

Château D'Issan 2019

CSPC# 866084

6000mlx1

13.37% alc./vol.

CSPC# 866182

750mlx12

13.37% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% 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

Consultant Eric Boissenot

Vintage

After a relatively mild, rainy winter, the vines began to flower in the greatest calm and splendid sunshine towards the end of May on the 23rd. Temperatures hit heatwave levels in June from the 24th to the 28th and July from 22nd to 25th, but our vines were not affected, because our soils are made up of surface gravel on top of deep clay.

Temperatures were quite cool with modest sunshine at the beginning of June.

The sun finally became more generous after this. The point when the initial colour-change heralding ripening was noticeable on half the vines' fruit (*mi-véraison*), was reached on 10th August. Intermittent rain added a little vigour to growth. Cool nights contrasted with high daytime temperatures, producing clear-cut tannins and perfect balance.

Harvest

The 2019 d'Issan was picked from 25th September to 11th October. We started the harvest picking our Merlot grapes from 25th September to 2nd October, following up with the Cabernet Sauvignon from 2nd to 11th October. The sunshine that followed each episode of rain ensured that the fruit was in good, disease-free condition right through to the end of the harvest.

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.

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.

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.

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 vintage with charisma. We blended our wines in the middle of January. The 2019 vintage displays perfect balance between its sun-ripened aromas and the texture of its tannins. Harmonious and silky, it fully expresses the features of its historic terroir.
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 2025-2055
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>94-96+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2022</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2020</p> <p>96 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Insidebordeaux.com - January 2022</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 2020</p> <p>92-94 points - Farr Vintners - May 2020</p> <p>95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2022</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>92-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2022</p> <p>93-95+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2020</p> <p>92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>94-95 points - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2020</p> <p>92 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - June 2020</p> <p>95 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021</p> <p>94-95 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"The 2019 D'Issan is showing well from bottle, offering up aromas of sweet berries and plums mingled with violets, orange rind and raw cocoa. Medium to full-bodied, lively, and nicely concentrated, with lively acids, powdery tannins, and a seamless, elegant profile, it's a charming, perfumed wine that will offer a broad drinking window. The blend is dominated by an atypically high proportion (70%) of Cabernet Sauvignon. The heart of Issan is its walled "Clos" to the rear of the picturesque, moated chateau, which is complemented by more recently acquired holdings situated on the same gravel terrace. Drink Date 2025 – 2055."</i> - WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2019 D'Issan soars out of the glass with expressive scents of baked red currants, warm cassis, and black cherry compote with hints of powdered cinnamon, potpourri, Provence herbs and aniseed plus a waft of fallen leaves. The medium-bodied palate is elegantly played with bags of fresh, vibrant black and red berry flavors and a firm line of ripe, grainy tannins, finishing with an invigorating lift."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2019 d'Issan is a little shy at first, revealing suggestions of lilacs, baked plums, and blackcurrant pastilles, followed by hints of Chinese five spice and fragrant earth. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is soft and harmonious with plenty of spicy fruit and a perfumed finish."</i> - LPB, Wine Independent</p> <p><i>"Fresh currants and raspberries pop out of the glass, together with oranges and cedar. Such purity of fruit in the nose. Full-bodied, yet so refined and vertical. It goes deep and long with tight, compressed tannins that are pure and exciting. Really tight and focused. Precise. Try after 2026."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"This is a very pure expression of cabernet sauvignon with blackcurrants, blackberries, and tar. Wet earth, too. It's full-bodied, yet very tight and reserved. Extremely racy, intense finish. This is super precise. Classical."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"A concentrated but graceful feel to this Issan, showcasing why it is one of the powerhouses of Margaux without necessarily flexing its muscles the most obviously. Takes a few moments to unroll on the palate but as it does it expands both forward and outwards, beautifully filling the mid palate with creamy brambly fruits and firm but</i></p>

Reviews *flexible tannins. This inches open, suggesting it has an extremely long life ahead of it, and is close to the 2016 in expression, although not quite with the depth of expression of that exemplary vintage. 50% new oak, 3.7pH. 45% of overall production went into the 1st wine. Harvest from 25th September to 11th October. Drinking Window 2029 – 2045.”*

- JA, Decanter.com

“The bigger, more structured Margaux have closed down over ageing, as is the case here with Issan - less exuberant than during En Primeur, but showing concentration, controlled power and beautiful cassis and bilberry fruits. Skillful and deft weaving together of tannins and fresh acidities to cradle the fruit, with a voluptuous creamy mid palate as it opens. Impressive depths, decades of life ahead. 50% new oak, 45% of overall production. Harvest September 25 to October 11.”

- JA, Inside Bordeaux

“d'Issan has been on a roll lately with 2019 marking another step-up in quality. The wine is full-bodied, silky, fresh, vibrant, pure, and lively. The nose is packed with wet earth, herbs, flowers, tobacco, espresso, and ripe, sweet, red berries. There is serious lift and energy here with a finish that lingers, giving you more time to spend with all of its graceful, lifted, pure, sweet, fresh plums, blackberries, spice and currants. This will age and evolve for at least 2-3 decades.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Gentle aromas of flowers, wet earth, tobacco, espresso, and red fruits permeate the nose. Elegant and refined in character, the wine falls gently over your palate with warm tones of ripe, sweet, fresh plums, blackberries, spice, and freshness, so you discover lift, energy, length, and purity. This will age and evolve for at least 2-3 decades. The wine was produced from a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot. The Grand Vin was produced from only 47% of the harvest.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2019 vintage is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot, with an abv of 13.37%. The wine will be aged in 50% new French oak. The first wine will represent 45% of the total harvest in 2019. The Merlot was harvested between 25th September and 2nd October, with the Cabernet Sauvignon following from 2nd to 11th October. Deep purple in colour with smoky blue fruit on an opulent nose. The palate is oily and rich, with hints of grilled meat underneath damson and dark cherry fruit. Toasty oak will need time to integrate into the fruit, but hints of violet and fresh acidity that build on the finish lift this hedonistic and fleshy wine.”

- Farr Vintners

“The 2019 d'Issan was picked from September 25 to October 11 and matured in 50% new oak. This clearly has more dimension on the nose, offering well-defined blackberry and raspberry fruit; pencil shavings and undergrowth scents emerge with time. The harmonious palate is very well balanced, with pliant tannins, perfectly judged acidity, and an engaging build in the mouth. Yes, this has put on a bit of weight during its time in barrel, and it should give 30 to 40 years of drinking pleasure. Excellent. Drink 2025-2055.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2019 d'Issan has an intense bouquet with blackberry, raspberry, pencil lead and wilted iris scents that unfold gradually from the glass. The oak seems nicely integrated here. The palate is medium-bodied with juicy ripe tannins that provide quite a firm backbone. Mainly black fruit with hints of white pepper, sage, and graphite, this is a tightly-wound d'Issan with impressive persistence on the classic pencil lead finish. Maybe a bit old school? There's nothing wrong with that if it is well crafted, like this. Tasted twice, one bottle showing a little more cohesion than the first.”

- NM, Vinous

“A gorgeous, inviting Margaux, the 2019 d'Issan is ample and resonant in feel, with striking depth and tons of character. Inly blue/purplish fruit, mint, lavender, and spice are beautifully woven together. Deceptive at first, the 2019 fleshes out nicely as it gains intensity through to the persistent, taut finish. There is so much to like about this very fine d'Issan. Tasted two times.”

- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“Pure cassis, graphite, violets, damp earth, and chocolate notes all emerge from the 2019 Château D'Issan, a richer, medium to full-bodied, powerful Margaux. It develops a gorgeous sense of minerality with time in the glass, has plenty of mid-palate oomph, integrated oak, and just terrific overall balance. It's a stunning success in the vintage in Margaux, which was one of the more challenging in the vintage. This will round into form with just 4-5 years of bottle age and cruise for two decades or more. Bravo.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck

“The flagship 2019 Château D'Issan offers more elegance and purity, with terrific cassis, black cherry and blueberry fruits supported by lots of violet, chocolate, and gravelly minerality. Balanced and medium to full-bodied, it has a solid spice of acidity as well as the lush, sexy, seamless style of the vintage. It's straight-up classy juice that's going to have a broad drink window.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Dark ruby garnet, violet reflections, subtle lightening of the edges. Blackberry confit underlaid with delicate tobacco and herbs, hints of cherries, candied orange zest. Medium complexity, subtle cherry fruit, integrated tannins, mineral finish, fresh, an uncomplicated accompaniment to food.”
- Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is elegant, racy and offers power (in control) and a small concentration (in control). It reveals notes of ripe cassis, cornflower, ripe Boysen berry, small notes of wild strawberry associated with small touches of cornflower, juicy/pulpy violet plum, small, crushed fruits as well as fine hints of camphor, toasted, tonka bean, a very discreet hint of grilled hazelnut and an imperceptible hint of black tea. The palate is fruity, juicy, well-balanced and offers a fine acidulous frame, tension, finesse as well as elegance, a very fine richness/concentration, a good definition of the fruit, freshness, and suavity. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy cassis, juicy blackberry, small notes of violet associated with small touches of bright cherry, crushed raspberry, racy minerality as well as fine hints of toasted, chocolate, a hint of toasted hazelnut, lily, and black tea. Good length. Tannins are elegant and racy.”
- Vert de Vin
