

Château Giscours 2014

CSPC# 758854

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Margaux

Classification

Third Growth. Troisième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.

Website

<http://chateau-giscours.com/en/>

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

picked between 22 September until 16 October

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

This Classified Growth in 1855 is the first label of Château Giscours. It is of great finesse and elegance. Delicacy and power 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

23,335 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2020-2038

Scores/Awards

91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2017
90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015
92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017
89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - July 28, 2016
89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015
95 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - February 2017
92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015
95 points / Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2017
94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2015
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2015



Scores/Awards **17 (90) points** - Decanter.com - April 2015
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2017
91-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2015
91-93 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2015
16 points - Farr Vintner - March 2015
87-89 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2015
93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - June 2015
91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2017
89-91 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015
17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
15 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"This shows a caressing feel from the start, with alluring black tea and incense notes weaving around lightly macerated plum, blackberry and black currant fruit flavors. A floral accent gilds the finish. Pretty wine. Best from 2018 through 2028. 23,335 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Fresh, with pretty cherry and plum fruit, lined with a light red licorice thread and backed by violet and iron notes on the finish. Not that dense but has good range and definition. Score range: 90-93"
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2014 Giscours has come on leaps and bounds since I tasted it twice in barrel. It is clearly more sophisticated and complex than the du Tertre on the nose. For a start, there is more fruit concentration with red cherries, raspberry and blackcurrant laced with cedar and graphite. The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, pure red cherry and crushed strawberry fruit with a precise finish that the property never used to be able to offer. This is a lovely Margaux that should drink well for 20 years."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"Tasted at the Château Giscours vertical, the barrel sample of 2014 tasted two months after primeur showed subtle differences. The bouquet has edged towards more red fruit in the interim, here a little more raspberry and wild strawberry coming forth. The palate is medium bodied with light supple tannin, the acidity a little lower than at primeur, although I would still have preferred more substance on the finish. This remains a very approachable Giscours, well balanced and yet somehow, I still feel that it could have had more ambition. Tasted March 2016."
- NM, Wine Advocate

The Château Giscours 2014 is a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Petit Verdot and 20% Merlot picked between 22 September until 16 October. Alexandre Van Beek told me that the Merlot didn't really contribute to the blend. The nose is reticent at first with scents of black fruits, a touch of graphite and a subtle marine influence, detailed though not intense. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannin on the entry, the acidity pointed and noticeable from start to finish. There is plenty of freshness here (acidity 3.4 pH) very linear with fine tension, probably an earlier drinking Giscours since there is not the weight of the fantail of flavours on the finish. It just needs more horsepower."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"Blueberries, tar and licorice on the nose. Full-bodied, solid and dense. Velvety tannins. Long finish. Down on this! Needs at least two or three years to soften."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Very pretty cabernet sauvignon character. Full body, fine tannins and a bright finish. Ultra-fine tannins. Tight and caressing. Refined. This is a little more cabernet in the blend that gives detail and direction."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Still dry and concentrated and with swathes of rich tannins, the wine is dark and dense. The undertow of ripe black fruit is impressive. It obviously has considerable aging potential, Drink this serious wine from 2025."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

- Reviews** *"94–96. Barrel Sample. Pronounced toast aromas follow through to the palate, yielding an assertive smoky toast character throughout. However, this impressive wine's real potential is the undertow of ripe fruit. It needs cellaring for many years to fully harmonize."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Glowing mid crimson. Straightforward, quite fruity nose. Cool and fresh. Good balance even if not complex. A little toastiness. Good, neat finish. Quite a charge of tannin on the end. But pretty restrained. Even slightly austere. Drink 2020-2032"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Elegant, crunchy black fruits on the nose and florality and ripeness on the palate. Typical classy Giscours with seductive charm and elegant tannins."*
- Decanter.com
- "Polished tannins, pure, ripe, fresh, sweet, dark, red fruits, and a silky textured, fresh finish are really already showing well, with little effort. As this wine ages, it could score higher."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "A complex nose of earth, tobacco, mint, black cherry and raspberries, this wine is soft and polished and there is a fresh, unadulterated plum and fresh, black raspberry sensation in the silky finish. The wine was produced from a blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot and 10% Petit Verdot. 91-92 Pts"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep core; vibrant and healthy edge; silky blackcurrant aromatics; some earth and pain grillé notes; blackcurrants the main theme but nicely pure and well-integrated – a sexy sample; cool blackcurrants on the palate; really fresh and cool; nicely textured with middle but also freshness and acidity. Purity and tight at present. All definitely as it should be. Genuine length on the finish. Impressive stuff. [70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 10% Petit Verdot 13.4% alc, harvested between 22/9 for Merlot and to 16/10 for Cabernet]. Drink 2020-2032. Tasted 31 March 2015 at UGC. 91-93+"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Serious improvements are taking place here (and also at sister property du Tertre) under the Dutch manager, Alexander Van Beek. 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 5 Cabernet Franc, 5% Petit Verdot. Deep purple colour. Black forest fruits on the nose. A plush, soft textured palate with fine tannins. Freshness from the acidity livens the palate and leaves a very cool, dry finish with a little spice."*
- Farr Vintners
- "The mix of bilberry and bramble is fresh the nose has lots of bright fruit. Sweet on the palate the tannins feel ripe the black fruited mix in the middle rich. Lighter towards the back fresh and fragrant with sweeter fruit coming through giving a richer feel on the finish. 2026-38"*
- Derek Smedley MW
- "Concentrated and quite dense but with good freshness and depth. This is a very good vintage for Giscours, combining red berry fruits with floral and spicy elements with ripe tannins."*
- JCL, asianpalate.com
- "Expressive floral notes, bright red stone fruit and silky tannins all give the 2014 Giscours considerably more finesse than when I last tasted it. Delicate, nuanced and medium in body, this classy Margaux shows quite a bit of polish and overall nuance. It will be interesting to see how the 2014 evolves and, specifically, if some of the wilder notes that are typical of this wine will emerge over time."*
- AG, Vinous

Reviews *“A bold, powerful wine, the 2014 Giscours hits the palate with exotic spices, herbs, tobacco, smoke and game. Broad swaths of tannin give the wine its distinctive broad-shouldered personality. Iron, white pepper, herbs and smoke give the Giscours much of its trademark ferrous/savory personality. There is no shortage of intensity, although some slightly rough, angular contours remain.”*
- AG, Vinous
