

Château Giscours 2004

CSPC# 758854

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% 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 15-18 months.

Tasting Notes

Beautiful dense, deep purple silky colour. The nose offers very ripe fruit with slight hints of menthol finishing with roasted notes (toast, hazelnuts). The attack is supple with good length carried by pleasant, well-integrated tannins leading onto a smooth, sweet finish. This wine possesses great finesse and should reach its peak in about ten years.

Production

25,000 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2007-2021

Scores/Awards

90 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2007
89-91 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2005
91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #171 - June 2007
90-93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #165 - June 2006
90-92 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #158 - April 2005
91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2009
90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2005
93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2007
92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 1, 2005
89 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - January 2012
17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2007 (score only)
91 points - Jean Marc Quarin - April 2007 (score only)
Silver Medal - Decanter World Wine Awards 2007
1 star - Le Guide Hachette des Vins 2008



- Reviews** *"A solid red, with blackberry, plum and light cedar aromas and flavors. Full-bodied, with silky tannins and a long, caressing aftertaste. All together here. Best after 2008. 25,000 cases made."*
- JS, Wine Spectator
- "Lots of blackberry and mineral character, with just a hint of new wood. Medium-bodied, with good fruit and a silky finish. Solid. Score range: 89-91."*
- JS, Wine Spectator
- "A big, smoky, tapenade, plum, black currant, and spring flower-scented nose is followed by a medium to full-bodied, textured, layered wine with sweet tannin, low acidity, and impressive concentration as well as depth. This is a gorgeous, hedonistic yet complex Margaux to drink now and over the next 12-14 years."*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- "A blue/black/purple color is accompanied by gorgeous aromas of black tea, incense, blackberries, licorice, smoke, and currants. While atypically full-bodied, opulent, and rich for the vintage, the wine's superb proportions, sweet tannin, and good acidity provide definition. Anticipated maturity: 2008-2020+."*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- "This precise, deep ruby/purple-tinged Margaux exhibits broad, sweet flavors, good structure, medium to full body, moderately high tannin, but not as much seductiveness as its stable mate, Du Tertre. It is a fresh, serious, age-worthy 2004 to enjoy between 2009-2020+."*
- RP, Wine Advocate
- "This Giscours showed well out of barrel and it does not disappoint here. It has a very ripe nose of black cherries, Doris plum, smoke and tea leaf all with very good clarity and definition. The palate is medium- to full-bodied, rounded tannins, a Giscours with a modern sheen and requisite acidity and definition to leave it fresh and vibrant in the mouth. Very "Margaux" with a nice floral finish, though there is some new oak to be resolved. Bon Vin! Drink 2012-2020. Tasted November 2008."*
- NM, Wine Journal
- "A very ripe black cherry nose that lacks a bit of finesse and cohesion. The palate has ripe black berry, cassis fruit with a touch of liquorice. A bit tinny on the finish but that should disappear with barrel ageing. Good, solid Giscours that could merit a higher score after bottling. Tasted April 2005."*
- NM, Wine Journal
- "A smooth, delicious wine. The fruit flavors go right through this ripe, complex wine, leaving the tannins and wood as supporting acts. As with so many 2004s, the aftertaste is fresh, with great acidity."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "92-94 Château Giscours. A delicious, fresh wine, with some new wood, good red and black fruits, ripe tannins and some dense character. The aftertaste leaves fresh acidity."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "60% cabernet sauvignon and 40% merlot; 29.3 g/l dry extract; 13.2% alcohol): Dark ruby with purple highlights. Lively aromas and flavors of cassis, violet, cedar and minerals. Then fresh, suave and balanced, offering good balance but only average intensity. Finishes suave and clean, with persistent floral and licorice notes. A rather stylish wine and yet another testimony to just how well the 2004 Bordeaux are drinking currently. Interestingly, in yet another demonstration of how laboratory data alone isn't sufficient to evaluate wines, some of the technical parameters of the 2004 Giscours are very similar to those of the 2001, yet the two wines couldn't be more different."*
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- "Rich, robust earth, meat, smoke, cedar, mocha and ample oak aroma. Good, zippy, fresh fruit with concentration and a luxurious, velvety style. Big, ripe tannins. Alc: 13%. Drink 2012-16. (16.25 points)."*
- SS, Decanter.com
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