
Chateau Du Tertre 2006

CSPC# 758853

750mlx12

13.0% Alc./Vol.

Grape Variety

40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Cabernet Franc, 26% Merlot

Appellation

Margaux

General Info

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.

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

Entirely manual.

Maturation

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 15-18 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 is deep clear garnet red. The nose reveals delicate notes of chocolate, dried fruit and coffee. The lightly toasted wood is subtle and very well integrated. On the palate the wine is solid and powerful, still very young and only just beginning to evolve, with a massive structure and very tight, ripe tannins. This is an intense wine that offers length rather than roundness. Overall, it is sleek and very voluptuous with notes of ripe and stewed fruit, red currants, cooked plums, black cherries, Morello cherries, and a long, flavourful finish. The tannins are fine but still noticeable. They accompany the fruit and body of the wine for several long minutes.

Tasting Notes The blend consists of 26% Merlot, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon and 34% Cabernet Franc, matured in 45% new oak barrels from central France. Ranked among the property's greatest vintages, this wine has the potential to age for at least 30 years.

Cellaring Drink after 2009

Scores/Awards

- 82 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2009
- 85-88 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2007
- 86 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #181 - February 2009
- 85 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2010
- 85-87 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2007
- 93 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2009
- 91-93 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 31, 2009
- 16 points** - Jancis Robinson - January 2010
- 17 points** - Jancis Robinson - June 2007
- 15.5-16+ points** - Chris Kissak, Wine Doctor - November 2008
- 87 points** - Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar - May/Jun 2007
- 87 points** - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2008
- 16 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
- 15.33 points** - Decanter.com - February 2010
- 3 stars** - Decanter.com - April 2007
- Bronze Medal** - Decanter World Wine Awards – 2009
- 90 points** - Alan Duran, Periodic Review - March 2009
- 16 points** - Matthew Tipping, Berry & Rudd Wine Merchants UK - October 2008
- 16 points** - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine Merchants UK - June 2007
- Best Winter Reds Under £25** - Jane MacQuitty, The Times - November 2009
- 15-16 points** - La Revue du Vin France - June 2007 (score only)

Reviews *"Offers berries, with dried herbs. Medium- to light-bodied and simple. Diluted. Best from 2011 through 2015."*
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Some berry fruit, with fine tannins and a medium finish. A little diluted on the midpalate. Score range: 85-88."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Herbaceous, sweet, cedary notes intermixed with black currant and barrique smells as well as some autumnal, foresty notes are followed by a medium-bodied wine that tails off in the mouth and finishes with some aggressive tannins."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted blind at Southwold '06 Bordeaux tasting. There is a touch of under-ripeness on the nose here; blackberry, wild hedgerow and a touch of bay leaf, with more gamey scents developing with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied, masculine, tobacco-laced black fruits with a rather drying finish. Tasted January 2010."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the UGC. A deep purple hue. A very sweet vivacious nose with the new oak dominating a little too much for me. Lots of cassis and blueberries. The palate is understated on the entry but build quickly to a full-bodied, ripe middle that lacks a little definition and poise. Tannic finish, this du Tertre is lacking a little subtlety for me. Tasted April 2007."
- NM, Wine Journal

"A beautifully crafted wine that has both richness and sweetness. It brings together the fresh character of 2006 with more powerful elements, such as new wood and spice, enveloped plushly with ripe fruit. The tannins have a dark element, but fit well with the sweet fruit. All in all, a delicious wine that also has aging potential."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *"91—93 Barrel sample. A balanced, structured wine which brings its structure into play with the rich, but fresh fruit. The wine has good acidity, as well as some tense tannins"*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Spicy, earthy, stewed fruits, damson. Spiced, damsons, plum, medium acidity, medium tannins, medium length. Drink from 2009. (15.33 points)."

- Decanter

"Good Colour, quite ripe, plummy fruits with some complexity, nice blackcurrant fragrance on the palate, quite forward, seductively fruity wine. 2010-18"

- Decanter

"Blackish ruby with a clear rim. Bitter tarry nose, then some juicy black fruit. Not very Margaux but delivers some satisfying fruit. Clean and reasonably fresh. Rather raw with a note of cumin. A bit forced. Drink 2013-2020"

- Jancis Robinson

"Mid crimson; pale rim. Concentrated fruit but with a green undertow on the nose. Then lovely plump ripe fruit on the palate – almost opulent! And the tannins are extremely skilfully managed. Almost like cracking open a soft berry in the mouth. Some genius made this wine. Quite exceptional texture and not shortage of fruit. There's certainly acidity, maybe a slightly lack of tannin in fact (don't I always complain?) How on earth did that come about? Heavy fining before this sample was presented???"

- Jancis Robinson

"Another Margaux with plenty of character on the nose, which shows some dense fruit and savoury oak. Supple, fleshy, soft, perhaps rather diffuse, although with a lot of substance too. Appealing texture, and flavours of spiced fruit. Good acids, although not the most vigorous of wines, but it holds together fairly well. But I certainly prefer the Giscours."

- CK, Wine Doctor

"(a blend of 50% cabernet sauvignon, 30% merlot and 20% cabernet franc) Full red-ruby. Aromas of dark berries, licorice and bitter chocolate, with hints of herbs and mint. Sweet on entry, then primary in the middle, even a bit inky and unformed. But this boasts a surprisingly pliant texture and finishes with rather soft, dusty tannins. Will elegeance bring more grip?"

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"My rating has decreased since tasting it as future. Showing a medium to good color intensity with a fruity and slightly mint nose. Tender, fruity, and tasty on the palate, this wine is very enjoyable. It is a wine of grace, yet that is lacking depth. Drink young or before 2020."

- J-MQ

"From one of the real up-and-coming estates in Bordeaux, Du Tertre's 2006 is a lovely silky wine. Gently perfumed, with bright yet creamy red fruit and a very elegant palate, the tannins here are so supple that you might almost think you were drinking Burgundy rather than Bordeaux. It is as feminine as ever with a lovely explosion of fruit on the palate. It has a generosity and attractiveness that is not frequently found in 2006. This will make delicious and extremely sophisticated drinking.."

- SS, Berry & Rudd

"Ch. du Tertre always offers good value for money and the 2006 vintage is no exception. It has a lovely expressive nose with sweet red fruits combining with violet notes. The palate has structured, yet very fine grained tannins, and pure, crunchy red fruit flavours."

- MT, Berry & Rudd

Reviews *“Fifth growth Margaux, Château du Tertre, has for the past decade been part of the Dutch-owned Château Giscours empire, complete with a state-of-the-art winery and chic dove-grey designer interior. Looking the part counts for naught if wine quality has lagged behind, and it has, but anyone celebrating Christmas with this elegant, cabernet franc-fragrant, beefy, green peppercorn-studded claret will have a lovely time.”*
- JM, The Times

“A big bargain when compared to other classified estates. The solid, deep plum-hued du Tertre delivers on sweet mushroom, and white flowery notes intermixed with berry and smoke. A wine of wonderful flavor, accessibility, copious sweet cherry, mulberry fruit, and a medium to full-body. There is admirable intensity and focus in this 2006! The good news for followers is that the wine will age well for the next 10614 years without interruption.”
- AD, Periodic Review
