
Château D'Issan 2016

CSPC# 749550

750mlx12

13.34% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot

Appellation

Margaux

Classification

Grand Cru Classé in 1855

Website

http://www.chateau-issan.com/en/vin_chateau_d_issan.html

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.

Winemaker

Emmanuel Cruse. Consultant Eric Boissenot

Vintage

The Medoc vineyards "enjoyed" continuous rain from 1st January to the beginning of June! The drainage work carried out in 1995 on the Chateau d'Issan estate, makes it possible to regulate the amount of water irrigating each plot. The vines' roots reach down very deep, which makes their water supply regular. The rain stopped in the first week of June and flowering was uniform and abundant.

Lasting sunshine began from 20th June onwards. The whole summer was dry and hot until 13th September, when heaven-sent rain brought much-needed water to the vines. 33 mm of rainfall covered the estate evenly, waking up the vines and kick-starting the ripening process.

The strength of the Château d'Issan estate: 85% of the vines that grow here are more than 25 years old. We noticed no stress from lack of water and the vines' growth cycle was uninterrupted. Thanks to the water reserves contained in the soil that had built up during the first half of the year, the vineyard was ready for harvesting to start with no precipitation. The Indian summer that followed, the reliability of the weather forecasts and the substantial variation between daytime and night temperatures throughout September, peaking at a difference of 20°C, all enabled the grape tannins to ripen slowly step by step.

Harvest

The harvest was very similar to that of 2010, but volumes were higher! In 2016, picking began on 29th September and finished on 19th October. Yields were good, mainly as a result of good weather and short, even flowering. When the fruit was tasted on the vines, from the outset the vintage was recognised to be very promising without the grapes appearing overripe from the summer heat and drought. 2016 is a vintage with outstanding balance.

Vineyards

The 44 hectare vineyard of Chateau d'Issan is planted to 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and 40% Merlot. This represents a shift in the vineyard plantings since the 1990's, as today, there is less Cabernet Sauvignon and more Merlot in the vineyard. This new vineyard size shows a marked increase in the amount of hectares due to a ruling in 2007 by the INAO that allowed Chateau d'Issan to add 10 hectares of vines that were previously classed as Haut-Medoc. Those vines were upgraded and re-classified as part of the Margaux appellation.



Vineyards	<p>The vineyard has a terroir of gravel with clay and limestone soils on gentle, rolling, slopes. The vineyards of Chateau d'Issan are planted to a vine density of 9,000 vines per hectare with vines that are on average 35 years of age. They have old vines as well, some of which are close to 65 years of age.</p> <p>The Cruse family also own 5 hectares of vines close to Margaux in the Haut Medoc appellation as well as in the Bordeaux Supérieur appellation, where they own 10 hectares of vines. The Haut Medoc wines are sold as Chateau de Candale. The vines in Bordeaux Supérieur are used to produce Chateau Moulin d'Issan.</p>
Maturation	The grapes are traditionally vinified, and the wine is then matured in oak casks (50% new) for 18 months. The wine is bottled unfiltered.
Tasting Notes	A special wine that oozes dark cherry and plum fruit with ample structure that makes it ideal for long term aging. Silky and velvety!
Serve with	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.
Cellaring	Drink 2018-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>89-91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>94-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>17+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>89 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>15.5 points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>90-94 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>89-92 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Light pepper and savory hints lead off in this bouncy, juicy version, with bright cassis and bitter cherry fruit forming the core. Shows a light mineral edge on the finish. Score range: 88-91"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it has vibrant black cherries and blackcurrants notes with chocolate mint, beef drippings, black olives and cigar box. Medium-bodied with a well-sustained, intensely flavored mid-palate, it has a rock-solid, grainy frame and long savory finish. 10,500 cases produced."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 D'Issan is a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon and 36% Merlot cropped between 29 September and 19 October and matured in 50% new barrels. The alcohol is 13.3% and with a pH of 3.71. It has a very classic, slightly introverted bouquet with a light marine influence coming through, but remaining very reserved, a little aloof. The palate is medium bodied with crisp tannin and fine delineation; it is very crisp and focused, a classic Margaux through and through with outstanding salinity and persistence towards the precise finish. This is a beautiful D'Issan for long-term ageing, on par with the 2015."</i> - NM, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The brightness and precision already come through on the nose with floral, blackcurrant character. Full-bodied and very tight and creamy with polished tannins that last for minutes. Warm and intense. Needs four to five years to show all it has, yet already a beauty."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is so energetic for a young d'Issan with lots of white pepper, crushed stones and blackberries. Full body, ultra-fine tannins and great length. One of the greatest ever. Superb depth and intensity to this real Bordeaux. Wow."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *“94–96. Barrel Sample. This wine has an austere structure, with firm tannins. The fruit comes through slowly, revealing an attractive black-currant flavor and ample acidity. This will be a very fine wine with time; try after 2029.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Mid crimson. Vigorous nose. Round texture and really rather admirably relaxed. Certainly not sweet. Quite long.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Beautiful violet and lilac-tinted edging to the colour, a promising sign of a vibrant, balanced wine, and it absolutely delivers on the palate. This is so fresh and uplifting, it has fruit intensity balanced with a perfumed elegance. Over 80% of the vines at Issan are at least 20 years old, and many much older, so they coped very well with the dry summer. This is a lovely classic Margaux, sculpted with a core of fine tannins that promise excellent ageing. 64% Cabernet Sauvignon and 36% Merlot. Blending was finished in late January with consultant Eric Boissenot. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “With the structure to age, freshness which offers lift to all the ripe, sweet, red fruits and the added nuanced complexities you find on the nose and the palate, this is a top-flight example of d'Issan. The wine will demand at least a decade in the cellar.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Dark in color with strong floral aromatics that escalate with smoke, espresso, licorice, dark cherry and cassis, this wine is full-bodied, plush, opulent and richly textured with loads of sweet, pure, dark red fruits. From a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon and 36% Merlot, this wine reached 13.24% alcohol with a pH of 3.71. Now aging in 50% new, French oak barrels, it represents 45% of the harvest, which took place from September 29 to October 19.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “This 55-hectare Margaux property is planted with 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot and the wine is aged in 50% new oak. The Cruse family have brought in new investment recently from M Lorenzetti who has also purchased Pedesclaux in Pauillac. Recent vintages have performed very well in blind tastings at Southwold. Medium-deep in colour with blueberry and summer pudding notes on the note. The palate is smoky and peppery with notes of camphor and tobacco to complement pure cherry fruit. Silky fine tannins endure on the finish, carrying the savoury, cool fruit character.”*
- Farr Vintners
- “Fresh red and black fruits the nose is bright the start of the palate has rich fruit ripeness. Supple and fleshy in the middle the fruit is supported by fine tannins integrated and discreet with at the back enough freshness to balance the finish is rich and ripe. 2025-38”*
- Derek Smedley MW
- “The 2016 d'Issan, matured in 50% new oak and bottled at the end of May, was impressive out of barrel, and thankfully, it is the same in bottle. The very well-defined bouquet features blackberry, tobacco, pressed violets and a subtle estuarine tang, almost a marshland scent of salty air. The palate is medium bodied with fine-grained tannin, good focused and just the right amount of salinity. My feeling is that this Margaux will close up for a while, so cellar it for several years if you can. 13.34% alcohol. Drink 2025-2045”*
- NM, Vinous
- “Just as it was from barrel, the 2016 d'Issan is bold and succulent. Dark cherry, iron, smoke, tobacco, leather and dried rose petal all fill out nicely in a supple, easygoing Margaux. The 2016 will benefit from another few years in bottle, although it is nevertheless quite fine, even in the early going. It will be interesting to see how much complexity the 2016 gains in bottle. Today, it is a bit simple, and yet my feeling is that the wine has something more to say. Drink 2024-2041.”*
- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2016 d'Issan is bold, plump and juicy, all qualities that will make it easy to drink and appreciate young. Most of the wine's appeal is up front, as the intensity trails off slightly on the midpalate and finish. There is not a ton of complexity, at least not today, but the elements are all so well balanced that the 2016 makes a strong statement based on its sheer appeal. Dark red/purplish fruit, sweet spice and floral notes add to the wine's forward, fruit-driven personality. Tasted two times.”*
- AG, Vinous

“I loved the 2016 Château d'Issan and this is a certainly a wine to seek out. Made from a blend of 64% Cabernet Sauvignon and 36% Merlot from yields of 55 hectoliters per hectare, aged 18 months in 50% new oak, it has a beautiful perfume of blue fruits (cassis, blueberries, etc.) as well as hints of graphite, subtle oak, and charcoal. Medium to full-bodied, with integrated acidity, a terrific mid-palate, and perfect balance, it needs 4-5 years of bottle age and is going to cruise in good cellars for 20-25 years or more. It's a beautiful, elegant, seamless wine that's very much in the style of the vintage. 94+ points.”
- Jeb Dunnuck
