

Les Hauts Du Tertre 2018

CSPC# 758870

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Margaux
Classification	2 nd wine
Website	https://www.chateaudutertre.fr/
Sustainability	Haut Valeur Environmental
General Info	<p>Presided over by a delightful noble house dating back to the regency period, Chateau du Tertre dates back thousands of years, and its 52 ha of vines have not changed since the 1855 Bordeaux classification. The property shares the same terroir as a number of prestigious names, including Chateau Cantenac-Brown, Chateau Brane-Cantenac to the north and Chateau Giscours to the east.</p> <p>The property changed ownership in 1997, passing to a Dutch businessman, Eric Albada Jelgersma, who undertook a number of major investments, including restructuring the vines, modernising the production facilities and restoring the house.</p> <p>As a second wine, Les Hauts du Tertre combines the power of the first wine (5th Cru Classé in 1855) with the finesse and harmony of premium quality Margaux.</p>
Winemaker	<p>Cellar Master: David Fennelly.</p> <p>Consulting oenologist: Eric Boissenot.</p> <p>Oenologist advisor: Laboratoires Dubourdiou.</p> <p>Technical Director: Frédéric Arduin.</p>
Vintage	<p>The warmest year since the beginning of the 20th century, temperatures in 2018 were 3.24°F above the national average. In Margaux, the year began with a relatively mild winter with below-normal temperatures and occasional frosts in February which had no impact on our vines. The rest of the year was hot, sometimes very hot, compared with seasonal averages, marked by record-breaking temperatures in the last ten days of June and the first ten days of August, more than 7.2°F above the 30-year average. Rainfall in the first half of the year was heavy with nearly 25 inches in Margaux between January 1st and July 10th, making growing conditions challenging. Each rainy day made a good vintage less likely. But dry and warm summer conditions eventually reached our region and remained until the end of the harvest. Rainfall was very low between mid-July and late September at 2 inches. This rainfall pattern is reminiscent of 2009.</p> <p>Under these conditions, budbreak was relatively late between the 4th and the 10th of April. The vines flowered between the 25th and the 28th of May and, despite fairly poor conditions, we did not note, even in the relatively sensitive Merlot plots, poor or failed fruit-set. The greatest challenge was mildew which this year led to slightly lower yields than hoped for after the fruit-set.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The du Tertre vineyards are remarkable for being in a single, coherent block adjacent to the <i>château</i>, covering about 52 hectares of the aforementioned plateau in Arzac. This is a gravelly, pebbly mound typical of the region, planted with 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. The vines average about 35 years of age, with many dating from the 1950s and 1960s, the average age brought down by the planting of 4 hectares of Cabernet Sauvignon and a little Merlot in 1999. With the arrival of Jelgersma, however, there was a new attention to detail in the vineyard, with better training and care of the vines, and a green harvest, all destined to improve quality.</p>
Harvest	17 September - 12 October
Vinification	Fermentation takes place in traditional wooden vats and the temperatures are regulated by heat exchangers.
Maturation	<p>The wines are aged in barrel for 12 months with racking every three months. Fining is done with egg whites.</p> <p>The team of the castle, remained unchanged for over 10 years, are keeping traditional methods while combining innovation with tradition. In particular, it aims to limit the development of each vine. Soil maintenance and thinning reveal the excellence of the terroir. The Château used a wooden vat with gravity-filled vats. These small capacity tanks make it possible to isolate and vinify separately the best parcels.</p>



Tasting Notes	A second wine from this classified fifth growth, the quality of the wine follows in the Chateau's modern resurgence, using the younger vines from the prestigious estate. Grown in predominantly gravel, with some sand on gentle slopes the wine is very earth driven. The 2018 vintage offers a rich aromatic complexity. Les Hauts du Tertre is a gorgeous second wine. Black cherry, smoke, grilled herbs, licorice, menthol, spice, tobacco infuse this supple, gorgeous Margaux. Les Hauts stands out for its superb purity of fruit and fabulous overall balance.
Serve With	Fried sweetbreads in balsam vinegar with caramelised baby onions; salmis of pigeon. Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Chateau du Tertre is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese
Scores/Awards	<p>89-90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 2022</p> <p>91 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2020</p> <p>86-88 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p>86-88 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p>92 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - February 2021</p> <p>87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>88 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - January 2020</p> <p>15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"A fresh and firm red with mushroom and walnut character. Hints of spice and dark fruit. Medium-bodied. Juicy finish. Spicy and fresh from the 25 per cent cabernet franc in the blend. "</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"The second wine of Margaux classed growth Château du Tertre is rich while also stylish. Its generous tannins are balanced by juicy black currant fruits and smoky acidity. Drink this wine from 2023. Roger Voss"</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"Sweet black cherry on the nose. This is tight and deep, but here everything is held together and in balance, if broad-shouldered. A touch of caramel also gives this a gourmet twist, and it has taken the challenges of ageing in this vintage in its stride."</i> - JA, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"The 2018 Les Hauts du Tertre has a pretty blackberry and cranberry bouquet, nicely defined though not powerful. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin, fine acidity, and some new oak (30%) still to be subsumed on the finish, though there is decent length. This should give several years of drinking pleasure."</i> - NM, Vinous</p> <p><i>"The 2018 Les Hauts du Tertre is a pretty, gracious wine. Sweet tobacco, earthy notes, licorice, and dried cherry are nicely lifted. The 2018 is an especially lifted, earthy Margaux. This mid-weight, open-knit Margaux is best enjoyed sooner rather than later. It would be nice to see a little more richness and overall structure. This is a relatively light style for Margaux. The blend is 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 35% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc."</i> - AG, Vinous</p> <p><i>"Strong ruby, light ochre reflections, broader brightening on the rim. Inviting bouquet with attractive red berry fruit, fresh cherry and hints of tangerine and nougat. Juicy and elegant with good complexity, ripe plum fruit, fine toasty flavours, and subtle sweetness on the finish with good length. A refreshing food wine."</i> - PM, Falstaff Magazine</p> <p><i>"Dark garnet with a purple hue. Fragrant dark berry notes, cassis, plum, fine oak, and mild spices. The palate is youthful with a slight tannic grip, some oak presence, crushed dark berry flavours, some herbaceous notes and a rather long finish, a rather restrained style still needing time to soften and develop."</i> - AL, Tasted.com</p>
