

Château Malescot St. Exupéry 2020

CSPC# 848997

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 44% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Margaux
Classification	Third Growth. Troisième Grand Cru Classé in 1855.
Website	http://www.malescot.com/
General Info	<p>The estate already produced wine in 1608. In 1697, it was sold by Louise Simon Ecoisses Malescot, consul of King Louis XIV at the Parliament of Bordeaux. He gave his name to the property, and his descendants took good care of Malescot and added a large dwelling house and numerous outbuildings, but after the revolution, the property was divided several times between different descendants and sold to different buyers before becoming the property of Count Jean-Baptiste Saint-Exupéry in 1827 who added his name to that of Malescot.</p> <p>In 1855 Château Malescot Saint Exupéry was ranked third grand cru before being sold to a banker from Bordeaux named Fourcade, who renovated the winery and enlarged the vineyard. The chateau passed again through the hands of various owners including Mr. Boissac who built the current castle in 1885 but sold it again in 1901. Many owners succeeded again, and the estate slowly declined until, on 1st June 1955, Paul and Roger Zuger bought it with only seven hectares of vines left. After nearly 30 years of sustained efforts and attention, the blason of Malescot regained its rank and its desire to go ever higher. Today, the son of Roger, Jean-Luc Zuger, is at the head of the estate that was extended to 23.5 hectares, and he continues the work begun by his grandfather and his father.</p>
Winemaker	Cellar Master: Gilles Pouget. Oenologist Consultant: Michel Rolland
Vintage	<p>As in the preceding vintages, 2020 saw average temperatures that were among the highest ever recorded due to a series of heatwaves and an exceptionally dry summer. After abundant rainfall at the end of 2019, there was very little rain in the first quarter of 2020, 80 mm (3.15 inches) less than the thirty-year average. Winter 2020 stood out for its mild temperatures. Average temperatures were 3°C (37°F) above the thirty-year average and temperatures in February sometimes exceeded 20°C (68°F). Only four light frosts occurred in what was otherwise a mild winter. As a result, bud break was extremely early, from the 22nd to the 26th of March depending on the grape variety, approximately ten days earlier than average. The 2020 vintage promised to be an early one.</p> <p>The spring was also very mild. Temperatures in April were among the hottest since 1962. Flowering occurred between the 21st and the 26th of May, in excellent conditions. There were no signs of coulure or millerandage. The spring was particularly wet, which meant a greater risk of disease that we nonetheless managed to control (very few signs on the leaves and none on the bunches).</p> <p>The summer brought long and intense heatwaves between the 23rd of June and the 12th of August, as well as significant drought, with no rain at all between the 19th of June and the 10th of August. Ripening occurred between the 23rd and the 26th of July. It was only during the second ten-day period of August that rainfall helped limit potentially excessive hydric stress. Nearly 80 mm (3.15 inches) of rain fell on August 13th. In spite of the thunderstorms that followed, the rainfall did not significantly penetrate the soil. However, the storms did cause the temperature to decrease and limit sun exposure thus contributing to maintaining good acid potential in the berries. Conditions in September were also ideal for the grapes, with glorious sunshine by day, cool nights and only 14 mm (0.55 inches) of rain.</p>
Vineyards	28 hectares of which 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. Soil gravel overlaying chalk or marl which slopes towards the Gironde. Fruit picked into trays to prevent crushing.
Harvest	The yield is 31hl/ha this year, with the harvest running until 2nd October.



Vinification/ Maturation	Temperature controlled and matured in 100% new oak and undergoes malolactic in barrel depending on the vintage. Aged on lees with stirring. 15 months' barrel ageing (70% new barrels) before being racked without fining or filtration.
Tasting Notes	Particularly seductive aromas of blossoms and berries; of particular resilience and breed, with exceptionally crisp tannins, great, fruity length; particularly successful, has character, temperament and class.
Serve with	Chateau Malescot St. Exupery is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Cellaring	Drink 2026-2036
Production	Approx. 9,000 cases made.
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p>95-97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2023</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p>97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p>92 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>90-93 points - Farr Vintners - May 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>93-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p>94+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p>93-95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021</p> <p>18 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A ripe, slightly flashy style, with a lovely core of mulled plum and blackberry fruit laced with black tea and singed sandalwood. Reveals a very caressing feel through the finish, with hints of mocha and dark tobacco filling in. Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot. Best from 2026 through 2036."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Sporting a deep purple-black color, the 2020 Malescot St. Exupery prances out of the glass with showy scents of ripe black and red currants, black cherries, raspberry leaves, and ground cloves, plus wafts of lilacs and tilled soil. Medium to full-bodied, the palate delivers mouth-coating black and red fruit layers with a firm, grainy texture, and well-balanced acidity, finishing on a lingering fragrant-earth note."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 Malescot St. Exupery is a little sluggish and broody to begin, before cutting loose with notes of crushed red currants, warm cassis, and black raspberries, followed by hints of cardamom, violets, and black pepper. Medium to full-bodied, rich, and plush, it delivers bags of opulent black and red fruits and fantastic persistence."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Independent</p> <p><i>"Lots of blackcurrants and blueberries on the nose, together with walnuts and chocolate. Full-bodied and very layered, with super depth and plushness, offering currant, crushed-stone and bitter-chocolate flavors. Very lush for this wine, but velvety and structured at the same time."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Solid red with blackberry, blueberry, chocolate, and spice. Lots of hazelnut, too. It's full-bodied with chewy, polished tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Best of the trilogy vintages?"</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p>

- Reviews** *"This wine is dry, showing some extracted tannins. It is the weight of the black fruits that will redeem its initial massive structure. Acidity and hints of the blackberry fruits to come arrive at the end."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Cask sample. Opulent black fruit on the nose and palate, very finely polished in purity, and the structure is similarly smooth. Lovely black-cherry note as well as liquorice and soy to give savoury context."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Crunchy blue fruits with nice acidity and finessed tannins that gently support the succulent cherry, blackcurrant, and plum fruit. Toasted elements, clove and cinnamon and cedar and liquorice come into play fairly quickly, but this has freshness with a cool minty tang to the overall expression, and there is a sleekness to the structure. It's opulent, though it hasn't been overworked and works well with the vintage."*
- GH, Decanter.com
- "Enjoyable black fruit aromatics on the nose, they do a good job here of soft pedaling the extraction on the attack, although by the mid palate we are in bitter chocolate and liquorice territory. Again, concentration and intensity are an overriding signature of the vintage."*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "Incredibly dark in color, the nose jumps with smoked currants, burning embers, singed cherries, spice and flowers. The wine is plush, dense, full-bodied and rich, with layers of polished, velvety dark red fruits that coat and soothe your palate, finishing with dark chocolate, sweet plums, licorice and espresso. Give this at least 8 or more years in the cellar and the wine is going to really start to show."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "The yield is 31hl/ha this year, with the harvest running until 2nd October. Deep ruby colour. The nose is sweet and ripe, with baked plum and clafoutis notes. The palate is succulent and generous. Sweetly spiced with no hard edges, this full and rounded wine is hedonistic without excess. Plush and ripe to the finish."*
- Farr Vintners
- "The 2020 Malescot St. Exupéry was picked at 31hl/ha. It has a bouquet that I would describe as controlled opulence: lavish blueberry, Dorset plums, crushed violet and incense burst from the glass... but in orderly fashion. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe and succulent tannins that lend this Margaux a fleshy texture, yet there is clearly ample structure, as well as marvelous salinity and precision on the finish. This 2020 continues the purple patch for this property and comes highly recommended."*
- NM, Vinous
- "The 2020 Malescot Saint Exupéry is absolutely gorgeous. Deep and silky (that is not a typo) Malescot shows a level of finesse that is truly remarkable. There is still plenty of textural intensity, but also greater elegance than in the recent past. Succulent dark cherry, plum, licorice, incense and blood orange all run through this wonderfully sumptuous, expressive Margaux. Give this a few years in the bottle. Superb."*
- AG, Vinous
- "The 2020 Malescot Saint Exupéry offers up scents of scorched earth, licorice, smoke, gravel, and menthol. Powerful, bold, and savory, the 2020 possesses remarkable depth and tons of character. Malescot has been one of the under the radar gems in Bordeaux these last few years. The 2020 is another gorgeous wine from the château."*
- AG, Vinous
- "Beautiful cassis, smoky oak, graphite, blackberries, and scorched earth notes emerge from the 2020 Château Malescot Saint Exupéry, another incredibly impressive wine from Margaux in the vintage. With medium to full-bodied richness, it has plenty of mid-palate depth, the building, firmer tannins of the vintage, fabulous purity of fruit, and a great finish. Hide bottles for 4-5 years and enjoy over the following 15-20 years."*
- Jeb Dunnuck

Reviews *“Lots of cassis, blackberries, toasted spices, and vanilla-tinged oak define the nose of the 2020 Château Malescot Saint Exupéry, and it’s medium to full-bodied, round, and supple on the palate. With velvety tannins, terrific mid-palate depth, and the classic purity of fruit that’s the hallmark of the vintage, it builds nicely with time in the glass and is another incredibly impressive Margaux that will have two decades or more of prime drinking.”*
- Jeb Dunnuck

“Ripe red cherries, nuances of rose hips and sea buckthorn, delicate nougat, candied orange zest. Juicy, elegant, ripe cherry fruit, lovely fruit expression, ripe, integrated tannins, fresh, well-structured, very well-balanced. One for the cellar.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“On the nose, fruity and offers a certain gourmandize, good definition, freshness, nice fruit, and a certain generosity. It reveals notes of blackberry, raspberry and hints raspberry leaf associated with touches of bright cherry, licorice as well as fine points of violet, a discreet touch of spice and nice quality gravel. On the palate, fruity, fresh and offers minerality, good definition, a certain greediness, a juicy/acidic frame, good definition, a fine racy grain as well as a little chewiness. The wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy raspberry, small bright red berries, subtle violet combined with hints of lily, fresh blond tobacco, nutmeg, cardamom, racy/racy minerality and a discreet hint of toast/vanilla. Good length. The tannins are mellow, precise, racy, and structured.”

- Vert de Vin

“(49% M, 44%, 4% CF, 3% PV; 31hl/ha; 13.5% ABV; 70% new). Blackberry-sweet to smell; full, fresh, and finely, if firmly tannic; deep and sweet in ripe black fruit, full, round, long to taste, ample and satisfying, a gentle subtlety of taste, mouthcoating, sapid, and with lovely fruit length; a most seductive abundance of ripe Merlot flesh, well-contained and defined by its Cabernet tannin frame. This will make a delicious bottle in its fruit-rich, fulsome style. At 49% there is a particularly high proportion of Merlot this year (it is usually more like one third), but Jean-Luc simply said, “The Cabernets were very small and lacking juice, and the Merlots so very good, so, why not include them all?” Why not indeed, and the result speaks for itself. You’ll be able to drink this relatively early, but it will keep and age well. 2028–50+.”

- MS, The World of Fine Wine
