has wonderful intensity with a firm, fine-grained texture and plenty of freshness to support the tightly knit black and red berry flavors, finishing with loads of energy and shimmer. The first wine represents 36% of the crop this year and it came in with a phenolic index (IPT) of 75."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"A Margaux with beautiful depth and grace and wonderfully well-placed, refined tannins, showing presence and a soft texture. They caress your palate. Full-bodied, yet tight and extremely long. Seamless."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"The wine has richness, but its main attraction is the balance between acidity and the light touch that gives the wine great freshness. The touch of Cabernet Franc in the blend brings its own perfumed structure. This is a wine that, of course, will age but that will also give pleasure relatively quickly."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Fragrant and floral with violet and peony notes. Clean and direct on attack, mid-palate weight and drive on the finish. Low-key but refined tannic frame. Super-length and persistence. Discreet but elegant, if less substance than a wine scoring 18 or higher. (JL) 13.1%. Drink 2030 – 2050."

- JL, JancisRobinson.com

"A dark nose, serious and a bit closed, though there is such complexity on the palate. You get the tannic feel in the mouth straight away, mouth filling, ample, generous, and chewy - these tannins have weight and density but are lifted by the bright, high-definition cherry, strawberry and raspberry acidity underneath keeping things vibrant and fresh with a sour cherry and stoney minerality on the finish. Exceptional balance and sculpting, this has energy but also poise. Sophisticated glamour in full force, svelte and suave - this is a wine that aims to please. Definitely one of the most thrilling and captivating wines of the vintage!"

- GH, Decanter.com

"Full of vivid flavours, colour and aromatics, chiseled, energetic and beautifully balanced. Subtle gunsmoke, grilled cassis bud and saffron alongside fleshy blackberry and pomegranate. Clear austerity on the finish, with waves of cloves and saffron as it extends through the palate. Plenty of harmony here, and potential for ageing. Harvest through to October 14. Philippe Bascaules director, showcasing what can be achieved in the vintage. Eric Boissenot consultant. 100% new oak."

- JA, janeanson.com

Reviews

“Vivid fruit, raspberries and bilberries, cassis bud, saffron and graphite, full of energy and classicism, showcasing what can be achieved in the vintage. Harvest through to October 14. 36% of the overall production. 3.64pH, Tannic index of 73, the same level as in 2019 and a little less than 2018 and 2020. Philippe Bascaules director, Eric Boissenot consultant.”

- JA, janeanson.com

“Deep garnet in color, the wine opens with lilacs, spice, black currants, tobacco leaf and a hint of cedar in the perfume. On the palate, the wine is elegant, polished, silky, fresh, and reserved in character. Classic, (In a good way) there is lift, vibrancy and poise to the fruit on the mid-palate, leaving you with a supple, refined, discreet, almost formal finish. Give it 5 years or so and it will be even better. Clearly, this is one of the wines of the vintage! The wine blends 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot, 13.1% ABV, pH 3.64. The Grand Vin was produced using only 36% of the harvest. Picking took place September 24 - October 13. Drink from 2029-2060.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“With a yield of 36 hl/ha and 36% of production being grand vin, there is the same amount of Château Margaux as last year. The blend is 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. It will see 100% new oak for 21 months. Deep ruby-purple in colour. Dark cherries, damsons, sweet blueberries and blackcurrants on an impressive nose that is accented with hints of well-judged wood smoke. The palate has real intensity of fresh forest fruit, lined with bright and balanced acidity. The structure is silky and ripe on entry and builds around the fruit, creating a fine but firm frame adding focus to the core. Deep, with real attack and energy, the mid-palate fleshes out towards the finish to leave a very long finish. Highly refined, quintessential Margaux.”

- TP, [Farr Vintners](http://FarrVintners.com)

“As I found out of barrel, the 2021 Château Margaux bides its time on the nose. At the moment, understandably, as it is just three months post-bottling, the new oak is quite prominent—more than, say, Mouton or Lafite. But it is buttressed by ample blackberry and blueberry fruit and becomes increasingly floral in the glass. The palate is armed with extremely pure black fruit and a superb line of acidity, very harmonious with an incremental build in the mouth. Displaying wonderful mineralité and poise, this has actually stepped up a gear since I tasted it in barrel. I suspect it may well continue its melioration in bottle.”

- NM, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

“The 2021 Château Margaux, aged in 100% new oak as usual, is clean and precise on the nose, much more discrete than the outgoing Pavillon Rouge and unfolds like a temptress in the glass. Intense dark cherries, hints of blueberry and trademark crushed violets then start to billow, all exquisitely defined. The palate is medium-bodied with a silky smooth veneer that does a good job disguising the structure underneath. Surprisingly plush given the growing season, the concentration is very impressive with no hard edges. It's a very Margaux-like Château Margaux insofar that it could not come from any other appellation.”

- NM, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

“The 2021 Château Margaux is creamy and supple, a classy Margaux with the volume turned down just a bit. Succulent dark cherry, red plum, spice and rose petal infuse the 2021 with layers of succulent depth. This is a quiet wine, but one that possesses notable richness for the year. Time in the glass brings out the aromatics, but this remains very much built on its fruit.”

- AG, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

“The 2021 Château Margaux is a powerful, surprisingly brooding wine. According to Technical Director Philippe Bascaules, dry extract numbers are in line with 2019, which is hardly surprising in tasting the wine. Today, the Grand Vin is so primary. The intensity of the dark red/purplish fruit is notable, and yet the wine is positively embryonic. Bright acids and plenty of tannin abound. The 2021 is a rich, penetrating Margaux that is going to need a lot of time.”

- AG, [Vinous](http://Vinous.com)

“In the running for the wine of the vintage, the 2021 Château Margaux is stunning in its concentration, depth, purity, and length. Pure cassis and black raspberry fruits as well as graphite, ripe tobacco, and spicy oak all define the aromatics, and it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, ultra-fine, building tannins, and a gorgeous finish. The style actually reminds me slightly of the 1996, and while it offers pleasure even

Reviews *today, it deserves 5-7 years of bottle age and will evolve for 20-30 years gracefully. It's a classic Château Margaux. The blend is 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot, aged all in new French oak."*
- Jeb Dunnuck

"I think the wine of the vintage is the 2021 Château Margaux, which comes from a miniscule selection of just 36% of the total production. The final blend is 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, and the rest Cabernet Franc, all of which is resting in 100% new French oak. Reminding me slightly of a riper 1996, it has incredible purity in its ripe cassis and blueberry fruits as well as notes of liquid violets, spicy oak, graphite, and hints of sandalwood. As seamless as they come, medium to full-bodied, perfectly balanced, and with ample Château Margaux purity and finesse, this brilliant juice is as good as it gets in the vintage."
- Jeb Dunnuck

"Beautifully exotic and floral on the nose and then sensual and mesmerising at the start of the palate, Margaux then changes mood, tightens up and starts heading to a devastatingly dramatic point of grainy tension and ultra-fine tannins that take the breath away. The colour here is not black but a blend of glittering purple, blue and deep red hues that dance in the glass. The overall experience lifts the palate further on the second sip, while the perfume reveals a stunning secret. Only the very finest wines of the vintage exhibit this ethereal and very rare character, and it is the dreamy scent of Helichrysum arenarium or Immortelle (in English, Everlasting). In the same way that many of the greatest Cabernets in the world seem to invite subtle hints of local flora into their realm (Coonawarra's eucalypt; Margaret River's wild mint; Napa's dried meadow grass; Stellenbosch's fynbos; Bolgheri's pines), Margaux and a handful of other estates in 2021 show wistful floral details that are absolutely captivating on the nose and palate, and they add immeasurably to the complexity and fascination of this celestial Cabernet celebration. Tightrope walking on the very edge of ripeness, this is a thrilling Margaux with near-perfect harmony and refinement. 19.5."
- Matthew Jukes

"Deep dark ruby red, opaque core with purple reflections. Fine savouriness, black cherries, elegant noble wood spices with notes of cassis and nougat, hints of liquorice and fresh orange zest lie in the background. Juicy, red cherry fruit, elegant and fresh, immensely precise, and lively, perfectly ripe tannins, mineral and long lasting, red berry finish, balanced and animated; already very seductive, one of the real stars of this vintage."
- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"(87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot) The nose is fruity, elegant and shows minerality, freshness, concentration, infusion, purity, floral complexity (violet, lily and a very discreet hint of blueberry) and style. There are notes of fresh boysenberry, racy minerality and more lightly graphite combined with hints of small red berries, lily, violet as well as fine zan, a very discreet hint of pepper, subtle hints of bright dark berries, morello cherry, bergamot, mocha, bourbon vanilla and toastiness. The palate is fruity and reveals freshness, minerality, good definition, acidity/freshness, a nice delicate/cool velvety feel, nice freshness, fine tension/concentration, fine grain, and a little stretch. On the palate this wine expresses pulpy/juicy blackcurrant, fresh/crisp blackberry and more lightly floral, lily notes combined with fine touches of fresh raspberry, fresh berries as well as a delicate hint of fresh plum, graphite, racy minerality/margalean gravel, fine hints of bergamot, toastiness, toasted almond/hazelnut and a subtle hint of vanilla. Nice chewiness on the finish/persistence."
- Vert de Vin