

Chateau Du Tertre 2005

CSPC# 758852

750mlx12

13.0% Alc./Vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
General Info

34% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon and 32% Cabernet Franc
Margaux

5th growth classified in 1855. Château du Tertre's history goes all the way back to the 17th century. Whilst the old Médoc Seigneuries were in the hands of the Bordeaux nobility and became top wine estates, Du Tertre left the Arzac Seigneury and in 1724 was purchased by Pierre Mitchell, an Irishman, who was the leading bottle manufacturer of the Bordeaux region. During the course of the 19th century, under the control of ingenious owners such as Henry de Vallande or Baron Henri de Koenigswater, the wines of the estate gained world renown, culminating in their inclusion in the 1855 Médoc classification. Down a path, just past the village church, the remarkable outlines of Tertre's gravel outcrops come into full view. These were described by 19th century writers as « the lovely Tertre (hill) of Arzac ». The Margaux soils reach their highest point here, and it is one of the highest gravel outcrops of the Médoc area. Today, Château du Tertre is indebted to the Albada Jelgersma family for having rediscovered its aristocratic pedigree. Since 1997, Château du Tertre's destiny has been in the hands of Eric Albada Jelgersma, a Dutch businessman, who has long been a keen francophile, a great art lover and a passionate admirer of the Médoc. Eager to get the very best out of his outstanding soils, which are exceptionally homogeneous and recognised as having some of the highest potential in the Margaux appellation, Eric Albada Jelgersma now sees his team rewarded for their efforts. Though having modernised the estate, Eric Albada Jelgersma has managed to maintain traditional methods while taking advantage of the latest innovations, making the wines of Château du Tertre superbly powerful and elegant with excellent ageing potential.

Vintage

Consisting of 34% Merlot, 34% Cabernet Sauvignon and 32% Cabernet Franc, this is one of the property's greatest vintages that promises to continue for another 25 to 30 years.

Vineyards

The du Tertre vineyards are remarkable for being in a single, coherent block adjacent to the *château*, covering 52 hectares of the aforementioned plateau in Arzac. This is a gravelly, pebbly mound typical of the region, planted with 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. The vines average about 35 years of age, with many dating from the 1950s and 1960s, the average age brought down by the planting of 4 hectares of Cabernet Sauvignon and a little Merlot in 1999. With the arrival of Jelgersma, however, there was a new attention to detail in the vineyard, with better training and care of the vines, and a green harvest, all destined to improve quality.

Harvest
Maturation

Entirely manual.

The harvested fruit is fermented in traditional wooden vats stretching up to the first floor, with temperature control, and a maceration of up to three weeks. As well as the in-house team Jelgersma has engaged the services of local oenologist Jacques Boissenot in ratcheting up the quality. The wine spends up to eighteen months in oak (45% new wood from central France), with racking every three months and an egg white fining at the end. Throughout the process, from harvest to barrel, the wine is transferred by gravity feed rather than mechanical pumping. Clearly, with such care and modernisation in vineyard and cellar, the direction in which Jelgersma is taking du Tertre is up.



Tasting Notes The colour presents intense glints of bright red and has not significantly evolved. The nose is powerful, expressive and intense. It offers notes of mocha and cocoa, and also very complex aromas of young wine and fresh ripe fruit. The wood is well integrated and does not overpower the fruit, which develops powerful, characterful notes of cooked plums, candied strawberries and cherry brandy. The nose presents a very pure expression, of unusual intensity. The palate is extremely sleek and voluptuous. Notes of wild strawberries, cooked strawberries and fresh cherries blend harmoniously. There is a perfect, intense balance. The structure is complex, dominated by a sensation of full-bodiedness and very ripe fruit. Overall, this is a voluptuous, very long wine that has yet to reach its peak.

Production 15,830 cases made

Cellaring Drink after 2009

Scores/Awards **88 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2008
85-88 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2006
90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #176 - April 2008
91-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007
91-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006
90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012
90+ points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2009
90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2006
87-89 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2007
15.5 points - Jancis Robinson - February 2009
17 points - Jancis Robinson, BDXV Luxury Wine Company - April 2006
17+ points - Chris Kissak, Wine Doctor - October 2007
16.5-17.5 points - Chris Kissak, Wine Doctor - April 2006
87 points - Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar - May/June 2007
16 points - Berry & Rudd Wine Merchants UK
17 points - Berry & Rudd Wine Merchants UK - April 2006
90 points - Connoisseur's Guide to California Wine
3 stars/15.5 points - Decanter – April 2006
3 stars/15.5 points - Decanter – June 2006
Bronze Medal - Decanter World Wine Awards – September 2008

Reviews *"Aromatic, with floral, berry and cherry character. Medium-bodied, with coffee bean, lightly toasted oak and currant, berry aftertaste. Little austere. Needs time. Better than previously reviewed. Best after 2009. 15,830 cases made."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Good berry fruit, with delicate tannins and a fresh finish. Pleasing. Score range: 85-88"

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Even in the highly acclaimed 2005 vintage, Du Tertre remains under most consumer's radar. Made by essentially the same winemaking team as Giscours, this cuvee exhibits a dense purple color, followed by earthy, truffle, smoky blackberry, floral, and cassis aromas. It is a beautifully pure, medium to full-bodied wine with abundant but sweet tannin, fine opulence, a multilayered texture, and a long finish that is neither aggressive nor astringent. Cellar it for another 3-4 years, and consume it over the following 20-25."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"A beautiful Margaux made in a flashy, flamboyant style, Du Tertre will repay earlier drinking than many of the big 2005 Medocs. It exhibits a dark saturated purple color, beautiful aromas of licorice-infused blackberries and black currants, sweet truffles, incense, and barbecue spices, an expansive, savory, medium to full-bodied personality with tremendous opulence as well as sweetness, and a heady, fleshy finish. This hedonist 2005 should be at its finest between 2010-2025."

- RP, Wine Advocate

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- Reviews** “A terrific, fruit-forward Margaux offering wonderful smoky, melted licorice, chocolate, espresso, creme de cassis, and wild mountain berry notes, the 2005 Du Tertre possesses a dense purple color, medium to full body, superb purity, a sweet, expansive texture, and surprisingly silky, but lofty tannins. This brilliant wine should be at its best between 2008-2020.”
- RP, Wine Advocate
- “Tasted at BBR’s 2005/2009 tasting in London. The 2005 du Tertre has a very lifted bouquet with floral red fruits, crushed rose petals, fresh strawberry with a generous dash of vanillary new oak that still needs to be subsumed. The palate is medium-bodied with a light entry and it never really builds, just lacking some weight on the middle but there is good persistency and depth towards the linear wild strawberry and cherry finish. Tasted July 2011.”
- NM, Wine Journal
- “Tasted single blind at Southwold. This du Tertre ’05 did not show so well in this intensive blind tasting but returning before we poured the glasses away, it had certainly improved. It has a very ripe nose, baked black cherries, cassis very pure. Nice definition – very polished. The palate is sweet and just a little confectioned, with supple rounded fruit and notes of blackberry, iodine, a touch of sous-bois. Very linear towards the finish – this needs time. Drink 2014-2020+ Tasted January 2009.”
- NM, Wine Journal
- “Another very modern style Margaux. The nose displays a little jamminess and a lack of definition, but the palate is well-balanced, quite spicy with layers of ripe black fruits. Quite thick chewy tannins, very unresolved at the moment but it should meld together in barrel. Not a wine for those seeking "classic" Margaux, but well-crafter all the same. Tasted April 2006.”
- NM, Wine Journal
- “87-89 Barrel sample. Rich, open fruit that is almost red rather than black characterizes this wine. It has new wood spice and relative softness, despite intense acidity, that implies a quick development..”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Concentrated, colour and extraction, quite meaty and a bit four-square at the moment, fine depth of fruit, but lacks some fragrance and freshness. Drink 2009-18.”
- Decanter
- “Concentrated colour and extraction, fine depth of fruit, but lacks some freshness. Drink 2009-18.”
- Decanter
- “Good, ripe nose. Good weight of fruit. Ripe. Well integrated top quality oak. Tannins are fine and long.”
Decanter
- “Very intense colour and nose – even rather porty. A little green note. Round and full and sweet and a real charmer. The tannins are neat. The acidity is sufficient. This is not classic dry Margaux – it is a voluptuous, non-classic version – but succeeds within its own rather sweet frame of reference and should wow those who drink it.”
- Jancis Robinson
- “Quite strongly Cabernet on the nose, lightly soupy and lacking a little fresh oak dryness on the finish. Not a particularly impressive bottle.”
- Jancis Robinson
- “This has a beautiful nose, with rather open, dense, cherry fruit accompanied by a little toffee oak and also a slightly feral character which resembles that found in the Giscours a little. A cool style on the palate, pure and aromatic, with raspberry fruit swirled with a touch of cream and vanilla. This has very attractive character, and finishes very well indeed. There is very good potential here. From my tasting of 2005 Bordeaux at two years of age. 17+/20 (October 2007)”
- CK, Wine Doctor

Reviews *"CS 40%, M 30%, CF 25%, PV 5%. A good, dense colour. Wood-spice nose, with blackberry crumble fruit and some unresolved oak at present. Finely balanced on the palate, but showing a sweet, creamy, plump texture. A fine presence of supple tannins underpins the palate, which is rounded out with a sweet caramel finish. A rich style, acidity correct, just peeking out from beneath the fruit. Exuberant but fresh and well poised. Nice length. Very good indeed. From my 2005 Bordeaux en primeur tasting. 16.5-17.5/20 (April 2006)"*
- CK, Wine Doctor

"(34% cabernet sauvignon, 34% merlot, and 32% cabernet franc; 29.8 g/l dry extract; 13.4% alcohol): Bright red with a hint of garnet at the rim. Very fruity, almost Burgundian nose offers aromas of red cherry, fresh blackcurrant, mocha, smoke and Oriental spices. Enters the mouth soft, fruity and suave, with creamy flavors similar to the aromas and a gentle tactile mouthfeel. Finishes soft and very smooth, coming across as surprisingly forward for the vintage and already delicious to drink. Made from one-third each of the three main Médoc varieties, an unusual event for a Left Bank claret. But as good as this is, I expected a bit more concentration in a wine from the '05 vintage: a trace of dilution due to overly generous yields, perhaps?"
- ST, International Wine Cellar

"This property has been the subject to the same kind of investment as Chateau Giscours, as they are both owned by the Albada Jelgersma family. Gravity-fed winemaking is the key here, with everything treated as gently as possible, and the quality in recent years has improved beyond recognition from its difficult years in the early 1990s. This was rich and warm, very well structured with good finesse and evident fruit. Seriously worth buying. Proof again of the value of the 2004 vintage."
JA, New Bordeaux

"Made from 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot, the Cabernet Franc was particularly good this year – and very ripe – hence the unusually large percentage in the blend. An intense, exotic almost Port-like nose leads on to a palate with rich fruitcake flavours, sweet, concentrated raspberries and cream and hints of chocolate. The finish is sexy, rounded and mouth watering and made in a way that you don't want to end. There is 15% less of the 2005 than the 2004, with the yield down to a mean 42hl/ha, and for the likely price, this is a must."
- Berry & Rudd

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