

Château Giscours 2000

CSPC# 758855

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot

Appellation

Margaux

General Info

The first written reference to the domain of Giscours, a deed confirming the sale of the Estate for 1,000 Pounds, dates from 1330 and refers to a fortified keep. Records of Giscours' vineyards go back to 1552. Giscours early reputation for fine wine became increasingly apparent as time went on. A century later, Giscours charmed the palate of the "Roi Soleil" Louis the 14th, who is said to have had a particular inclination for the wine. Subsequent owners came and went. The most noteworthy was the Count de Pescatore, a leading Parisian banker. In 1847, he laid the cornerstone of the remarkable chateau that still exists today. It was built in order to receive Empress Eugénie in the Renaissance style to which she was accustomed. 1855 was another landmark year, in which the wine of Château Giscours was officially recognised as a 3rd growth Margaux. Then, the domain had a number of other owners and the estate was purchased by Nicolas Tari after the Second World War. He undertook a modernisation programme. In 1995, the Société Anonyme d'Exploitation was acquired by Eric Albada Jelgersma. He immediately began investing in vineyard and cellar renovation. He also put together a new winemaking team in the spirit of generations of winegrowers who made this Estate the famous great growth it is today.

Vineyards

The vineyards at Giscours are spread over four gravel outcrops in Margaux, with a poor quality, slightly sandy, pebbly soil. The estate nears 400 hectares in size, of which 85 hectares are designated vineyards, although at present there are just over 80 hectares planted up. The vines are planted at up to 10 000 vines/ha, a high-density arrangement, and include a significant number of old vines; 25% are over 40 years of age. They are predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon (60%) and Merlot (32%), the remainder Cabernet Franc (5%) and Petit Verdot (3%).

Maturation

Traditional fermentation / the wine is left on the skins for a long time at a relatively high temperature. The wine is put into barrel after the malolactic fermentation. Traditional ageing in new oak barrels (50 %) for 16 months

Tasting Notes

This wine has a beautiful intense ruby colour with reddish orange glints. The nose reveals a delightful blend of complex aromas of candied fruit, leather and violets. In the mouth, this intense bouquet translates into silky tannins that develop a pleasing fullness on the palate. The overall impression is of a purity that is not lacking in complexity. Excellent long finish. A great Margaux that should evolve magnificently. Ageing potential: 20 years or more

Production

20,830 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2010-2025

Scores/Awards

- 93 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003
- 92-94 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001
- 92 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003
- 91-94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 2002
- 90-93 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 2001
- 95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2010
- 93-95 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2004
- 92 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2003
- 92 points** - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - January 2012
- 17.5 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - March 2010
- 93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 31, 2012
- 93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 5, 2012
- 92 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 3, 2011
- 91 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 18, 2004



Scores/Awards **94 points** - Jamie Goode, wineanorak.com - November 2011

92 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010 (no review)

2 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins 2004

Reviews

"Very dark and concentrated, with intense aromas of tobacco, coffee and blackberries. Full-bodied, with big, velvety tannins and a long finish of licorice, berry and currants. Giscours is doing something special. Best ever from here. Best after 2010. 27,500 cases made."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"This shows lots of ripe Cabernet character, with crushed raspberry and currant, hints of plums. Full-bodied, with a thick, chewy texture and a long, berry and toasted oak finish. Best Giscours in years. Score range: 92-94."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"Probably the finest Giscours made since the 1975, this black/purple-colored 2000 offers up terrific notes of camphor, creosote, blackberry, and cassis jam intermixed with notions of smoke and earth. Spicy, with low acidity, a big, rich, fleshy, full-bodied palate, outstanding texture, and a long, pure finish, it is, to reiterate, one of the best Giscours produced over the last 25 years. A sleeper of the vintage, it is still available for a realistic price."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The black/purple-colored 2000 offers up terrific notes of blackberry and currant jam intermixed with high quality toast. Smoky, rich, sexy, and sumptuously built, with a full-bodied, low acid, super-concentrated personality, this sleeper of the vintage is one of the most attractively priced offerings of 2000. As predicted last year, this is a revelation. Anticipated maturity: 2006-2020."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"It has been a long time since Giscours has produced a wine of such majesty. An opaque blue/purple color is followed by a terrific bouquet of sweet earth intermixed with creme de cassis and smoke. Abundant quantities of ripe, concentrated fruit are well displayed in this medium to full-bodied, pure, layered, multidimensional wine. Given the fact that Giscours has not been producing wines of such pedigree for so long, this is undoubtedly a sleeper of the vintage, and well-worth latching onto as it is going to be accessible young. Moreover, given this estate's recent history, the price should be low. Anticipated maturity: 2003-2020."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted blind at Bordeaux Index's 2000 tasting in London. The Giscours 2000 has a lifted nose with blackberry, espresso, graphite, cedar and melted tar, very well defined and with growing all the time in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with firm tannins, masculine once again, blackberry, graphite, tobacco, dried herbs, a sense of symmetry on the tannic, slightly aloof finish, but you cannot help admiring this. Wonderful Margaux from Giscours. Drink 2015-2040. Tasted March 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Impressive at en primeur with admirable concentration, though a little more coarse after bottle with a metallic note on the finish. Then in November 2004, a wine in its stride. This has built upon its initial promise. The nose is very intense, instantly reminding me of hot, buttered burnt toast mixed with pure blackberry and cedar. Great definition. Good concentration on the palate, well-knit new oak. Very pure, very stylish, very Margaux. Just has sublime poise and refinement. A complete success. Drink from 2008."

- NM, Wine Journal

"This is a big, powerful, firm wine, with a top layer of ripe, glamorous fruit flavors. Blackcurrant jelly fruits are shot through with ripe acidity and soft tannins. It should develop relatively fast, but then last well."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"(55% cabernet sauvignon and 45% merlot; 31 g/l dry extract; 13.4% alcohol): Good full ruby-red. Perfumed aromas of cassis, violet, shoe polish, tar and smoke. Sweet, ripe and luscious, with earthy underbrush and blackberry flavors lingering impressively on the aftertaste. A very fleshy, ripe Giscours that remains precise and light on its feet thanks to harmonious acidity. Lovely wine."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

Reviews *“Dark ruby. Fragrant and full bodied and flattering. Solid with some lead pencil character. A big beefy mouthful but definitively left bank. This may well be good value and provide lots of solid pleasure, but it will never be subtle...”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Drinking great today, the wine is filled with sweet black and red fruits, tobacco, earth, spice, smoke, spice, plum and truffle, Supple textures, ripe fruit and soft tannins are found in the round finish.”

- JL, Wine Cellar Insider

“This expressive nose displays tobacco, smoke, forest floor, cassis and earthy notes. The wine has really fleshed out, ending with soft textured, fleshy, dark berries, cherry and spice.”

- JL, Wine Cellar Insider

“Still young in appearance, this wine is filled with floral, crème de cassis, spice, tobacco and truffle scents. Soft textures and good concentration of flavors are found in the supple, fresh, ripe, dark plum finish. Still young, this Bordeaux wine will only get better with age.”

- JL, Wine Cellar Insider

“Dark purple color. Blackberries, cassis, blueberries cranberries and oak on the nose. Hints of tobacco develop after an hour in the glass. This smooth palate offers ripe, chocolate covered blackberries in the finish.”

- JL, Wine Cellar Insider

“12.5% alcohol. Elegant nose: cherries, plums, spice and minerals. The palate is fresh and elegant with lovely concentration of red berry fruits and some tannic grip. A lovely wine. 94/100”

- JG, Wineanorak.com
