

Château Giscours 2016

CSPC# 758854

750mlx12

13.2% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

81% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Merlot

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 recognized 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. Giscours is run with brio by Dutch manager Alexander Van Beek.

Winemaker

Alexander van Beek. Axel Marchal and Valerie Lavigne consult.

Vintage

The vintage is characterized by a wet and relatively cool beginning of the season, followed by a very dry summer, at a rarely reached level, and rather warm, with a dry and sunny autumn, with strong thermal amplitudes. As a result, the quality of the grape harvests was very dependent on the part of the work done on the vines in the spring, on the other hand the quality of rooting, which will have more or less responded to the water needs of the plant. The sunshine was generally faithful to the averages, but its particular distribution strongly contributed to the personality of the vintage. After a mild, dry autumn (November and December 2015 with above-average temperatures and 50% rainfall deficit compared to averages, with a constant south current), the months of January and February, until March 10, were mild and wet (1 ° C more than the average and three times the 30-year average over January, with 240 mm!). April was relatively dry, but overcast and with frequent rains, then May and June were rainy, with much lower sunshine than in 2015 and relatively cool (June 1 ° C below average, with only one hot episode at the end of month (33-35 ° C)). The flower, between the end of May and the middle of June, forecast harvest around September 26th. The temperatures of the summer months were close to the averages, August slightly warmer than July, with two peaks of heat, August 15 and 23 to 27, with a high of 36.7 ° C on the 23rd. From the 28th, the nights were cool, around 15 ° C. September remained summer until the storm of 13/09. Overall it was mild, with rare rainy episodes, and dry with great temperature differences between day and night. This favored a slow maturation of the grapes, which remained perfectly healthy. October was dry, so that the beginning of the harvest could be delayed until the end of September.

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%),



Vineyards	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	Giscours is undeniably classic with a high proportion of Cabernet: Here there is 81% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Merlot and so the wine has typical aromas of blackcurrant, spice, cedar, plums and vanilla. Deep and intense and quite dark but lifted by good freshness and energetic tannins, this is a lovely wine that follows up well on the successful 2015.
Serve with	Chateau Giscours is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes
Production	34,667 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2019-2035
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>96 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>96-98 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>16.5+ points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2018</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2017</p> <p>16+ points - Farr Vintner - February 2017</p> <p>89-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This is on the darker side of the ledger, with well-melded black currant, blackberry and black cherry fruit, infused with brambly energy and allied to a graphite spine on the anise-tinged finish. Features a light woody echo at the very end, but there's plenty of flesh here. Best from 2022 through 2032. 34,667 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Bay, savory and iron notes lead off in this energetic wine. Lots of juicy cherry and plum fruit forms the core. Singed alder accents line the finish. There's lots going on here, but this pulls together nicely in the end. Well done. Score range: 92-95"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Giscours gives up aromas of cassis, chocolate, earth, tar, pepper and hoisin with touches of flowers and a meaty nuance. The palate is medium to full-bodied, firm and grainy with a great core and a long finish"</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *“The 2016 Giscours is a blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Merlot, the highest percentage of Cabernet in recent years, picked between 26 September and 20 October. It was cropped at 45 hectoliters per hectare with 13.2% alcohol, which is a little less than in 2015. Naturally that dominant proportion of Cabernet drives the aromatics with blackberry, cedar and graphite aromas. The palate is very well structured, more masculine than the 2015 and maybe without quite the same level of precision, but there is great density and length to this Giscours. I found that improved in the glass, gaining more energy from the ether. It is an impressive follow-up to last year's Giscours.”*

- NM, Wine Advocate

“This has attractive, glossy, ripe red-plum and licorice aromas with cedar, flowers and red berries, as well as a stony edge. A very fragrant, cabernet-driven nose. The palate has elegance and grace with sleek and charming, balanced style and a discreet tannin structure that holds the finish long and fresh. A blend of 81 per cent cabernet sauvignon and 19 per cent merlot. Try from 2023.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This is extremely long and linear with a powerful and refined texture of superfine tannins. Full-bodied, yet so tight and polished. The finish is very, very impressive. Snaps at the end. Better than the 2015?”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This nearly 200-acre estate lies in the south of the Margaux appellation. The wine is another great success in a series of superb years. It is rich but the structure and finely textured fruit give it style and longevity. Drink the wine from 2026.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“96–98. Barrel Sample. This wine is massive, dense and solid. At the same time, it has style and elegance. The result is that it is ripe, yet perfumed, with ample black fruit and mouthwatering acidity. Cellar at least 12 years.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Deep crimson. Fine, subtle cedary aroma. Pencil-lead and cassis. Soft tannins rounded and gentle. Very early harmony here. Tannins are soft but they build to a chewy finish. Honest and complete and much more to come. (JH).”

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“Glowing purple. Concentrated and sappy - real energy here. Glossy and fresh. Really exuberant. Perhaps not one of the most earnestly fashioned for the very long term but a real crowd-pleaser.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Concentrated autumnal fruit offers a hawthorny bramble of blackberry and bilberry. Big-framed, muscular tannins are joined by plenty of acidity - it's very clearly built to last and confident in its ability to reward those with patience. Matured in 50% new oak. Axel Marchal and Valerie Lavigne consult. (JA)”

- JA, Decanter.com

“Giscours has been hitting it out of the park for a number of vintages now, and we are squarely back in this territory for the 2016. Firm tannins, among the biggest in the appellation, but not overdone because of a vibrant, flexible quality to these essential elements of structure. The sheer volume of bilberry and cassis fruits on the full, dark palate show that clearly the anthocyanin and IPT counts are right up there. This is complex, layered and well held together.

Drinking Window 2027 – 2050”

- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews *“The combination of vibrant, fresh, fruits, lavender notes, sensuous, silky textures and a finish that offers pure, red, soft, elegant, polished, bright, red berries really works here.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Fresh, lively and vibrant, the sweet, red fruits pop with floral and earthy accents. Silky and fresh, with purity in the fruits, gives this a decade and it will start to shine.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Flowers garnished with truffles, tobacco, spicy cassis and dark red fruits pop on the nose. In the mouth, this is all silk and purity with freshness and length. This wine was produced from a blend of 81% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Merlot. This is the highest percentage of Cabernet used in the blend in the history of the estate. The wine reached 13.5% alcohol with a 3.6 pH. The picking took place from September 26 to October 5, while the Cabernet Sauvignon was harvested from October 5 to October 20.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Serious improvements are taking place here (and also at sister property du Tertre) under the Dutch manager, Alexander Van Beek. The 95 hectares of vines are planted with 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 3% Petit Verdot. Always a classic Margaux. 80% Cabernet Sauvignon in 2016, which is a very high proportion for this Chateau, indicating some of the stress that Merlot endured on the left bank. Deep colour with blueberry and wood smoke on the nose. The palate has a sweet core of black fruit which is lifted by clean, fresh acidity and supported by ripe, silky tannins. The long finish is harmonious and floral, showing great typicity of the region.”

- Farr Vintners

“Sweet and ripe on the nose the start of the palate has a rich mix of black fruits. The supple fleshiness in the middle is backed by freshness bright at the back richer more depth on the finish. 2025-39”

- Derek Smedley MW

“The 2016 Giscours comes off the back of the superlative 2015, not an easy wine to follow. It clearly boasts more horsepower on the nose compared the de Tertre, presenting layers of blackberry, cedar and crushed violet aromas that leap from the glass. The medium-bodied palate is crisp and focused, with grainy tannin and a pencil-box-infused finish. Winemaker Alexandre van Beek has retained the density this Margaux showed out of barrel, to offer a classy wine that will benefit from several years in bottle. Drink 2023-2050”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2016 Giscours is complex, aromatically intense and beguiling, with myriad layers of flavors that unfold with time in the glass. Black cherry, sage, leather, smoke and menthol add plenty of intrigue, but above all else, it is the wine's balance and sense of harmony that make the deepest impression. Under the leadership of Alexander Van Beek and his team, Giscours has been on a roll over the last few years. The 2016 is another fine vintage. Drink 2022-2041.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2016 Giscours is fabulous. In fact, the 2016 may be one of the best recent vintages of this wine I have tasted. Dense, powerful and voluptuous in the glass, the 2016 possesses superb depth and intensity in all of its dimensions. The fruit is creamy and textured, while the flavors are remarkably precise throughout. Hints of smoke, licorice, tobacco and incense lead into the potent but well-judged finish.”

- AG, Vinous
