

Château Durfort Vivens 2008

CSPC# 721262

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 3% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Margaux
General Info	Château DURFORT-VIVENS owes its name to the Durfort de Duras, a powerful family in the South-West of France that came to Margaux in the fourteenth century. In 1824, the Viscount of Vivens' name was added to that of Durfort. The estate was at the height of its fame: the 1844 vintage sold for more than any of the other Second Crus in the Margaux appellation. The quality of the Durfort wine began to be appreciated at the end of the eighteenth century. Thomas Jefferson, the American ambassador in France and future president, was a wine connoisseur and ranked it directly after Lafite, Latour and Margaux in his fascinating travel diaries. The 1855 classification confirmed his opinion, ranking the wine as a Second Cru Classé. In 1937 the estate was bought by the company owning Château Margaux, whose main shareholder at that time was the Lurton family. In 1961 Lucien Lurton, a great lover and protector of wine-producing terroirs, acquired and restored this exceptional vineyard. In 1992, his son Gonzague inherited the property. He modernized its operation with a view to developing the terroir's unique qualities.
Vintage	In terms of weather conditions, 2008 was notable for the slightly cooler than usual summer. However, the vines benefited from a dry, sunny late summer period, with very mild daytime temperatures and very cold nights. This Indian summer enabled an extended ripening phase with the grapes remaining in excellent health, botrytis being prevented by the low night-time temperatures and dry conditions. The grapes were thus able to reach optimum ripeness and, when harvested, were concentrated and rich in flavour, with a fairly high level of acidity, suggesting a classic vintage that will improve with age over many years.
Soil	Deep gravel from the Quaternary period (Günz and Mindel), with a sand/clay matrix
Vineyards	The Durfort-Vivens vineyards comprise 32 hectares in all. Planting density is 6666 vines/ha, and Cabernet Sauvignon dominates, accounting for 70% of the vineyard, in keeping with that at other properties in Margaux. The remainder is 20% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, and yields are typically 45 hl/ha.
Harvest	Merlot: 26 September to 6 October; Cabernet Franc: 6 October Cabernet Sauvignon: 6 To 17 October
Vinification/ Maturation	Harvest is by hand, and the subsequent vinification is temperature controlled, as mentioned above, utilising a mixture of vat materials, including cement, wood and stainless steel. Gonzague Lurton has a direct hand in the winemaking, along with oenologists Yves Glories and Jacques Boissenot. Wine is matured an average of eighteen months in Bordeaux type barrels made from fine grain oak from the forests of central France. 45 to 50 % of the barrels are renewed every year
Tasting Notes	The 2008 offers superb classical style, a pure expression of what one can expect of a great Margaux in a year in which the great terroirs and the expertise of the wine makers can really shine. The bouquet is fresh and intense, with notes of liquorice, blackcurrant and violet, complemented by hints of spices (pepper, vanilla) and minerals that provide extra substance. In the mouth, the 2008 expresses its noble character, with a powerful yet elegant texture. Its minerality and distinguished character reflect the grandeur of the terroir. The finish is very long and powerful, while at the same time remaining elegant and smooth. This is an aristocratic wine that can be laid down for many years.
Production	12,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2014 – 2020.
Scores/Awards	88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2011 86-89 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2009



Scores/Awards **89 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2011
89-91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 31, 2009
16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - November 11, 2010
15.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 4, 2009
14.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2012
15.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2010
16.5-17.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2009

Reviews *"This has solid flesh, with tasty, aromatic plum, red cherry and floral notes framed with a roasted vanilla edge. The stylish finish is a touch shy on concentration, but has length. Drink now through 2014. 12,00 cases."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Floral and berry aromas follow through to a medium body, with round tannins and a blackberry and currant bush finish. Score range: 86-89"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"This wine is on the austere, lean side, with firm tannins and fruit that is still only just showing and therefore lacking depth of flavor. The finish has attractive red berry fruits."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"89-91 Barrel sample. Full in the mouth, with its juicy fruits, this is an immediately attractive wine, with red berries giving a great waft of freshness. The tannins are restrained, finally fresh."
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"Smudgy crimson. Distinctive, slightly minty/eucalyptus nose. Almost New World in style and richer than many in this line up with a fine tang on the palate. Fine-grained, compact, balanced and more flesh than many of the Margaux 2008s tasted today. Drink 2014-2022."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Curious nose with some sweetness and some greenness à la chilienne! Rather awkward and ungainly at the moment. Lots of acidity and some slightly rough, green tannins. Could come right eventually. Drink 2014-20."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Rather a baldly stated fruit character on the nose, with not much in the way of softness or suggestion. The palate brings some good character, along with spice and a touch of weight through the middle. With this the structure shows through though, with a very firm grip coming in through the midpalate, and it seems rather overdone for the lighter, perfumed style of fruit. There is some nice character here, although the light texture and spicy grip together feel a little incongruous. Not living up to its en primeur promises sadly."
- CK, The Wine Doctor

"An attractive perfume on the nose here, all violets and gravel, crunchy and fresh. The palate is soft and lacking in vigour although underneath the lean and slightly oily substance there is a strong seam of grippy tannins, and there is good acidity also. If this comes together nicely on the palate this may make for an appealing bottle of wine as the aromatic profile is really quite attractive & very typical of old-school Margaux."
- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Rather brighter fruit on the nose than some, with a pure and dense cherry fruit.... with just a hint of animal. Purity returns on the palate, with a plum skin and cherry stone character, and a minerally, polished, elegant midpalate. Persistent, ripe, attractive, with a little length. One of the better wines for sure."
- CK, The Wine Doctor
