
Chateau Du Tertre 2012

CSPC# 744968

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 7% Petit Verdot, 27% Merlot
Appellation	Margaux
Classification	Fifth Growth. Cinquieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	http://chateaudutertre.fr/en/
General Info	<p>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 Arsac 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 Bongwater, 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 Arsac ». 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 recognized 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.</p>
Vintage	<p>In 2012, Spring was particular difficult, and the weather became favorable from mid-July. Indeed, the winter was very cold and dry, with a significant rainfall deficit. The Merlots sagged and their yields were low. The control of fungal diseases was possible thanks to the prophylaxis and healthy vines. Finally, the favorable temperatures in July helped to recover the delays. And the rains of September drove to the evolution of the skin and accelerated the ripening. The distribution of the bunches on the plant (low yields) and the sane status of the vineyard, added to a rigorous sorting of the berries were capital to optimize the quality of this difficult vintage.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The du Tertre vineyards are remarkable for being in a single, coherent block adjacent to the <i>château</i>, covering 52 hectares of the aforementioned plateau in Arsac. 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.</p>
Harvest	Entirely manual.
Vinification	<p>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, and 55% 1-year old barrels), with racking every three months and an egg white fining at the end. Throughout the process, from harvest to</p>

Maturation	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	It is of great sweetness and flavour. Silky and freshness are combined in this flask to bring you the elegance expected of a great Margaux wine. The aging potential of this great wine is between 8 and 20 years or even more for the most exceptional vintages.
Production	10,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2015-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator – March 31, 2015</p> <p>89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013</p> <p>91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015</p> <p>88-90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013</p> <p>85-87 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013</p> <p>90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013</p> <p>91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 12, 2013</p> <p>88-91 points - Stephen Tanzer, International Wine Cellar - April 2013</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson - June 2013</p> <p>16.75 points - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013</p> <p>89-90 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013</p> <p>91 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)</p> <p>98 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 11, 2015</p> <p>88-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 25, 2013</p> <p>90-91 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013</p> <p>15 points - Farr Vintner - March 2013</p> <p>89-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - May 2013</p> <p>16 points - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine Merchants UK - April 2013</p> <p>90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013</p> <p>89-91 points - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 24, 2013 (score only)</p> <p>16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>87-89 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2013 (score only)</p> <p>15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>16 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“Roasted alder and bay notes gently line the core of crushed plum and red currant preserves, reemerging on the finish while picking up a sanguine hint. Drink now through 2019. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 10,000 cases made.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“Fresh, with punch to the red currant and damson plum fruit, backed by a sleek, modestly toasted finish. A touch shy on depth overall, but well-rendered. Score range: 89-92 “</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“This 125-acre vineyard is beautifully situated in the southern sector of the appellation of Margaux. Dense ruby/purple, with sweet cassis fruit, Du Tertre’s 2012 has a perfumed, elegant, lush, velvety-textured mouthfeel and impressive purity and depth. Drink it over the next 15-20 years.”</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Owned by the proprietors of Giscours, the 2012 Du Tertre is marginally richer and more textured than that cuvee. It exhibits a deep ruby/purple color as well as notes of licorice, charcoal, red and black currants, forest floor and background oak. Medium-bodied, well-made and pure with soft tannins and low acidity, it can be drunk over the next 10-12 years.</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"Tasted from a barrel sample at en primeur. A blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 11% Cabernet Franc, 7% Petit Verdot and 27% Merlot, picked from 1 until 18 October, the du Tertre has a light redcurrant and dark cherry bouquet that is fresh but perhaps missing the complexity of recent vintages. The palate is medium bodied with a crisp, citric opening, edgy tannins and a slightly enervated finish. This will hopefully flesh out a little more during barrel maturation, but I suspect this will be for early drinking only. Tasted twice with consistent notes. Tasted April 2013."

- NM, Wine Journal

"91-93. Barrel sample. This is a dense, complex wine that's full of dark tannins piled atop ripe black-plum fruits. The wine has richness as well as lively acidity"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Dark, bright ruby. Sexy, very fresh aromas of blueberry, raspberry, red licorice and sweet spices are accented by a penetratingly pure violet top note. Quite bracing and fresh on the palate, with lovely ripe, harmonious acidity lifting and extending the wonderfully pure red cherry and blackcurrant flavors through a long, penetrating finish. This is a superb effort by Du Tertre; I actually like it more than Giscours, its sister property. If the élevage isn't botched, this will go down as a memorable wine, especially in the context of the vintage."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Good, slightly briary/earthy fruit, quite rich and supple, firm tannins already blending in."

- Decanter

"Crimson at the rim. Smells of blackcurrant gums. Slightly loose and slack – without real tension. Cool and well behaved but not exactly dramatic or attention-grabbing."

- Jancis Robinson

"This is one of my favorites here. Great levels of extraction, bitter chocolate, clearly trying to go somewhere and say something. Slightly lacking in the approachability of the best 2012s, this is making a statement of flash black fruits, emphasizing that bitter chocolate, it rights itself. A little aggressive, unusual for this estate. 89-90 / 16.75-17. Recommended to Highly recommended. Drink 2019-2030."

- JA, The New Bordeaux

"Fresh, medium bodied lively, crisp fruits, flowers and spice are found in this soft wine."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"From a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot and 11% Petit Verdot, the wine reached 13% alcohol and will be aged in 45% new French oak for close to 16 months. Ruby in color, this medium-bodied wine opens with tobacco, licorice, flowers and cherry notes. Soft and easygoing, the fresh, elegant, red berry-dominated, spicy wine should drink well close to release. 88-91 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and healthy looking; vibrant edge; fresh, stalky Cabernet; some black cherry [Angludet-like]; layers beneath; fresh Cab on the palate but with some weight behind; works very well; elegant yet more-ish. Very nicely handled and balanced. 90-91+ Tasted UGC Thursday April 11, 2013 [Earlier note] Mid depth, vibrant edge; very cool and fresh; with delicacy, perfume and life; very balanced palate and nicely harmonious. Very good effort and classical Margaux. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc and 7% Petit Verdot. 90-91+ Tasted UGC Tuesday April 9, 2013. Drink 2018-2030"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"This Margaux classed growth is from the same owner and wine making team as Chateau Giscours. Soft and supple with fleshy ripe tannins complimenting the cherry fruit. Charming and typically Margaux. Forward and attractive."

- Farr Vintners

Reviews *"The fruit on the nose feels ripe very black fruit in character. Cassis is backed by black cherry all underpinned by a touch of liquorice and dark chocolate. The tannins feel ripe the back palate quite sweet with lots of cassis on the long finish. 2020-30"*

- Derek Smedley MW

"Rich, ripe, fresh red fruits abound in this utter gem of a wine and it is the lively and expressive Cabernet Franc that gives Ch. du Tertre its charm. I've just finished a case of my 2001 and am tucking into my 2002, which is drinking so well now. 2012 will be better than these two delightful vintages and hints are that it will be exceptional value this year too. I wouldn't bother with Magnums or other larger formats, just add a few cases of bottles to be enjoyed in 3 or 4 years. Scrumptious!"

- SS, Berry & Rudd

"Very pretty, attractive Margaux with lovely aromatics and good concentration on the palate. Supple tannin texture with freshness makes this an elegant, focused wine with lovely detail. Very good wine given the vintage conditions. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Drink. (26-Mar-2014)"

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"Nose of ripe fruits with a warm touch. Pleasant fruit and supple, lightweight stuffing on the palate. A Margaux in a drink-young style. (16-Apr-2013)"

- en.gilbertgaillard.com
