
Château Margaux 2006

CSPC# 814290

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot, 2% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Margaux

Classification

First Growth. Premier Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

Website

<http://www.chateau-margaux.com/en/>

General Info

1st classified growth in 1855. The château, already known in the 12th century under the name La Mothe de Margaux, started only to resemble to what it is today when the Lestonnac family took it over in 1572 and undertook important restructuring. By the end of the 17th century, Château Margaux already covered 265 hectares (654 acres). At the beginning of the 18th century the estate manager Berlon was the first to vinify red grapes and white grapes separately and understood the importance of terroir. In 1810, a Basque, Bertrand Douat, Marquis de la Colonilla, owner since 1801, built the neo-palladian style residence of Margaux and the cellars which we still admire today. After several successions of owners, the Ginestet family bought the chateau in 1950 after being obliged by the serious economic crises to sell it in 1977 to André Mentzelopoulos, a Greek at the head of the grocery shops Félix Potin. André Mentzelopoulos sensed the opportunity and invested massively without expecting any immediate return in a market that was still depressed and a few years away from the new golden age for Bordeaux at the end of the 20th century. He made spectacular moves: in the vineyard, where better drainage was introduced and new plantations made; in the cellars, under the supervision of the oenologist Emile Peynaud, Pavillon Rouge was reintroduced with a considerable increase in selection; new oak barrels were used to age the wine, plans were drawn up for the first great cellar in the region to be built underground (a technical feat), and Pavillon Blanc was redefined. In the château and its outbuildings, under the supervision of the inspectors for Historic Monuments (Margaux is a classified monument), the reconstitution of the architectural heritage and the renovation of the interior were carried out. All of this was done with deep respect for the existing structures and with the determined aim of allowing the terroir to express its fabulous qualities. Since his death in 1980, his daughter Corinne Mentzelopoulos has been managing the estate and pursuing the investment program of her father.

Winemaker

Emile Peynaud & Philippe Bascaules

Vintage

After a rather cold winter (particularly during the month of February) but fortunately with more rainfall than in 2005, spring was so dry we almost started to get concerned about a possible lack of water for the vines. But that would have been forgetting just how adaptable vines are during a period of drought, and especially just how well great terroirs manage to even out such climatic extremes. On the other hand, our frost protection system was unable to prevent damage on April 11 at Virefougasse, the plot which produces the Pavillon Blanc, and resulted in a serious reduction in the potential yield.

The flowering, which took place in excellent conditions, promised an average-sized crop of red at picking dates very close to those of the previous two years.

The summer was then hot, even turning into a heatwave during the last two weeks of July, the weather then cooled a little in August. It was dry, in particular: it rained less in July and August than during that same period in 2003! September brought the usual contrasting types of weather: very hot and dry for the first ten days, then mild and humid until the beginning of the harvest, then sufficiently dry to carry out the picking without any rush. This pattern of weather bears a strange resemblance to that of 1996, which had the same summer rain, the same very favourable weather at the end of August, and exactly the same rainfall from September 1st until the end of the picking. ... (The picking began on 19th September)



Vineyards	The estate has 82 hectares under vine, with Cabernet Sauvignon inevitably dominant (75%) with 20% Merlot making up most of the rest, along with a smattering of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot.
Harvest	Picking started on 19th September
Maturation	Fermentation takes place in oak vats, and ageing is in 100% new barrels for 22 months.
Tasting Notes	This wine has an extraordinary aromatic finesse, a tannic richness, and a particularly dense and tight-knit texture. The finish is very long, fresh, and lively, a little bit firm but already packed with flavor. Such balance is a brilliant expression of Chateau Margaux's noble terroir.
Winemaker's Notes	<p>For a number of years now, we have had a succession of great and very great vintages, surely proving that, at least so far, the weather conditions have particularly favoured the ripening of the Cabernet grapes. It shouldn't be overlooked though, that this success has also been the result of more and more rigorous selection: in 2006, barely 36% of the crop went into the first wine, which will only be a third by the time it is bottled, after the unavoidable loss of the lees wine at each racking.</p> <p>One single batch of Merlot, though of remarkably high quality, finally went into the blend, but it only represents 4% of the whole... It is the first time we have had so little. The Petit Verdot (4%) and the Cabernet Franc (2%) make up their usual proportions; they each bring added complexity that is difficult to define but is most certainly a necessary contribution to the character of the wines of Château Margaux. The Cabernet Sauvignon therefore takes up almost all of the place: 90%! It brings to the 2006 an extraordinary aromatic finesse, a tannic richness that is second only to the 2005; and a particularly dense and tight-knit texture. The finish is very long, fresh and lively, a little bit firm, but already packed with flavour.</p> <p>2006 is therefore a great Château Margaux vintage. Of course, it is not 2005, or 2000; those vintages are exceptional. But it does have both the grace and the purity of the 1996, the so classic freshness of the 2004 and the heady power of the 1986 or the 1995. Such balance is a brilliant expression of Château Margaux's noble terroir but demands a little patience. We recommend waiting for several more years. (October 2018)</p>
Serve with	<p>Chateau Margaux is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift.</p> <p>Chateau Margaux is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.</p>
Production	Typically, about 12,000 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2016-2030
Scores/Awards	<p>92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - November 2014</p> <p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2009</p> <p>99 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #182 - April 2009</p> <p>93 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #181 - February 2009</p> <p>93-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, RobertParker.com - May 2016</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, RobertParker.com - April 2007</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2010</p> <p>95-100 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2007</p> <p>95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2009</p> <p>93 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2009</p> <p>93-95 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2008</p> <p>18+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2009</p> <p>18+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2007</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2016</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2016</p> <p>92-95 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2007</p> <p>94 points - Wine & Spirits Magazine - December 2009</p> <p>93 points - Tom Cannavan, wine-pages.com - January 2007</p> <p>95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - June 2015</p> <p>96 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2017</p>

18.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2007

18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2008

17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - January 2008

Reviews

"On the taut, sinewy side, with cedar and sandalwood notes framing the core of red currant, bitter cherry and damson plum fruit. Offers a lovely, singed feel through the finish, with a gentle perfumy edge. Despite the tannic profile of the vintage in general, this is all charm and hitting its stride now. —Non-blind Château Margaux vertical (December 2013). Drink now through 2022."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"This has a wonderful nose of perfume, sandalwood, ripe plum and berries. Full-bodied, with seamless tannins and a long finish. Gorgeous. Best after 2015."

- JS, Wine Spectator

"It is worth noting that when the bottled 2006 Chateau Margaux, which appeared closed and less impressive than I had predicted from barrel, was retasted alongside the remarkable 2008, I elevated my score to 94+. It does not possess the size or power of the 2008 or 2005, but the 2006 exhibits impressive density, a deeper color, and the beautifully textured, pure style that is a hallmark of this estate. Moreover, it is relatively precocious, and can be drunk now or cellared for 25+ years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"I was hoping the 2006 Chateau Margaux would turn out along the lines of the 1996, but that is not the case. It appears to be the least of the first-growth Médoc's in 2006. The color is a medium dark ruby that lightens at the rim, and the bouquet offers classic, but evolved Margaux aromas of sweet currants, licorice, forest floor, and earth. Medium-bodied with dry tannin in the finish, it does not possess the profound concentration found in the truly sublime vintages of Chateau Margaux (i.e., 2005, 2000, 1996, 1990, 1983, and 1982). This mid-weight effort requires 5-7 years of cellaring and should age for 20-25 years."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The strictest selection ever instituted at this estate resulted in only 36% of the crop being utilized for the blend of 2006 Chateau Margaux. Composed of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot, it is similar to the 1996, but with sweeter, more seductive fruit in the nose. A big, tannic, dense effort displaying terrific purity, power, elegance, and a distinctive mineral/flower component, it is a medium to full-bodied wine of great nobility that should be at its finest between 2017-2050+."

- RP, Wine Advocate

"The 2006 Château Margaux has a sense of airiness and wonderful definition on the nose: wild strawberry, redcurrant, cedar and crushed roses soaring from the glass, but it never strives for the opulence of say the 2006 Château Palmer. The palate is very well balanced with fine and quite firm tannin in the mouth. This seems to be approaching its plateau after a decade. While not a powerful or ostentatious Château Margaux, it epitomizes understatement and refinement in a similar vein to Lafite-Rothschild. It is only after the wine has been swallowed that you appreciate its qualities, and you feel urged to go back for another sip."

- NM, RobertParker.com

"Tasted at Margaux. Representing just 36% of the crop and consisting of a whopping 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, the highest proportion ever, this is a bold, masculine Château Margaux. A limpid purple/black hue. The nose is tight with blackberry and blueberries, harmonious with night on perfect acidity. Firm grip, cedar, and a touch of graphite, yet I find this to be an exemplary expression of Cabernet, rather than an exemplary expression of Château Margaux, the latter being the greater. Like Latour, just missing that explosion of fruit on the finish. A superb wine but handicapped by under-performing Merlot. Tasted April 2007."

- NM, RobertParker.com

Reviews

"Tasted blind at Southwold '06 Bordeaux tasting. Here is an example of pure unadulterated Cabernet on the nose with superlative definition and vigour. Crushed stones, a touch of blackberry and black olive, conservative and blue blooded. The palate is full-bodied with sturdy, dense tannins; reserved and masculine with a beguiling tobacco-tinged finish that displays superb delineation and focus. Very pure with incredible persistency, this Margaux actually reminds me of a top Lafite! Divine. Tasted January 2010."

- NM, Wine Journal

"Very powerful and rich. Fantastic. Full, silky, and structured. Yet layered and rich, with loads of mineral, violet and coffee character. Incredible. So much finesse in the nose. What a wine. Similar to the 1995, which received 100 points."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is not a big Château Margaux, its style showing more elegance and discretion. The tannins are soft, although producing a dense web that lies underneath the black currant and plum fruit flavors. It is a wine that envelops the mouth, an edge of firmness over velvet fruit textures. The wine floats away slowly on the close."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"36% of total crop went into this grand vin, with just 4% Merlot. The strength is 13% ("we never want to make more alcohol than this" according to Paul Pontallier.) 3.37 TA, 5 in tartaric, pH 3.7, IPT 71 (IPT in 2000 was 70). Mid crimson. SO much riper and more appetising and fuller than the Pavillon Rouge on the nose! Pretty complete already with lovely balance and lift, though the acidity is certainly notable, even if the tannins are wonderfully mellow. Very polite and unforced. Dancing - reminds Paul Pontallier of 1996 with a little less density but just as much charm. Very Margaux. This is the Cabernet of Margaux (not of Pauillac NB...) Graceful though only for certain palates. Follows through. Great line, as the Australians would say. Quite distinctive and much, much more delicate than the early vintages of Margaux from the new regime here in the 1980s. Very fresh and elegant - quite a gamble in a way. Very, very fine tannins. Bone dry. Will always be in elegant idiom."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Good deep red-ruby. Deep but reticent aromas of redcurrant, tobacco leaf, licorice, and loam; I don't find the typical floral high notes of Margaux. Juicy, fine-grained, and suave, with good definition and a seamless, spherical texture to the currant and soil flavors. Finishes with a fine dusting of tannins, but not the grip or power of earlier barrel samples of this wine."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Bright ruby-red. Blueberry, boysenberry and violet on the pure nose. Lively and minerally on entry, then really expands in the middle palate to show terrific density with any loss of clarity. Wonderfully classy, vibrant, and long, with compelling subtle sweetness of fruit. Finishes with outstanding depth and length. Although this wine was fined in January and racked just a month before I tasted it, it was far easier to taste than was my earlier barrel sample last spring."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"A good example of this stylish property. Violets on the nose backed by sweet, ripe cassis, concentrated richness with underneath a mineral purity and freshness giving brightness and elegance."

- Derek Smedley MW

"The perfume wafts slowly from the glass. Charcoal softness. Sure-footed, seductive, and complex, with plum, damson and bilberry fruits; this is the real deal. Silky tannins and perfect lift. Wonderfully elegant structure: there's so much to admire here"

- JA, Decanter.com

"Still tightly wound, although it resists much of the stern tannins found in many of the other 2006 Medoc wines, the wine offers the start of its secondary aromatics with its tobacco, cherry, plum, spice, smoke and forest floor scents. Elegant, sophisticated, and charming, give it another 5-10 more years to develop more secondary notes, soften and add more weight. The wine was produced from 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc, until this time, this probably set a record for the highest percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“A sexy vintage of Margaux, this is heady and seductive right from the start. Floral strawberry and red currant flavors back the wine's gentle sweetness, while floral acidity gives it a sting. Black tannins hint at more serious, long-term prospects, though much of the vintage may get drunk before it has a chance to reach any deeper, more essential terroir expression.”*
- Wine & Spirits

“90% cabernet sauvignon and only 4% merlot. Only 36% of crop into the first wine this year. Quite a firm, mineral-edged quality with plenty of black fruit. Tight and glossy, with a dark plum skin and black chocolate nuance. The palate is very tight and structured, with big, rich, chocolaty tannins with plenty of grip and a chalky dryness plenty of concentration here. Very cabernet sauvignon.”
- TC, wine-pages.com
