



THE MARGAUX APPELLATION

Margaux is unquestionably the most famous appellation not just in the Médoc, but all Bordeaux. The whole world recognises the excellence of its wines. Located on the Gironde estuary and sheltered from ocean winds by a huge pine forest, the vines benefit from an outstanding climate: plenty of sunshine, mild winters and summers that are dry, but not too dry. These are ideal conditions for producing very great wines.

Margaux has 21 properties that were included in the 1855 Classification, although only has one First Growth (Château Margaux). In the past, Margaux was known as an under-performing appellation, but now this region produces some of Bordeaux's finest wines (especially since 2000).

One interesting fact is that many châteaux actually own parcels of land in different communes. This creates considerable variability in the wines. The wines of Margaux are often described for their elegance and silkiness, along with their characteristic perfumed aromas.

THE TERROIR

Like other regions in the Médoc, the soils are gravelly; however, the soils are considered poorer than in neighboring areas, with lower clay content. The soils in Margaux are also some of the most diverse in the Médoc, with limestone and sand also found. The gravel is also not as deep in Margaux, and the soils are thinner. This leads them to be more susceptible to drought, and is a possible reason that the wines of Margaux do not perform as well in hot years such as 1982 and 1990. These shallower soils also heat up faster, which leads to earlier ripening than in neighbouring appellations. Drainage is often an issue in certain areas of Margaux, due to thick bands of clay. These bands can block the downward course of vine roots and lead to flooding the roots with pools of rain and moisture. Despite these

challenges of the terroir, however, Margaux continues to produce better wines year after year.

THE GRAPE VARIETIES

The dominant grape varieties are Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, although Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Malbec, and Canebre are also found here. Margaux grape varieties tend to parallel those of the Médoc Appellation in general. A typical vineyard blend is Château Margaux itself: 75% Cabernet, 20% Merlot, the rest Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot. In the actual wines, these numbers will vary slightly but Cabernet is usually a good 3/4 of most blends.

THE APPELLATION'S OFFICIAL CLASSIFICATION

The wines of Margaux follow a strict official specification and must meet several criteria:

- The wine should come from one of the 5 legally authorised communes (excluding, of course, land that, because of the soil or geographical location, are unsuitable for viticulture).
- The wine should be made from selected grape varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon (predominantly), Merlot, and Cabernet Franc (to a lesser extent), as well as Petit Verdot and Malbec (very small percentages),
- Minimum natural sugar: 178 grams per litre of must, - minimum alcoholic degree: 10.5°
- Limited yields- usually about 45 hectolitres per hectare (but this figure is revised every year).



WHAT MARGAUX WINE IS LIKE

Margaux wines usually have a deep, superbly brilliant garnet-red colour with purplish highlights. Thanks to the quality of the final blend, the wines are very elegant with fine balance and body on the palate, underpinned by delicate, tasty, fine-grained tannin. They have a very long aftertaste with remarkable roasted aromas. It is said that the wines of Margaux are the most "feminine" in the Médoc... and also the world's most elegant, soft, and perfumed. They display a quality that some people refer to as "quiet force". The wines of Margaux can age for a very long period (over 50 years in outstanding vintages such as 1945), maintaining their balance and smoothness through decades.

THE OFFICIAL CLASSIFICATION



An impressive 21 out of 61 out of the Médoc's classified wines are in Margaux. Margaux has only one of the 1ers crus (Prier Crus), but supports itself with 5 2ers crus (Deuxiemes Crus), no less than 10 3ers crus (Troisiemes Crus), 3 4ers crus (Quatriemes Crus), and 2 5ers crus (Cinquiemes Crus). As a result, even the most snobbish

wine aristocrats will find at least one wine to buy here, and average wine drinkers will be able to find reasonably priced wine.

1ERS OR PREMIER CRUS (FIRST- GROWTHS)

One of the five 1ers crus in Médoc is from Margaux.



Château Margaux
This 800-year-old estate has been among the top Margaux producers since it started making wine. Thomas Jefferson, on a trip to Bordeaux good manufacturer of wine.

The quality of the wine suffered from instability in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Then a change of ownership brought the wine's old reputation back. Although the gap between the chateau and its lower-rated competitors is nowhere near as large as the classification would lead one to believe, it is usually considered the top estate in its appellation. This wine is a fixture in the cellars of all serious Bordeaux collectors. Pure, silky tannins, a velvety texture, and a diversity

of powerful but smooth flavors make Margaux what it is. Although, in 16 years, the 2005 vintage is especially acclaimed, vintages such as 2004 are also highly subtle and feature layered aromas and flavours.

Vintages available: 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2007



2ERS OR DEUXIMIES CRUS (SECOND- GROWTH)

Five of the fourteen 2ers crus in the appellation include:



Château Rauzan-Ségla

In 1661, this estate was bought by Pierre Desmeasures de Rauzan, who named it after himself. It then passed through two centuries of his family, who maintained a high reputation for the chateau, so much so that it became a favourite of Thomas Jefferson.

Much more reputable than the other Rauzan, Rauzan-Ségla has optimized its land and now achieves ratings in the low to mid-90s. These wines tend towards being a little fuller than your average Margaux, but underneath strong tannins they have the same refined flavors. Overall an elegant style is the norm.

Grape selection is very strict from start to finish: all grapes are hand picked, before being sorted twice at the winery, ensuring only the best fruit is used in the finished wine. They are then fed into stainless-steel tanks using gravity-flow technology, where they undergo temperature-controlled fermentation.

Vintages available: 1989, 1995, 1996, 2002, 2005, 2006, and 2009



Château Brane-Cantenac

The wine was owned by a devoted Baron who named the winery after himself (Brane) and the commune it was listed under (Cantenac.) For some reason,

it was relatively unknown and unpopular before showing a strong revival in the 1990s and 2000s.

This second growth Margaux property was bought by the Lurton family in 1925 and inherited in 1956 by the far-sighted Lucien Lurton, who was recognised as one of the best vineyard managers of his day. In 1992, he passed the reins to his son **Henri Lurton**, who visited Txanton last February during the Bordeaux event. A trained oenologist, he set out to raise the quality higher still by lowering yields and using greater selection.

Vintage available: 2006



Chateau Brane-Cantenac



Henri Lurton



Château Durfort-Vivens

This winery is now owned by the same people that own Brane-Cantenac. The talented Lucien Lurton bought the property in 1961 and worked

hard to restore it to its fullest potential and, since 1992, his son Gonzague has continued his good work.

Durfort-Vivens is an unusual and original Margaux, which is seldom charming when young, and always needs time in bottle to

show the finesse and length of flavour that Gonzague seeks. In lighter years it can remain quite austere, although it always has true Margaux fragrance, but in better years it has real length, flavour and class.

The wine tends to be a blend of 70% cabernet sauvignon, 24% merlot and 6% cabernet franc, aged for between 16 and 20 months in oak, up to 40% of which is new oak. It will keep for between 11 and 25 years.



Jerome Heranval



Chateau Durfort Vivens



Château Lascombes

Just like several of the other 2ers crus in Margaux, Lascombes had a long history of great wine, was classified highly in 1855, continued to make great wine, and then suddenly turned around and ran up a bad reputation in the 1950s and 1960s, possibly due to a change of ownership.

The wine improved somewhat, but it has really gotten better since being acquired by an American firm in 2001, which has modernized the chateau's technique and brought its reputation back up



Chateau Lascombes



Dominique Befve





Château Rauzan-Gassies
 This wine sank into obscurity after a long, colorful history. Powerful but as refined as any Margaux, the wines are not unlikely to make a comeback. Right now, its prices are hard to resist considering the prestigious appellation. For bargain hunters wanting to add a Margaux to their collection, this is a wine to look at for sure.



Chateau Rauzan- Gassies



J-M Quie



Château d'Issan
 A third-growth property that produces about 100,000 bottles each year. Its richly aromatic and silky-textured Clarets are often

The estate's history dates back to the 1152 when the wine was officially served at the wedding of Eleanor of Aquitaine to King Henry II, the beginning of a special relationship between Bordeaux and England. The d'Essenault family owned the estate over five generations and rebuilt the existing chateau at the end of the 16th century. Surrounded by a moat, it is one of the oldest châteaux in the region and is frequently described as the most romantic in the Médoc.

In 1945 the Cruse family – already established in the Médoc for more than 150 years – purchased the property. Today Emmanuel Cruse runs the estate with the Lorenzetti family (owners of Chx Pédésclaux and Ladouys). They own 44 hectares in Margaux, planted with 62 percent Cabernet Sauvignon and 38 percent Merlot.

Vintages available: 2006, 2009, and 2012



Emmanuel Cruse



3ERS OR TROISIEMES CRUS (THIRD- GROWTHS)

Majority of the wines from the appellation belong to the third growth.



Château Kirwan
 Chateau Kirwan is located on the plateau of Cantenac with some of the finest gravelly soil in the Médoc. Kirwan is exquisitely elegant, well-structured and typical of the very finest in the Margaux appellation.

The vines are thinned out in order to encourage maximum concentration and ripeness in the grapes. These are hand-picked and carefully sorted before being crushed. The wine is fermented in temperature-controlled stainless steel vats and then aged in oak barrels (35% of which are renewed every year) for 18 months.

Château Kirwan takes its name from the Irishman, Mark Kirwan, who owned the estate in the mid-18th century. The Schÿler family has owned Kirwan since 1925.

Vintage available: 2006



Chateau Kirwan



Sophie Schÿler



Château Giscours
 One of the largest Margaux properties and now producing wine worthy of its 3ème Cru Classé status. It is located in the commune of Labarde and has over 80 hectares of vineyards.

Giscours was in a dire state when it was acquired by Nicholas Tari in 1952. He invested heavily and the quality of the wine improved beyond recognition. In 1995 he sold up the property to Dutch businessman Eric Albada Jelgersma.

Giscours' wine is typically a blend of 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc. The grapes are fermented in temperature-controlled tanks and the wine is then aged in small oak barrels (30-40% new) for 18 months.



Chateau Giscours



Alexander Van Beek (General Manager of Chateau Giscours and Chateau

Giscours produces richly aromatic wines that are surprisingly powerful on the palate, displaying ripe, black fruit with hints of cedar and new oak.

Vintages available: 2005, 2007, and 2012



Pereire family invested a lot of money into improving and modernizing Chateau Palmer. They replanted and restructured the vineyards.

In 1938, The Pereire family sold Chateau Palmer to a consortium of four families that included some of the wealthiest Bordeaux negociants. The Ginestet family, Mialhe family, Mahler-Besse family and the Sichel family jointly purchased the estate. In time, the Mahler-Besse family and the Sichel family bought out the other two family holdings. The Ginestet family sold their shares of Chateau Palmer in 1950 and again 1982 to Mahler-Besse. The Louis Mialhe family also sold their shares of Chateau Palmer to both the Sichel family and the Mahler-Besse families.

Chateau Palmer and its Alter Ego are the two wines produced by the estate. Chateau Palmer also makes a small amount of white wine that is not available commercially. Alter Ego made its debut with the 1998 vintage. The birth of Alter Ego coincided with the purchase of 8 hectares of vines, which became the heart and soul of Alter Ego. Because Alter Ego comes from different plots than Palmer and is produced with a different blend than the Grand Vin, Chateau Palmer does not view this as a second wine. They produce and market the wine as its own, unique wine. If a reclassification ever took place, it would certainly deserve Fourth Growth Status.

Vintages available (Chateau Palmer): 1983, 1989, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009, and Historical Edition XIX Century
 Vintages available (Alter Ego): 2005 and 2008



Château Malescot St-Exupery
 This wine shows that Margaux doesn't always have to hold back on the tannins. Indeed, it offers extremely powerful tannins as well as the layered, complex fruit that Margaux is known for. Oddly, though, Merlot proportions are rather high at this château.



Chateau Malescot St-Exupery



Jean Luc Zuger



Thomas Duroux



Chateau Palmer

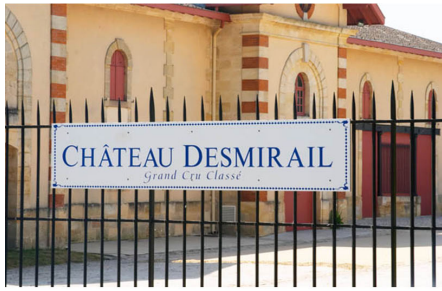


Château Palmer
 Chateau Palmer is named after a British officer, Major General Charles Palmer, who settled in Bordeaux in 1814. It is the top estate of the Margaux appellation

after Chateau Margaux. It is located in the center of the Margaux appellation, and its vineyards (Cabernet Sauvignon- 55%, Merlot- 40%, Cabernet Franc- 5%) lie on a sparse gravel plateau.

In 1843, Charles Palmer sold Chateau Palmer to the Pereire family. The





Château Desmirail
In certain vintages, this wine can be a good bargain. Flavors are typical of Margaux, and ratings are usually at least in the high 80s.



Château Prieuré-Lichine
The most interesting part of this chateau is its history. Originally, the house was inhabited by a priory, hence the first part of its name. Centuries later, French wine writer Alexis Lichine bought the chateau

and attached his own name to it. Nowadays, the wine can provide good bargains and generally has a good pedigree among critics.

Vintages available: 2001 and 2009



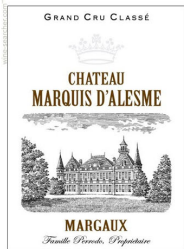
Chateau Ferriere
Easy-drinking Margaux can provide unusual flavors, but enjoys a somewhat controversial style. Whether or not you like its style. Chateau Ferriere is undoubtedly one of the better bargains that can be found in this appellation.



Sacha Lichine



Chateau Prieure- Lichine



Château Marquis d'Alesme Becker
Despite 500 years of reputable planting, this wine does not always provide either good bargains or optimum quality in its appellation. Plantings consist of about 45% Merlot, far more than most other Margaux houses.

GRAND VIN DE BORDEAUX

CHATEAU
MARQUIS DE TERME



MARGAUX
GRAND CRU CLASSÉ EN 1855

Château Marquis de Terme

This chateau is owned by Famille Sénéclauze, this 35- hectare property produces on average 13,000 cases per year. Located in the centre of the Margaux appellation, the property shares a similar climate to that enjoyed by the Médoc: maritime, with the Gironde estuary & the coastal pine forests sheltering the vines from the westerly & north-westerly winds.

The vineyards (Cabernet Sauvignon 55%; Merlot 35%; Cabernet Franc 3%; Petit Verdot 7%) lie on gravelly-clay soils. Vinification includes approximately 18 months' wood ageing, 40% new oak. It is classified as a '4ème Cru Classé'.



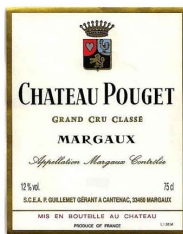
Chateau Marquis de Terme



Ludovic David

4ERS OR QUATRIEMES CRUS (FOURTH- GROWTHS)

Three of the ten 4ers crus hail from Margaux:



Château Pouget
One of the the smaller classified estates in Margaux, it has one of the most limited distributions in Bordeaux, making it less visible on international markets than many of its fourth growth neighbours.

Pouget has another reason, however, to be little known, as until 1983 it was integrated into Boyd-Cantenac. From the 1983 vintage, a separate winemaking area was established, and it began being produced once again as a separate wine.





5ERS OR CINQUIEMES CRUS (FIFTH-GROWTHS)

Only two of the eighteen 5ers crus are from Margaux.



Château Dauzac This wine's distinguishing characteristic is its high Merlot percentage, which makes it unusual and, for some critics, undesirable. Generally, though, ratings are reasonably high. The main caveat of the wine

is the price, which is typical for Margaux, but overpriced for the wine's ratings and qualifications.

It is situated on one of the highest hills in the Margaux commune which is where its name comes from (Tertre means knoll). The wines is typically a blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc - Previously the wine's ageing capacity was suspect but examples from recent vintages will age easily for 15 or more years.

Having mentioned the different chateaus in the Margaux appellation, the meagre soil is paradoxically a source of wealth for winegrowers, who have an age-old saying, "If the vine has to suffer a little, the quality will be better for it".



Christine Lurton



Château du Tertre

This chateau was in the 1990s a prime contender for the prize of the least-known Classed Growth wine in the Médoc. It was bought by the Dutch businessman, Eric Albada Jelgersma, in 1997 with a mission to revitalise the

estate's fortunes. Château du Tertre's revival was first signalled with its stunning offering from the 2000 vintage and this has continued with equally strong offerings from 2005 and 2008 and 2009.

Château du Tertre can trace its history back to the 12th century, has 50 hectares of vineyards which neighbour those of Cantenac-Brownand Brane-Cantenac to the north and Giscours to the east.



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