

Château Durfort-Vivens 2021

CSPC# 102900

750mlx6

12.9% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot
Appellation Margaux
Classification 2ème Grand Cru Classé
Website <https://www.gc-lurton-estates.com/en/chateau-durfort-vivens.html>
Sustainability Bio-Organic.

Biodynamics seemed to him to be the best tool and he started in 2009. In 2016, he obtained Bio and Biodynamic certifications. Château Durfort-Vivens became the first Margaux Grand Cru Classé to be doubly certified. The results have been conclusive: not only have the soils regenerated, but the quality of the wines continues to grow in brilliance and precision. And it's just a step because nature is complex, and its best expression can't be reduced to a practice.

General Info Château Durfort-Vivens owes its name to the Durfort de Duras, a powerful family in the South-West of France that came to Margaux in the fourteenth century. In 1824, the Viscount of Vivens' name was added to that of Durfort. The estate was at the height of its fame: the 1844 vintage sold for more than any of the other Second Crus in the Margaux appellation. The quality of the Durfort wine began to be appreciated at the end of the eighteenth century. Thomas Jefferson, the American ambassador in France and future president, was a wine connoisseur and ranked it directly after Lafite, Latour and Margaux in his fascinating travel diaries. The 1855 classification confirmed his opinion, ranking the wine as a Second Cru Classé.

In 1937 the estate was bought by the company owning Château Margaux, whose main shareholder at that time was the Lurton family. In 1961 Lucien Lurton, a great lover and protector of wine-producing terroirs, acquired and restored this exceptional vineyard. In 1992, his son Gonzague inherited the property. He modernized its operation with a view to developing the terroir's unique qualities.

Winemakers Gonzague and Claire Lurton

Vintage The winter of 2021 was relatively mild, although quite wet, with more than 230 mm of rain falling in the first two months of the year. With the month of March being drier and warmer, our vines flowered between the 23rd and the 30th of the month. Spring was marked by frequent and severe episodes of frost, testing the frost protection sprinkling systems on our white grape vineyards like never before. Temperatures fell so drastically that we lost close to a hectare's worth of our white harvest. On the other hand, our red grape vineyards were less affected by the cold, with only a few vines hit by some morning frost.

Soil Deep gravel from the Quaternary period (Günz and Mindel), with a sand/clay matrix
Vineyards The Durfort-Vivens vineyards comprise 32 hectares in all. Planting density is 6666 vines/ha, and Cabernet Sauvignon dominates, accounting for 70% of the vineyard, in keeping with that at other properties in Margaux. The remainder is 20% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc, and yields are typically 45 hl/ha.

Harvest The 2021 Durfort-Vivens, picked from September 24 until October 18.
Vinification/ Maturation Harvest is by hand, and the subsequent vinification is temperature controlled, as mentioned above, utilising a mixture of vat materials, including cement, wood, and stainless steel. Gonzague Lurton has a direct hand in the winemaking, along with oenologists Yves Glories and Jacques Boissenot. Wine is matured an average of eighteen months in Bordeaux type barrels made from fine grain oak from the forests of central France. 45 to 50 % of the barrels are renewed every year.

Tasting Notes 18% months, 70% in new oak barrels and 30% in TAVA amphorae
Dominated by the Cabernets this year (the blend is 97% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Merlot), this is a lovely fleshy attractive wine with classic aromas of blackcurrant, wildflowers, and a touch of liquorice. On the palate, the wine is round and smooth with good blackcurrant sweetness; some spice and lively, prickly tannins which are structured but well integrated. This year's Durfort is a lovely, happy wine, very much at ease with itself and showing no trauma in spite of the difficult climate. It is elegantly balanced with an appetizing finish which brings the wine's different characteristics together.

Production Approx. 12,000 cases made

Cellaring Drink 2027 – 2047



Scores/Awards **93 points** - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - February 2024
92-94 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022
94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022
95-97 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2022
16.5 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com (score only) - May 2022
94 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022
93 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022
91-93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2022
91-93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022
95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2024
93-95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022
93 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022
96 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - April 2022
95-97 points - Colin Hay, The Drinks Business (score only) - September 2022
95 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022

Scores/Awards *"The 2021 Durfort Vivens has turned out well in bottle, offering up aromas of dark berries and plums mingled with notions of pencil shavings and vanilla pod. Medium to full-bodied, layered, and lively, it exhibits impressive depth and sweetness of fruit, not only for the vintage but also for a blend dominated by fully 97% Cabernet Sauvignon, concluding with a long, precise finish."*
- WK, Wine Advocate

"Containing fully 97% Cabernet Sauvignon this year, the 2021 Durfort Vivens shows considerable promise, unwinding in the glass with aromas of cassis, dark berries, loamy soil, cigar wrapper and spices. Medium to full-bodied, deep, and layered, it's velvety and impressively concentrated, with powdery tannins, lively acids, and a long, penetrating finish. Tasted twice.
The 62-hectare estate, of which some 55 hectares are planted, has been directed by Gonzague Lurton since 1992 and farmed biodynamically since 2013. Soils are quaternary gravels, with a rather low percentage of clay when compared with the likes of Châteaux Margaux and Palmer, and Cabernet Sauvignon dominates the blend, delivering wines of perfume, intensity, and concentration. Lurton finds that physiological maturity and analytical maturity are much more synchronized with the new farming methods, even if in a vintage such as 2018 he's suffered, producing a mere 6,000 bottles. Recent vintages have certainly been on a qualitative roll, and today Durfort Vivens unquestionably lives up to its 1855 second growth status."
- WK, Wine Advocate

"A very focused red, showing blackberry, blueberry, and currant aromas, and flavors, together with bark. It's full and layered with lots of fine tannins that give this wine a velvety texture. 97% cabernet sauvignon and 3% merlot. From biodynamically grown grapes with Demeter certification."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Almost entirely Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is seriously structured. Its fine berry flavors favor black currants with a firm backdrop of texture. It will be such a stylish, classical wine as it matures."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright red berries on the nose - strawberry and raspberry, softly fragrant with rose petal, violets, and dark chocolate scents. Succulent and really delicately juicy with the perfume surrounding the berries on the palate with a soft chalky, minerality coming through from the acidity. Lovely balance, this is fresh and so alive but also deeply flavoured, with the Cabernet (97% of the blend) mint markers in abundance. Delicious and vibrant, still with a youthful energy and a precise tannic structure giving the frame. You can tell they got maturity, but have also achieved perfect extraction, giving just the right weight without bitterness or any harsh tannins - and an exceptional length giving an abundance of freshness. Total Margaux glamour on show in a vintage where it was harder to find than usual. A surefire must buy! 30th vintage by Gonzague Lurton."
- GH, Decanter.com

Reviews *“Red currants and cassis with a touch of flowers are in the nose. Medium-bodied, bright, fresh, and juicy, there is a crispness to the red berries on the crunchy palate. The wine is a blend of 97% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Merlot, representing the highest percentage of Cabernet ever placed in the blend in the history of the property. 12.9% ABV. Drink from 2024-2039.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2021 Durfort-Vivens, picked from September 24 until October 18, the latest ever, also contains the highest amount of Cabernet ever, at 97%. Gonzague Lurton told me that biodynamic has nudged the blend naturally toward the variety. Matured in 30% amphorae and 70% new oak, it presents a well-defined nose of perfumed pressed iris flower filtering through the lattice of black fruit, touches of peony emerging with time. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grained tannins, and like the Ferrière, almost Pauillac-like albeit, leading to an elegant and quite understated finish.”
- NM, *Vinous*

“The 2021 Durfort-Vivens turned out beautifully—rich, dynamic, and super-expressive. More than anything, the 2021 is impeccably balanced. Dark fruit, lavender, licorice, leather, and clove all scream out of the glass. Today the 2021 is an infant. It needs time to shed some of its considerable tannin and for the acids to soften, although that might not ever fully happen.”
- AG, *Vinous*

“The 2021 Durfort-Vivens offers a compelling mix of Cabernet aromatics and notable textural richness. There's tremendous weight, depth, and intensity here. Blueberry, lavender, sage, mint, and tobacco come together in this potent, deeply structured Cabernet. Inky red fruit, blood orange, mint, and exotic spices linger on the substantial-finish. Yields were 32 hectoliters per hectare, which is about to average, and certainly far better than other vintages where mildew has been a threat, most notably 2018. This is a strong showing from Gonzague Lurton. I should note that Lurton also made his new parcellaire wines, but those aren't shown or sold en primeur, hence their exclusion in this report.”
- AG, *Vinous*

“Dark ruby, purple hues on the bright, narrow rim. Dark wild berries, hints of fresh blackberries, cassis, black cherries, sweet spices, floral, a touch of nougat. Medium complexity, red berry fruits, clearly structured, fine, ripe tannins, lemony touch on the finish, mineral and with persistent length; a lively, racy food companion, good ageing potential.”
- PM, *Falstaff Magazine*
