
Château Margaux 2013

CSPC# 749584

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

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| Grape Variety | 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot |
| Appellation | Margaux |
| Classification | First Growth. Premier Grand Cru Classe in 1855. |
| Website | http://www.chateau-margaux.com/en/ |
| General Info | <p>Château Margaux, a 1er Cru Classé property, has been owned by the Mentzelopoulos family since 1978 - since then it has consistently produced the finest wines in the Médoc.</p> <p>One of the grandest, most imposing buildings amongst the Médoc châteaux, Ch. Margaux in its current form was built in the early 19th century, although viticulture had been practiced on the estate for several centuries before. A chequered period of ownership in the 19th and early 20th century meant that the quality of some Margaux vintages was patchy, but the change which restored the property to its rightful status came in 1977 when it was bought by André Mentzenopoulos, Greek by birth but who had lived in France since 1958 and had made a fortune through supermarket retailing. André immediately instigated much-needed investment in vineyard and cellar, but his untimely death in 1980 saw his daughter, Corinne, take up the reins. Corinne's shrewdest move was the recruitment of young, talented winemaker Paul Pontallier to oversee the production.</p> <p>Paul remains at the helm nearly 30 years later, and in that time Margaux has produced some legendary wines, but also displays a marvelous seam of consistency through good years and the not so good.</p> |
| Vintage | <p>It's in the difficult vintages that the very great terroirs reveal their incredible supremacy one way or another. This rule remains true for 2013, but we don't exactly know why. Precocity is one of the reasons: our best Cabernet plots – among the earliest in the Médoc – had already reached a very good level of ripeness before the hasty harvest, and it came close, within four or five days, to reaching excellency. The other reasons remain, and will remain, unclear for a long time yet; the genius of great terroirs is difficult to fathom.</p> <p>Whatever it is, all the large Cabernet plots have, without exception, produced magnificent wines, so clearly above all the others that the Château Margaux blending was, in fact, easy to decide. It consists of 38% of the harvest, a very classic figure. However, the proportions of the grape varieties are unusual: 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, the largest proportion ever; 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot and... no Merlot at all. Even our best plot, which we had the luxury of harvesting with great care, turned out to be disappointing. So, we can expect a wine dominated by Cabernet: it is indeed, but not the way in which we would have thought. When ripe enough, Margaux Cabernets have a balance and softness that are otherwise characteristic of Merlot; and of course, this charm and finesse belong only to their terroir.</p> |
| Vineyards | <p>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. Unusually in Margaux, there is a white wine made here, Pavillon Blanc, from 100% Sauvignon Blanc, while the two red wines are, of course, Ch. Margaux itself and Pavillon Rouge. Typically, about 30,000 cases of red wine are made, with the <i>Grand Vin</i> usually accounting for just over 40% of the total. Production of the white wine amounts to less than 3,000 cases.</p> |
| Harvest | <p>The harvest of the whites took place from the 19th to the 27th of September, and that of the reds, from the 30th of September to the 11th of October.</p> |

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| Vinification/ Maturation | Fermentation takes place in oak vats, and ageing for Ch. Margaux in 100% new barrels for 22 months. It is Paul Pontallier's firmly-held belief that it is the Cabernet Sauvignon grape which is responsible for most of the sheer class which characterises the wines of Ch. Margaux and we are seeing, in consequence, an ever-greater percentage of this varietal in the blend of the <i>Grand Vin</i> . |
| Tasting Notes | Château Margaux 2013 cannot claim to be a great vintage: we know very well that it was born under difficult conditions. But we are immensely privileged to have produced it at the beginning of the 21st century when all the care and attention, all the sacrifices, are possible; this wine justifies all of these efforts. (April 2013) |
| Production | 10,833 cases made |
| Cellaring | Drink 2014-2026 |
| Scores/Awards | <p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2016</p> <p>90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014</p> <p>88-90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #214 - August 2014</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2014</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - April 2014</p> <p>95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2014</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2014</p> <p>89-92 points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2014</p> <p>17.5 points - Roger Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - April 2014</p> <p>18.25 (94) points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 11, 2014</p> <p>94 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)</p> <p>91-93 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2014</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2014</p> <p>91-93 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2014</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p>17.5 points - Simon Berry, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2014</p> <p>17.5 points - Tom Cave, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants - April 2014</p> <p>94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2014</p> <p>92-93 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2014</p> <p>91-93 points - Falstaff Magazine - April 2014 (score only)</p> <p>18 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p> <p>17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2014</p> |
| Reviews | <p><i>"This is velvety and suave, with alluring fresh plum, sleek cassis and warmed raspberry coulis flavors that are nicely melded together, picking up rooibos tea, singed sandalwood and mineral accents through the lovely finish. Refined and approachable already but has enough range and length for cellaring. A wine of style. Best from 2017 through 2025. 10,833 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Supple, with flavors of cherry preserves and red currant paste, lined with subtle bergamot, incense and black tea notes. Long, refined and graceful. Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. -Tasted non-blind. Score range: 90-93."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated wine that reflects the vintage, the 2013 Chateau Margaux is a blend of 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. For the first time, there is no Merlot in the blend. Moreover, only 38% of the crop made it into Margaux, a finesse-styled, classic effort offering notes of spring flowers, blue and red fruits, decent acidity, sweet tannin, and a lovely, round, medium-bodied mouthfeel. The 2013 is not as concentrated as a great vintage, nor does it have the power and length of a top year, but it is a well-made, charming red to enjoy during its first 10-12 years of life."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> |

Reviews

“The Chateau Margaux is a blend of 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot with no Merlot this year due to coulure and was picked between 30 September and 11 October. It represents 38% of the total harvest. It has a very masculine slightly earthy bouquet, a little more introverted than previous vintages, opening with time to reveal its trademark dried violet aromas. The palate is medium-bodied, silky smooth on the entry. There is not a huge weight in the mouth, but it glides or rather flows nicely. It is a seductive Margaux, not a long-term wine for the estate but a success considering the vintage. Tasted April 2014. “

- NM, Wine Journal

“Spectacular for the vintage. This is a wine that I want to buy. The aromas are like rose petals and perfume. Speechless. Palate is full body, yet refined and beautiful with perfectly polished tannins. It’s wonderfully balanced.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This wine is smooth, ripe with fine tannins and red plum and black-currant fruits that are soft and gentle. Acidity dominates at this stage, supported by the tannins. It brings out the fruit and freshness of the year while also keeping some structure from the high percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. Drink from 2025.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Barrel Sample. For the first time, there is no Merlot in this wine. Cabernet Sauvignon is complemented by small amounts of Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. It’s a lovely, aromatic wine, on the delicate side, with sustained black currant fruits and gentle tannins. The aftertaste is deliciously fruity and fine.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Full, deep red. Restrained but very deep aromas of blueberry, redcurrant and quinine; a real step up in concentration from the Pavillon Rouge. Sharply focused and gripping in the mouth, with enticingly sappy, creamy red and dark berry flavors complicated by minty tobacco and sweet spices. Finishes very broad and long, with suave tannins and a lingering impression of vibrancy”

- ST, International Wine Cellar

“94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot. Succulent, juicy, indulgent, sweet fruit. Extremely finely balanced – technically flawless, especially from a structural perspective. But inevitably weaker in intensity and complexity than the headline vintages. (RH) “

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Lovely fragrant nose – floral-sweet, the perfume of Margaux. A textbook Margaux with a hint of Musigny, all delicacy and purity with an undeniable sense of place.”

- SS, Decanter.com

“Floral, tobacco, black cherry, vanilla and kirsch open to a refined and elegant wine, which is surprising due to the high level of Cabernet Sauvignon as well as the vintage’s characteristics. Medium bodied and silky with pure, sweet fruit, this is a very good wine that will offer pleasure young. For the first time in the recorded history of the estate, no Merlot was included in the blend. From a blend of 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot, with a pH of 3.65. From yields of 22 hectoliters per hectare, the wine represents 38% of the harvest. This is one of the stars of the vintage. 92-94 Pts.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Deep at core; colour close to the edge; pretty purple; attractive purity of blackcurrant fruit; quite scented and aromatic with genuine violet perfume; very Margaux; real delicacy; elegant and balanced on the palate, light; with soft tannin, a little density and good-ish length. Has purity and delicacy. [94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot]. Tasted April 2014. Drink 2018-2030. 91-93”

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

Reviews *"In years to come, 2013 Ch Margaux will be a legendary wine: the first (and perhaps last) Merlot free Margaux. Tasting reveals that great terroir, first class vineyard management and great winemaking means that we don't miss out, and that 5% Cabernet Franc and the 1% Petit Verdot have added a touch of complexity too. It might not be typical Margaux, but it's proof that the vintage was capable of producing complete, stunning wine."*
- SB, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

"Just 38% of the crop from yields as low as 22hl/ha, there will be only 7,000-8,000 cases of Merlot-less Ch. Margaux made in 2013. The higher proportion of Cabernet initially gives it a Pauillac-pencil-box nose, but this soon dissipated into a more Margaux style of wine, with that grace and elegance that signifies this most stylish of First Growths. Returning to it again, it had opened out with charming, floral notes. The length and development is there, finishing fresh and full. The ever-urbane Paul Pontallier wasn't trying to promote it as anything more than a very fine accomplishment in what was a near impossible vintage; a wine to be enjoyed, and Paul to be praised for it, around 2020."
- TC, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

"This is a fresh, lively Margaux with lifted floral notes and good depth. This is the pure nose of Cabernet from Margaux' terroir - cassis and intensely floral with violets and roses. Tannins are soft with lifted flavours that rises in the finish. A wine to lay down for at least 10 years. 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc, 1% Petit Verdot and no Merlot (first time). Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Drink. (01-Apr-2014)"
- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2013 Margaux is impressive. I could describe the aromas and flavors, but ultimately, the 2013 is really a wine of texture above all else. An intensely floral finish gives lift to the dark red fruit in an understated, classy wine long on finesse. For the first time, Margaux includes no Merlot in 2013. This is a terrific showing. The blend is 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Cabernet Franc and 1% Petit Verdot. (AG)"
- AG, Vinous

*"High art from the Cabernet terroirs. This wine is a unique blend that relies on Cabernet Sauvignon (94%) complemented by Cabernet Franc (5%) and Petit Verdot (1%) One of the best wines of the year!
In 1977, the purchase of Château by Greek businessman André Mentzelopoulos caused quite a stir in the world of Bordeaux Grands Crus. Following the advice of distinguished oenologist Émile Peynaud, Mentzelopoulos outfitted the property with new barrels and began construction of a huge underground cellar. The praise began with the first vintage and any prejudice was immediately dispelled. Corinne Mentzelopoulos took over the reins at the chateau after the sudden disappearance of her father in 1980. She insists that she is but a brief player on the great chateau's stage and that its rich history will outlive all its owners. Humble words indeed."*
- SAQ (Quebec Liquor Stores)
