

Château Giscours 2021

CSPC# 102695

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Margaux

Classification

Third Growth. Troisième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.

Website

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

Sustainability

Château Giscours is particularly interested in this care and attention paid to ecosystem biology.

We have not used any herbicides, insecticides, or products harmful to our winegrowers' health on our land for ten years. We have replaced them with mating disruption, a biological method designed to impair the reproduction process for harmful species in order to reduce their numbers in the vineyard.

Agroecology is a connected approach to agriculture and the environment, where vines and winegrowing are treated as an ecosystem in their own right. In recent years, Giscours has been working increasingly hard to protect its biotope and rejuvenate biodiversity across all of its land.

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 vineyards 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

Lorenzo Pasquini. Cellar Master: Denis Uteau. Thomas Duclos consults.

450 years

Château Giscours is a wine estate steeped in history, with archives dating back as far as the 16th century. 450 harvests have taken place to this day; 450 years of innovation and progress remain at the heart of Château Giscours' values. 2021 is a symbolic year for Château Giscours, as it celebrates its 450th vintage from the estate. Pierre de Lhomme, the founder of Château Giscours between 1550 and 1571, was a wealthy draper who strove to make a great vineyard out of the "Guyscoux" estate. He initiated the colonization of wild lands by vines. Historical research and numerous archives show that the first harvests on the estate took place in 1571 and represented a total production of 15 barrels.

In 2021, Giscours thus celebrated 450 years of wine-growing adventure.

The Albada Jelgersma family, current owners of Château Giscours, pursue the quest for excellence in the making of its Fine Wines.

Vintage

Years like 2021 reveal all the magic of the finest terroirs and the expertise of the great teams.

After being spared by the spring frost, the Médoc hillsides were able to demonstrate their draining qualities during the cool, rainy summer, signaling the return of the oceanic climate we know so well in Bordeaux.

This demonstrated the value of the agro-ecological approach chosen by Giscours. Proper management of plant cover has enabled a better understanding and more precise management of the water supply to the vines throughout the year.

Despite September's capricious weather, the fine autumn allowed our Cabernet to finish ripening in ideal conditions.



Vineyards	The vineyards at Giscours are spread over four gravel outcrops in Margaux, with a poor quality, slightly sandy, pebbly soil. The estate is nearly 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	our aim was to proceed with great finesse and precise observation, deciding on tailor-made selections case by case, plot by plot. And the result was outstanding! Harvest from September 27 th - October 13 th .
Vinification/ Maturation	Optical and manual sorting. Concrete and stainless-steel tanks. Maceration 35 days at 28°C Ageing in French barrels. 50% new oak. 17 months of ageing in barrels
Tasting Notes	Château Giscours 2021 has an identity that is already reminiscent of some of the great Giscours vintages. It's perfectly balanced, crunchy, and well-structured, influenced by the Cabernet Sauvignon that is at the heart of our identity.
Winemaker's Notes	2021 was marked by a memorable harvest, in which we had to be patient, make precise choices and wait for each vine plant, each plot and each terroir to be ready to surrender its berries. The harvesting of the Cabernet Sauvignon grapes lasted more than a month, sometimes with intervals of several days, inviting the grapes to achieve their best expression. That precision shines through in this Château Giscours: a luminous wine, with the aromatic brilliance and fine tannins we look for at Giscours. A lovely, balanced structure, with a great freshness. Château Giscours 2021 is the perfect expression of the vintage. It reveals the risk-taking and meticulous work required of our teams, in deep harmony with our terroir. It is a wine we are proud of.
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	20,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2026 – 2050
Scores/Awards	<p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - January 2024</p> <p>94+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024</p> <p>93-95 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022</p> <p>86-88+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2022</p> <p>93 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022</p> <p>93 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022</p> <p>94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>88-91 points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2022</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024</p> <p>94-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022</p> <p>91-94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022</p> <p>17 points - Matthew Jukes - August 2022</p> <p>89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022</p> <p>92 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022</p> <p>95-96 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022</p> <p>92-93 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This has juicy energy to the dark cherry and currant notes, while sweet tobacco, earth and worn cedar accents fill in through the finish. A touch polished, which helps this stand out in the typically grainy vintage. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Drink now through 2030. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 20,000 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2021 Giscours has turned out beautifully, wafting from the glass with aromas of dark berries and licorice mingled with hints of violet and forest floor. Medium to full-bodied, velvety, and suave, it's seamless and enveloping, with good depth at the core, beautifully polished tannins, and a long, perfumed finish. This is one of the real successes of the vintage. As readers may remember, it's a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews

"The 2021 Giscours is immensely promising and shows just how far this important estate has come in the last few years. Unwinding in the glass with aromas of cassis, dark berries, cigar wrapper, violets, sweet forest floor and burning embers, it's medium to full-bodied, deep and layered, with terrific depth at the core, ripe tannins, lively acids and a long, penetrating finish. With wines like this, we're back to a level of quality that Giscours hasn't routinely attained since the 1970s! The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot; and even if by the standards of the last decade, that isn't a particularly elevated percentage of Cabernet, this is nonetheless a very Cabernet-driven wine in style. Tasted six times."

- WK, Wine Advocate

"The 2021 Giscours is made from 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, and 3% Petit Verdot. Deep garnet-purple in color, it gives up notions of blackcurrant cordial, star anise, and cedar chest with underlying suggestions of cloves, coffee beans, and fallen leaves plus a touch of stewed tea. Light-bodied, the palate has a firm frame of chewy tannins and bags of bright red berry layers with a lively backbone and a cedar-laced finish. 2025-2037."

- LPB, Wine Independent

"Very precise and focused with tight, sleek yet firm tannins, framing a fresh core of black fruit, gravel, and tobacco. Crushed stones and tea leaves, too. Savory and medium-bodied. Driven and linear. Lots of cabernet character. Chewy tannins. Rather muscular. But polished texture."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot. Cask sample. Very dark purplish crimson. One of the first 2021s I have encountered that could be described as heady. Then has masses of both fruit and freshness on the palate with no excesses even if clear delineation. Very clean and brisk without being austere. Quite a success! This wine seems to have made a virtue out of the freshness of 2021."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Rich but so delicate, generous but refined, this has a lovely grip of fruit in the mouth - cooling blueberries and black cherries and plums with a soft mouth-watering effect. The tannins are textured and fill the mouth with a minerality and salinity - slate, liquorice, ash, tobacco, and cinnamon. The overall motion is excellent, and I love the acidity and the bite of the flavours. A very dynamic wine and one that will give a lot of enjoyment."

- GH, Decanter.com

"Attractive bright plum in colour, this has a waves of flavour that offset the slightly bitter tannins that come in on the finish. Damson and black cherry fruits, liquorice root, rose stems and grilled cedar. 38hl/h yield."

- JA, janeanson.com

"Flowers, black cherries, menthol, spice, and forest leaves produce the attention seeking aromatics. The palate is equal to the nose with its freshness, silky-textures, and layers of sweet, dark red fruits. You find touches of herbs, olives, cocoa, and mint that pop in at the back of the finish adding complexity, and character. The wine blends 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. Drink from 2026-2050."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Violets, spice-tinged cherries, and currants create the nose. On the palate, the wine exudes a sweetness to its core of red berries, along with elegance and refinement. Balance and freshness are the hallmarks of this wine, which finishes with layers of sweet, finesse styled red fruits and tannins. The wine is a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot, 13.5% ABV, pH 3.8, the harvest took place September 27 - October 13. Yields were 38 hectoliters per hectare. Drink from 2026-2045."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The Cabernets were picked here until October 15th. The blend is 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32%Merlot and 3% Petit Verdot. Bright ruby colour. Clean and floral on the nose with cherry blossom and redcurrant. The palate is compact and airy with fresh red fruits bolstered by some underlying smoky oak. A wine of balance and classic proportion rather than power, it will appeal to lovers of classic claret. Floral and delicate to the finish."

- TP, Farr Vintners

Reviews

“The 2021 Giscours is matured in 50% new oak from nine cooperages. It has a very well-defined bouquet of blackberry, briar, graphite, and light tobacco aromas, plus a touch of lavender in the background. Very pretty. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins. Not a deep or powerful Giscours, but elegant and poised with a long tail on the finish. It doesn't try too hard, and the result is a delicious, refined Margaux wine. A great success in a tricky year.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2021 Giscours is not quite as showy as some recent vintages, but all the ingredients are there. Aromatic, deep and layered, with tremendous balance, the 2021 has so much to offer. Rose petal, mint, spice, orange peel and dried herbs are some of the notes that build. The 2021 is a wine of exquisite precision—bright and driving, with notable tension. It is seriously impressive at this stage.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2021 Giscours is fabulous. In fact, the 2021 is one of the best Giscours in recent memory. Silky and impeccable in its balance, the 2012 possesses magnificent elegance that brings out its pedigreed personality. Rose petal, lavender, spice, gravel, and black cherry all come together, framed by silky tannins that wrap it all up. The 2021 is less aromatic than most recent vintages, but the depth here is considerable, as is the potential. Taste two times.”

- AG, Vinous

“Tasted on multiple occasions, the 2021 Château Giscours is another pretty, floral, more red and black fruited effort that has medium-bodied richness, wonderful tannins, no hard edges, and outstanding length. Based on 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 32% Merlot, and the rest Petit Verdot, it shows the pretty, finesse oriented, elegant style of the vintage.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Ripe, smooth and with good fruit quality and clarity, this is a classy wine with a long finish, and even though the oak is fairly strident, it manages to work nicely with the confident Cabernet. Giscours made a very accurate wine in 2021, and it reminds me of the elegance shown in some of the finest bygone vintages.”

- Matthew Jukes

“Dark ruby almost opaque core, purple reflections, subtle brightening on the rim. Ripe plum fruit with black cherries, hints of figs and spicy wood. Juicy, sweet concentrated black fruit on the palate with integrated tannins, fine mineral edge, and a touch of nougat on the finish. Has ageing potential.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is elegant, fresh and offers delicacy (in subtlety/richness), roundness, density, and depth (in finesse). There are notes of violet, juicy/ripe blackcurrant and more slightly juicy/ripe bigarreau cherry combined with hints of pulpy/flavoured blue plum, cornflower as well as fine hints of sweet spices, a subtle hint of clove, bourbon vanilla, a very discreet hint of blue flowers, liquorice, and an imperceptible hint of eucalyptus. The palate is nicely fresh/juicy/crunchy and reveals a very nice purity, a crystalline side, a lot of finesse/elegance, class, gourmandize, tension, a lot of delicacy/justness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy blackcurrant, violet, bright blue plum combined with hints of toasted almond, subtle hints of camphor, cocoa, toasted almond, an imperceptible hint of bright/fresh red berries, balsamic (in the background). The tannins are elegant, precise, racy and reveal a controlled power. Subtle chewiness and positive bitterness on the finish/persistence.”

- Vert de Vin
