

Château Giscours 2010

CSPC# 744970

750mlx12

13.7% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 29% 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%).

Harvest

The harvest began on the morning of 27 September, when Giscours were finally ready to pick the earliest plots of Merlot. After 18 days of harvesting, picking ended on October 14 with the finest Cabernet Sauvignon. The latter was certainly the great success of this vintage, offering delicate, silky, high quality tannins, which blended perfectly with the suppleness of the Merlot. The harvest was of exceptional quality, with all the characteristics of the great vintages that can be laid down for many years.

Vinification/ Maturation

Giscours' priority this year was, once again, to preserve the flavours and let each of their terroirs express its potential. The vats were pumped over very few times and always at moderate temperatures. Traditional fermentation / the wine is left on the skins for a long time at a relatively high temperature. Traditional ageing in new oak barrels (50 %) for 15-18 months

Tasting Notes

Garnet core with a ruby rim. Black fruit aromas of blackberry compote and black currant are rounded out by oak spice notes on the bouquet. The palate shows a creamy texture that sweeps through the mid-palate and finishes on the broad tannins. As expected for this vintage, this is tight and big now, with a nice acidity to give it lift.

Cellaring

Drink 2014-2030

Scores/Awards

94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013

91-94 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2011

91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013

92-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011

94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - February 2013

92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011

95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013



Scores/Awards **94-95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011
95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2013
92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011
92-94 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - Jan/Feb 2012
17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 18, 2011
17.5 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2012
Review Only - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2011
17.5 points/4 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2011
93-94 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2011
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 13, 2013
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2, 2013
93-95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 3, 2011
91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 21, 2011
88-90 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2011
86 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2010 (no review)
92 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2011 (no review)
88-93 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2011
16.5+ points - Farr Vintner - April 2011
Review Only - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2011

Reviews *"Features a lightly firm, singed alder frame around a core of dark plum, cherry and cassis bush notes. Taut tar and warm paving stone notes fill in on the finish. Shows serious, well-embedded grip, and the core of fruit is spot on. This has the range, length and cut for the cellar. Best from 2014 through 2030."*
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"Polished, with lots of alluring mocha and licorice notes leading the way, followed by creamy blueberry, blackberry and black cherry fruit. The finish is long and creamy. Score range: 91-94."
 - JM, Wine Spectator

"I thought this could be even more spectacular than it is, given the way the 2010 from Giscours performed from the barrel, but it is certainly outstanding. A beautiful wine, stunningly opulent, accessible and almost atypically forward, it is plump and delicious already, and in that sense, it is almost reminiscent of the 2009. Deep ruby/plum/purple, with juicy black raspberry and black currant fruit as well as hints of cedar, licorice, forest floor and underbrush, the 2010 is medium to full-bodied, layered, round and impossible to resist already. It should drink beautifully for 20-25 years."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"It is a little unsettling to realize that 2009 and 2010 may be the greatest back to back Bordeaux vintages produced in the history of the region. The over-achieving Giscours has turned in a great performance in 2010, which possesses an opaque purple color as well as notes of licorice, black truffles, sweet blackberry and cassis fruit, flowers and soil undertones. It is very full-bodied and exceptionally opulent, fat and round, but the vintage's acids, precision, high glycerin, alcohol and extract are all present. Give it 2-3 years of cellaring and drink it over the following 25-30 years."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"Aromas of mint and currants with hints of fresh herbs. Then turns to plum jam. Full body, with well-integrated tannins and pretty fruit. Long and caressing. This is really outstanding. Better in 2017."
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Tasted at the UGC tasting in London. This could turn out to be one of the finest wines from this great Margaux estate in recent years. The Giscours 2010 has a lifted, generous bouquet with blackberry, boysenberry, mineral and just a touch of violets, all with superb definition and focus. The palate is medium bodied with a little oak on the entry still to be subsumed. It is very well balanced with a keen thread of acidity. I like the tension here, the way it sashays towards the finish. Primal and brimming over with energy and animation, this Giscours should age with style. Tasted November 2012."
 - NM, Wine Journal

Reviews *"This is very structured and muscular with a lots of toasty new wood showing now but if you dig deep you see a rich and beautiful fruit and velvety tannin structure. Is this the new 1970? Very sexy"*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Tasted twice at the chateau and the UGC, a blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon (the highest ever) and 29% Merlot that cropped at 25-27hl/ha. It has a pH of 3.6 and 13.7% alcohol. I must say, I really love the purity on this nose as dark cherries, cassis and crushed flower soar from the glass. Very fine delineation here. The palate is medium bodied with very silky-smooth tannins, almost Burgundian in texture. Lovely poise and focus, long in the mouth, this is the finest Giscours in a long time. Tasted April 2011."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Giscours shows an initial character of great style and elegance. The shining fruit and concentrated tannins follow, making it both a seductive wine and one with a long-term future."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"92-94 Sweetly juicy wine, the new wood giving high toast to the black currant flavors. It is on the elegant side, although the new wood needs to be tamed to let the fruit come through."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"..Fully saturated ruby-purple with inky highlights. Captivating nose of cassis, violet, gunflint and aromatic herbs; this struck me as being very dominated by its cabernet component. Fresh, rich and dense, with palate-staining flavors of dark berries, coffee and cocoa complicated by ink and graphite. Very complex and long, this vintage appears to be a major achievement for Giscours and one of the best wines from this estate in years."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Blackish crimson. Quite complex and complete. Just beautifully balanced. This is ripe claret. The sort that Edmund Penning-Rowse never encountered. Nothing forced nor self-conscious. Just great balance and confidence. Fresh finish. Real Margaux. Appetising and subtle. But no blockbuster. Even a little sinewy on the finish."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"This wine shows more in common with its stablemate Château du Tertre than it does with any other wine in the commune; there are none of the woody elements here though, instead we have more typical gravelly and perfumed fruit. It is certainly attractive. The major similarity comes with the restrained substance on the palate, which has that same tauter character. It has a stylish substance, and even a touch of croquant freshness to the fruit. Polished and slightly reticent; certainly, an elegant style for the commune in this vintage. From my Bordeaux 2010 assessment at two years. 17.5/20 (November 2012)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"This is 71% Cabernet Sauvignon and 29% Merlot, more Cabernet than ever before included, with 13.7% alcohol. A very concentrated hue here, all dark and crimson even out at the rim. There is a surprisingly pure scent of blackcurrants on the nose. The palate seems very dried out though, with no softening, flattering fruit to it, the wine openly revealing a very big and bold character. This is difficult to taste; it feels rather dry and woody around the edges, with lots of chewy-woody tannins here. It is showing just piles of grip and extract and is certainly very different to every other wine here. Is this sample representative? Is there some oxidation here? Unfortunately, I didn't find an opportunity to re-taste. From my Bordeaux 2010 primeur assessment. Not scored. (April 2011)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Chateau Giscours shows very good depth of fruit, perfect Cabernet ripeness, fragrance and smoothness of texture to see a very good future."

- SS, Decanter.com

Reviews

"A brooding nose, and a fruit-filled attack. This is a big wine, making full use of the 2010 vintage. There is a veiled threat here, and as is so often the case in this vintage, you need to sit with it and give it time, to allow the abundant cassis and blueberry flavours to reveal themselves. 93-94/100. Drink 2020-2040."

- JA, *The New Bordeaux*

"Licorice, espresso bean, black cherries, truffle and forest notes open to a rich textured, full bodied, plush, potent Margaux, filled with fresh, pure, clean, ripe, black and red fruits. The final blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon and 29% Merlot is going to develop into a very special wine with a decade or so of bottle age. This is probably the best vintage I've ever tasted of Chateau Giscours!"

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

"Spice, blackberry, jam, flowers and toasty oak scents open to a full bodied, rich, structured, fresh, concentrated and classy Margaux wine. The long, ripe, dark, fruit filled, long, polished finish is fresh and pure. This should age well."

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

"Deep in color, the intense perfume is packed with crème de cassis, blueberries, spice, flowers, tobacco, earth and spice box aromas. Rich, opulent and plush, this deep, ripe wine ends with a supple, fresh, elegant, dark berry filled finish. This is clearly the best vintage of Giscours I've ever tasted! It improved a lot since tasted in April. Bravo. 93-95 Pts"

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

"Giscours Produced from a blend of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon and 29% Merlot, this is the highest concentration of Cabernet Sauvignon in the history of the chateau! The harvest produced yields that were slightly lower than they produced in 2009. That combination created a deep ruby colored wine offering floral, cassis, boysenberry and smoky aromas. Round tannins, supple textures and more muscle than usual led the way for a long, fresh, pure, ripe, cassis. According to Alexandre Van Beek, he's happy with the masculine edge to the wines style in this vintage. He graciously stated, "Credit goes to their consultant Denis Dubordieu, who began working with Giscours and du Tertre starting with the vintage. 91-93 Pts"

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

"Very deep and saturated; fresh and creamy, blackcurrants and some violets but feels plush and sumptuous; lovely; great palate, intense, black fruits; sumptuous and layered. Great depth and concentration. Tastes wonderful and flattering. 92-94/100 [50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 9% Cabernet Franc and 6% Petit Verdot, alc 13.9%] Tasted 5 April 2011. [Second tasting] Dense and deep; some minerals, some ripe fruit, oak and blackcurrants; some chew; palate on this sample marked by oak; feels a little disjointed at present; oaky. Earlier sample better 88-90?/100 Tasted 7 April 2011 at UGC."

- JW, *winewordsandvideotape.com*

"The nose has a good weight of fruit very black fruit in character. On the palate black cherry and sloe give a concentrated richness behind the slightly fresher bramble. There are hints of oak that add spice to the finish."

- Derek Smedley MW

"A really gorgeous ripe strawberry and cherry fruit nose. This is a wine of great purity, yet it has a sexy creamy mouthfeel with a polished texture and a hint of Asian spices. Quite feminine with freshness and class. A pure linear finish."

- Farr Vintners

"Quite brilliant! An incredibly seductive, inviting nose of ripe and cool Cabernet, leading to a spectacular, plump but defined, powerful yet precise mouthful of decadent and moreish black and red summer fruits. The tannins are so fine they are hardly apparent within the generosity of the fruit. The length is spectacular, and this is one of the best buys; it is Second Growth in quality."

- SS, *Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants*
