

Château D'Issan 2005

CSPC# 749550

750mlx12

13.9% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot

Appellation

Margaux

Classification

Third Growth. Troisieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

Website

<http://www.chateau-issan.com/en/>

General Info

There's evidence the property existed in the Middle Ages - then known as Teobon. The original *château* dated from at least the 15th century, and it has been suggested as the location of the English army's final stand following their defeat at the Battle of Castillon. But d'Issan's timeline really begins in the 17th century when the land was acquired by Bordeaux parliamentarian Chevalier d'Essenault - he christened the estate (later shortened to Issan) and built the splendid *château*. The knight's tenure ended abruptly (the Revolution again) and during the 19th century the Roy family began building an ever-improving reputation. That too ended rudely, as d'Issan was all-but ruined during the economic gloom of the 1930s.

Château d'Issan is a 3^{ème} Cru Classé Margaux property that produces richly aromatic and silky-textured clarets that are often amongst the best of the appellation.

The beautiful 18th century *château* is surrounded by a moat and is frequently described as the most romantic in the Médoc. D'Issan has been owned by the Cruse family since 1945 and is presently owned and run by Emmanuel Cruse, his wife, and their son, Lionel

Vineyards

D'Issan has 52 hectares of vineyards planted with Cabernet Sauvignon (70%) and Merlot (30%).

Maturation

The grapes are traditionally vinified, and the wine is then matured in oak casks (55% new) for 18 months. The wine is bottled unfiltered.

Tasting Notes

Intense and focused aromas of ripe fruits. Elegant and solid structure. Great Length.

Serve with

Chateau d'Issan is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Young vintages can be decanted for 1-2 hours. This allows the wine to soften and open its perfume. The wine will also gently warm in the glass, releasing its aromatics. Older vintages might also need decanting, for both aerating and to remove the sediment. Chateau d'Issan is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted braised and grilled dishes. Chateau d'Issan is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese.

Production

8,580 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2035

Scores/Awards

92 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2008

88-91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2006

96 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #219 - June 28, 2015

95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 28, 2008

92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164- April 23, 2006

93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 30, 2012

93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 30, 2009

94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 9, 2009

90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - December 31, 1999

95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - October 20, 2014

89 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - August 2008

18.5 points - Decanter.com - July 2008

17 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2006

17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2009

17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2006



Scores/Awards **94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 28, 2015
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2, 2012
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 13, 2011
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 28, 2009
16 points - Farr Vintner - April 2006
92 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - March 25, 2014
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
16.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
1 star - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2009
94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)

Reviews *"Displays blackberry and black licorice aromas, with some tar. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and a long finish. Tight and structured. Needs time. Best after 2013. 8,580 cases made.*
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Full and silky, with lots of berry, chocolate and spice character. Wonderful texture to this wine. Best ever from here? Like cashmere. Almost 92-94. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. Score range: 89-91"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"The more serious grand vin twin, the 2005 d'Issan, has a stunning nose of spring flowers, blackcurrant and blue/black fruits galore, and an impressively opaque dark plum/purple color. With a rich, concentrated and pure mouthfeel, wonderfully sweet tannin, full-bodied density and richness, but elegance in abundance, this is a stunner, and one of the great Margaux of the vintage. Drink it now and over the next 20 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Along with the 2000, the 2005 is one of the two greatest d'Issans I have ever tasted. Kudos to proprietor Emmanuel Cruse for creating this beauty. Its dense purple hue is accompanied by aromas of camphor, forest floor, blackberries, cassis, and a hint of spring flowers. Full-bodied with superb richness, purity, texture, and abundant, sweet tannin, it should hit its stride in 3-4 years, and last for 25+. Bravo!"
- RP, Wine Advocate

"While some octogenarians may argue that 1900 is better, this is the finest d'Issan I have ever tasted. The 2005 boasts a deep plum/ruby color as well as a beautiful projected bouquet of flowers, licorice, sweet currants, plums, cherries, and smoke. There is lovely purity in the mouth as well as an etched, precise character, stunning concentration, decent acidity, and an impressive finish that lasts nearly 45 seconds. Anticipated maturity: 2009-2025+."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at BBR's 2005/2009 tasting in London. The nose is very impressive with fine minerality: limestone, dark berries and a touch of fresh strawberry – very feminine and focused. The palate is very focused and supple on the entry, fleshy and lithe with a cashmere finish struck through with superb tension. This is an excellent from Emmanuel Cruse and his team and one probably undervalued in the market. Tasted July 2011."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted single blind at Southwold. This has an attractive, Margaux nose with floral, violet aspects coming through. Good definition. Feminine. The palate is quite tannic, pain grille, a little dusty but I think there are layers of pure, succulent black berried fruits underneath. Great definition, ditto potential. Long-term wine from the moated Margaux estate that is definitely on the up. Drink 2012-2030. Tasted January 2009."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, matured in 55% new oak, the 2005 has a focused, well-defined, feminine nose of black cherries, cranberry, a touch of limestone and a little cassis. Tightly coiled at the moment although there is a touch of liquorice developing after 20 minutes in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with firm tannins and excellent fruit concentration and acidity, with greater finesse and elegance than the 2000. Real solid mass of pure red-berried fruit with great harmony and definition. Good weight on the finish, perhaps beginning to close down a little. This is a confident, outstanding 2005 that will become a benchmark d'Issan. Drink 2012-2030. Tasted September 2008."
- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews *"Nose is lacking a little clarity, sweet blackberry, cassis but the palate is better. Quite a higher extraction, firm succulent tannins. I would like a little more acidity, but the finish is clean and toasty. Very fine. Tasted April 2006."*

- NM, Wine Journal

"Polished and beautiful. Lots of sweet tea leaf with mineral and currant character, and stone undertones. Full body, with firm tannins and a tight finish. Needs at least three hours of decanting. A wine for the future, but delicious now."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Good ruby-red. Currant and game on the slightly jammy nose. Sweet, rich and suave, with good intensity to the game, jammy fruit and nutty oak flavors. In a soft style, finishing with substantial ripe tannins."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Very dark blackish crimson. Lively nose even if not very intense. Sweet and round and fleshy. Bergamot and lots of sumptuous fruit. Built to last. Quite delicate and Margaux-like. Lots of dry not drying tannins. And some zest. Hooray!"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Dark crimson. Very energetic, aromatic nose. Full-blown and opulent and very 2005. Lots of tannin, but ripe tannin. Very bright fruit. Good example of the vintage and it also expresses Margaux. Good structure. Hits the palate throughout the tasting experience. Drink 2014-22"

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Coffee front, tight, elegant, perfumed. Fresh finesse, transparent, beautiful violets. Long finish. Drink from 2013. Awarded 5 stars."

- Decanter.com

"Full, floral very seductive Margaux nose, lovely extraction of fragrant, lissom fruit. Drink 2009-20."

- SS, Decanter.com

"Starting to show secondary notes of tobacco, thyme, plum, cedar and earth on the nose. This has really filled out and improved over the past decade. There is a beautiful purity to the fruit, silky, soft tannins and a fresh, fruit filled finish that tastes as good as it feels. The wine was made from a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"From 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot, the wine was aged in 55% new oak. Still deep in color, the wine opens with floral, black cherry, forest floor, cassis, tobacco and spicy aromas. With supple, refined textures, concentration of fruit and a long, elegant, blackberry finish, this continues to develop perfectly. Give it a few more years and enjoy it over the next 15-25 years. 2005 Chateau d'Issan remains well priced for consumers looking for value and quality in Bordeaux."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep in color, popped and poured, the wine offered tobacco, earth, cassis, truffle, smoke and cigar box scents. Full bodied, soft textured and round, this young Margaux wines needs another 5-7 years before it begins to strut its stuff."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep in color, this structured, traditionally made Margaux opens with earth, cassis, spice, blackberry and floral aromas. Full bodied and loaded with ripe, dark berries, this rich wine will improve for decades."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“Emmanuel Cruse has seriously increased the quality here in recent years without pushing up the price. Always a Margaux that tastes like Margaux. A good deep colour with a ripe, attractive, brambly nose with a touch of cherry and toasted oak. Ripe fruit on the palate, well-balanced with soft tannins. Fruity, accessible and supple. The best Issan we have ever tasted.”*
- Farr Vintners

“Although this wine is closed right now, there is clearly much potential. Tannins are fine grained and velvety with layered flavours that will unwind over time. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young.”
- JCL, asianpalate.com
