

## Château Giscours 2017

CSPC# 758854

750mlx12

13.2% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Margaux
<b>Classification</b>	Third Growth. Troisieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://chateau-giscours.com/en/">http://chateau-giscours.com/en/</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Alexander van Beek. Axel Marchal and Valerie Lavigne consult.
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>Frost affected about 35-40% of the vineyard.</p> <p>2017 Margaux is the first appellation in the Left Bank to show frost damage. Some estates lost a good percentage of their crop. Others lost between 10-20% of their harvest. 2017 Margaux is a winemaker's vintage. The terroir, picking dates and choices in the cellar set the tone for the vintage. There are several good wines. But the wines are not at the level of the stunning 2015 vintage, or 2016. In Margaux the vintage started off with an early budbreak. Because Margaux is such a large appellation with terroirs that vary in quality, several vineyards were struck by the frost.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	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%).
<b>Harvest</b>	In 2017, the lower parts of Giscours were hit by frost. Consequently, yields are down by about 40%. Harvest was a relatively long one here - starting on September 14 (Merlot) and finishing on October 5 (last of the Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon). The final blend was made in early March.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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.



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The Chateau Giscours 2017 has all the credentials of a perfectly orchestrated Margaux and it is the result of the sterling work from the estate's technical team. Elegant and fragrant, and almost sensual, the bouquet draws on pure black fruit, currant and blackberry aromas, delicate chocolate notes, along with subtle spice outlined with delicate floral scents. On the palate, all the finesse and refinement of the Giscours style is offered with a creamy texture. The mid-palate has a soft touch that focuses on the bright fruit. The tannins envelop the mouth, which give a lovely structure to this Margaux. The tannins extend to a persistent finish, which is pure and mineral. This is a perfectly orchestrated Giscours.
<b>Serve with</b>	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
<b>Production</b>	17,500 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink now-2030
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2020</p> <p><b>89-92 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2018</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2020</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate #236 - April 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2020</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>96 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2020</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2018</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - November 2019</p> <p><b>16.5+ points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2018</p> <p><b>14.5+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2018</p> <p><b>88-90 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2018</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2018</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2020</p> <p><b>90-93+ points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2018</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - April 2018</p> <p><b>15 points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2018</p> <p><b>16-17 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p><b>16-16.5 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only)</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"A savory edge leads the way here, featuring a mix of red and black cherry fruit infused with black tea and juniper notes. The silky finish lets everything linger easily in unison. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2030. 17,500 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A mix of savory and mint notes lead off here, followed quickly by juicy dark plum and black cherry fruit. Light anise and iron hints show on the finish. Fairly breezy and open in feel throughout. 17,500 cases made"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, the 2017 Giscours offers pretty plum preserves, warm cassis and wilted roses scents with fragrant earth and cinnamon stick hints. The palate is medium-bodied, elegant and plush with lovely expressiveness and a bit of spice on the finish. Drink 2020-2031"</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Blended of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, the medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2017 Giscours is scented of crushed black currants, blackberry tart and black raspberries with touches of Indian spices, Sichuan pepper and violets plus a waft of chocolate box. Medium-bodied with wonderful freshness defining the palate and elevating the red and black fruits, it finishes with a nice ripe, grainy texture paving the way."</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

**Reviews** *“Subtle aromas of ripe fruit with plums and hints of clove and stone. Complex. Medium to full body with a fine line of tannins running through the mid-palate. Fresh and creamy texture.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“A firm and silky red with dark-berry, cherry and mineral aromas and flavors. Medium to full body, fine tannins and a driven finish. Very dialed-in.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Blended of 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, the medium to deep garnet-purple colored 2017 Giscours is scented of crushed black currants, blackberry tart and black raspberries with touches of Indian spices, Sichuan pepper and violets plus a waft of chocolate box. Medium-bodied with wonderful freshness defining the palate and elevating the red and black fruits, it finishes with a nice ripe, grainy texture paving the way.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“94–96. Barrel Sample. This is dense and concentrated, packed with firm tannins as well as powerful fruit. The solid structure is balanced by rich blackberry and plum flavors, resulting in a wine that has a fine future ahead of it. Drink from 2024.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. Broad and relatively complex nose. Juicy and sweet. Flattering but without enormous depth and savour. Pretty dry finish at the moment without great fruit weight to compensate.”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Deep crimson. Perfumed with cassis freshness, straightforward and a sense of small-berried fruit. Even some red fruit and a touch of vanilla. Really quite discreet. Finesse in the tannins, a delicacy that belies its persistence on the finish and just enough fruit at the core for harmony. Needs more time than some, I think. (JH)”*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“An accomplished, enjoyable Giscours. The fruit character is less generous than 2015 and 2016, but it still has presence and charm. Damson, bilberry, charcoal and slate are cradled by fine tannins that point to well-controlled extraction. There's no dip through the mid-palate, and the overall structure is juicy and elegant rather than exuberant. A juicy frame that will age well. (JA)”*

- JA, Decanter.com

*“Soft and a touch earth on the attack but pulls itself together to show firmly in-control tannins. There is a natural austerity offset by a clear punch of redcurrant, raspberry and autumnal fruits. Good freshness softened by smoked cedar on the finish. Reminds me of an early stage 2011, and this wine in 2017 seems set to age just as gracefully in the end.”*

- Decanter.com

*“Flowers, thyme, red fruits and just a hint of espresso arise but most of what will transpire is being held in reserve. On the palate, the energetic, red berries offer sweetness, purity and silky tannins. The finish is fruity, bright and long. The wine was produced blending 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, reaching 13.2% alcohol with a pH of 3.65. The picking took place from September 15 to October 5.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*“Very black fruit aromas with lots of spices – clove and cinnamon. Oak, and fruit to scent. Juicy black fruit flavours, with a slight pyrazine streak underneath. Great extract, and spicy tannins, with good balancing acidity and freshness. Black fruit finish. Pretty structured and dark for a Margaux. Barrel Sample: 89-91”*

- TA, timatkin.com

## Reviews

*"Frost at Giscours affected mainly vines used for the 2nd label but overall production is down by 20%. The final blend of the grand vin is 71% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot. Crunchy red and black fruits are bolstered on the nose by notes of toasted new oak which is integrated and subtle. The palate is fresh and vibrant, bright from the acidity of the vintage without seeming tart. The fruit is cool and compact, lively and floral. Midweight and fresh, this should be an approachable wine, though it perhaps lacks the power of recent vintages."*

- Farr Vintners

*"The nose is fragrant with bramble freshness the palate sweeter quite fleshy in the middle ripe black fruits. Fresh fruits show at the back light lacking a little concentration and richness with some ripe black cherry coming through on the finish. Drink 2025 - 2038."*

- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2017 Giscours has an open and expressive bouquet with crushed strawberry and raspberry fruit, melted tar, tobacco and light floral tones. The palate is medium bodied with fine grain tannins and well-judged acidity. This is a classically styled Giscours, off dry, a little reserved at first with a moderate spiciness coming through on the finish. It feels pinched at the moment and requires four to six years in bottle. (NM)"*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2017 Giscours, picked 15 September to 5 October, is matured in 50% new oak with around 5 or 6% of vin de presse. It has a perfumed bouquet with black fruit, a touch of oyster shell and iris, very pure and quite sensual in style. It does not make an immediate impact but rather grows on you. The palate is medium-bodied, the mouthfeel supple, smooth and harmonious with fine-grain tannin, perhaps just missing a little structure towards the conservative, strait-laced finish. That suggests it will be an approachable Giscours compared to the 2015 and 2016, but one with breeding and class. Tasted on three occasions. Drink 2021 - 2040."*

- NM, Vinous

*"The 2017 Giscours is the result of an especially stringent selection, the most dramatic at the property going back to 1995. Medium in body, with terrific freshness and energy, the 2017 shows very well today. Dark red cherry, red plum, spice, licorice, tobacco and savory herbs all grace the glassy, understated Giscours. I can't wait to see how the 2017 ages given its vibrancy and terrific sense of harmony. Drink 2025-2037."*

- AG, Vinous

*"The 2017 Giscours is a terrific, and also a worthy follow up to both the 2015 and 2016. Rich and pliant in the glass, the 2017 exudes notable depth in its super-ripe dark cherry, plum, chocolate, leather and menthol flavors. Above all else, the 2017 offers a striking combination of juiciness, freshness and brightness, with terrific depth and plenty of nuance. The 2017 finishes with notable creaminess and textural elegance. This is very nicely done."*

- AG, Vinous

*"An up and coming Margaux estate, the 2017 Château Giscours offers a complex bouquet of sandalwood, damp flowers, sous bois, and spicy red fruits. It's slightly stretched and firm on the palate, with medium-bodied richness. I'd like to see more fat and texture here, but I suspect it will put on more weight with time in barrel and bottle. It should drink nicely for a decade"*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*"Hard and very blunt, this is a dry wine with little juiciness and rather a sour, dull finish. The oak is too boggy, and this strips any fruit from the core. Disappointing."*

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

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