

## Château Giscours 2018

CSPC# 744970

750mlx12

13.9% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot

### Appellation

Margaux

### Classification

Third Growth. Troisieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

### Website

<http://chateau-giscours.com/en/>

### General Info

The first written reference to the domain of Giscours, a deed confirming the sale of the Estate for 1,000 Pounds, dates from 1330 and refers to a fortified keep. Records of Giscours' vineyards go back to 1552. Giscours early reputation for fine wine became increasingly apparent as time went on. A century later, Giscours charmed the palate of the "Roi Soleil" Louis the 14th, who is said to have had a particular inclination for the wine. Subsequent owners came and went. The most noteworthy was the Count de Pescatore, a leading Parisian banker. In 1847, he laid the cornerstone of the remarkable chateau that still exists today. It was built in order to receive Empress Eugénie in the Renaissance style to which she was accustomed. 1855 was another landmark year, in which the wine of Château Giscours was officially recognized as a 3rd growth Margaux. Then, the domain had a number of other owners, and the estate was purchased by Nicolas Tari after the Second World War. He undertook a modernisation programme. In 1995, the Société Anonyme d'Exploitation was acquired by Eric Albada Jelgersma. He immediately began investing in vineyard and cellar renovation. He also put together a new winemaking team in the spirit of generations of winegrowers who made this Estate the famous great growth it is today. Giscours is run with brio by Dutch manager Alexander Van Beek.

### Winemaker

Lorenzo Pasquini

### Vintage

2018 Margaux is not as homogenous as the other top appellations in the Medoc. In part, of course it is due to the massive size and diversity of terroirs. But it is also important to note that while Margaux is not always consistent, 2 of the wines of the vintage came from Margaux! It is interesting to note that the top wines are located primarily on the top peak of the Cantenac plateau.

Some of the soils there had the ability to cope with the extremely wet, winter months. Still, mildew attacks were an issue. Properties with the ability to attack the spread of mildew quickly managed to avoid losing large portions of their harvest. In fact, several properties lost from 20% to almost 75% of their harvest.

It was not only the wet winter and spring that was an issue. Growers here, as well as in all of the Left Bank needed enough water to survive the warm, sunny and parched summer months.

The date of the harvest was one of the crucial factors with 2018 Margaux. Some estates began picking their young vines as early as September 12. Harvesting finished as late as October 15. This long window of picking allowed many properties to obtain the desired level of ripeness they were looking for. If you want to read details on the 2018 Bordeaux vintage 2018 Harvest Report

Styles and characteristics in the Margaux appellation are usually reflective of the desire of the winery, and with 2018 Margaux, that holds true. With 2018 Margaux, all the wines are deeply colored. There are opulent, sensual wines, powerful, full-bodied, richly textured wines and some that are light, fresh, and crisp. And of course, wine lovers will experience the elegance the Margaux appellation is best known for.

At Chateau Giscours, 2018 is a double-edged victory. While they produced one of the best wines in the history of their estate, the owner of the property, Eric Albada Jelgersma, passed away after purchasing the vineyard more than 25 years ago.

Director Alexander van Beek loves the vintage for its vibrancy saying, "2018 is an act of balance. It is bold, energetic and refined."



<b>Vineyards</b>	The vineyards at Giscours are spread over four gravel outcrops in Margaux, with a poor quality, slightly sandy, pebbly soil. The estate nears 400 hectares in size, of which 85 hectares are designated vineyards, although at present there are just over 80 hectares planted up. The vines are planted at up to 10 000 vines/ha, a high-density arrangement, and include a significant number of old vines; 25% are over 40 years of age. They are predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon (60%) and Merlot (32%), the remainder Cabernet Franc (5%) and Petit Verdot (3%).
<b>Harvest</b>	Harvest lasted for a full month, from 12 September to 12 October.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	Giscours' priority this year was, once again, to preserve the flavours and let each of their terroirs express its potential. The vats were pumped over very few times and always at moderate temperatures. Traditional fermentation / the wine is left on the skins for a long time at a relatively high temperature. Traditional ageing in new oak barrels (30 %) for 15-18 months.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	This Classified Growth in 1855 is the first label of Château Giscours. It is of great finesse and elegance. Delicacy and power are combined in this flask to bring you the elegance expected of a great Margaux wine. The aging potential of this great wine is between 8 and 20 years or even more for the most exceptional vintages.
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Giscours is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2023 – 2045
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>95 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2021</p> <p><b>93-96 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p><b>90-92+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p><b>97 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p><b>96-97 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>96 points/Cellar Selection</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 1, 2021</p> <p><b>95-97 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019</p> <p><b>16+ points</b> - Tom Parker, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - March 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p><b>15+ points</b> - Farr Vintner - April 2019</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019</p> <p><b>93-96 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p><b>17+ points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Very expressive, with violet and lilac notes followed by creamed plum and mulled blackberry and black currant fruit flavors. Subtle anise, juniper and sanguine notes thread the very long finish. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Petit Verdot. Best from 2024 through 2036."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A very solid wine, with a dense core of steeped plum and blackberry puree flavors, liberally infused with black tea, alder and sanguine accents. The long finish unfurls nicely, revealing depth and a caressing feel."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Giscours opens with fragrant notions of kirsch, black cherry compote and blackcurrant pastilles with suggestions of dried lavender, cinnamon stick and mossy tree bark. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers a good amount of red and black fruit flavors with compelling purity, framed by soft tannins and well-balanced freshness, finishing with a spicy lift."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

**Reviews** *“Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Giscours delivers expressive notions of baked raspberries, Black Forest cake and sautéed herbs with a core of crème de cassis, pencil lead, fertile loam and fallen leaves. Full-bodied, taut, and muscular in the mouth with earth-laced baked black fruits, it has a firm, chewy texture and refreshing herbal sparks on the finish. Barrel Sample: 90-92+.”*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*“Black currant, dried-blueberry, oyster-shell, black-olive, black truffle, and bitter-chocolate aromas. It’s full-bodied with firm, fine-grained tannins and fresh acidity. Savory and mineral layers interplay with the black fruit. Powerful and chewy yet very polished and beautiful. Try from 2024.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“The black color indicates a solid and structured red with loads of blackberry and blueberry character. Full-bodied and very tight and tensioned. Savory tannins that are powerful and intense at the finish. Classically structured. Finely toned and formed young red.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“Always a significant wine, this latest release with powerful while also stylish black fruits fit into a well-regarded tradition. The density and broad fruitiness of the wine make fine foils for each other. It is firmly structured and set for aging. Drink this wine from 2027. \*Cellar Selection\*.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“This is a powerful wine with a great future that displays a rich, juicy blackberry flavor and ripe tannins. It is well-structured and generous in fruit, yet well balanced and shows promise for the future.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“Deep ruby. Toasty nose but there is rich plummy fruit that is fresh and vibrant woven into the notes of cedar and clove. This shines through with more authority on the palate, red cherry and plum with moreish, lively acidity and crunchy tannins. Lifted through to the finish.”*  
- TP, JancisRobinson.com

*“55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot, 6% Petit Verdot; 50% new oak. New winemaker Lorenzo Pasquini likens Giscours to an oil painting and du Tertre to a watercolour. Barrel sample. Inky core. Dark and introverted but beckons you in to find out more. Soberly seductive. A dark, savoury charm, a smooth but compact texture. Gravelly like its site. Not obvious and in your face but refined in its power. Opens up to dark perfume. Most elegant vintage of Giscours I have tasted. (JH)”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*“Brushed damson, fine but firm tannins, lots of dark deep fruits and powerful oak that slightly detracts from appellation typicity. This is confident and good quality but needs a lot of time in bottle. Drinking Window 2026 – 2042”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“Deep purple in colour with violet edging, this is beating fast with juicy bramble fruit and life. You can feel the texture of the berries in the mouth, making this a luxurious, confident Giscours, with swirls of smoke backed up by spice. There’s an effortless quality to the tannins, but this is definitely built to last. It easily stands up to the 2015 and 2016. Harvest lasted for a full month, from 12 September to 12 October. Aged in 50% new oak. Drinking Window 2027 – 2042.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*“Floral in nature, you find a sweetness and purity in the deep red fruits along with the violet bouquet that quickly grabs your interest. The wine is rich, sensuous, silky, sexy, and lively. Concentrated with width, length and energy, the elegant, lushly textured finish feels just great on your palate. This should age for at least 3 decades, though it will start to shine in 8-10 years.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

## Reviews

*“Floral in nature, this wine shows a bouquet of ripe, dark red fruits with background notes of cocoa, mint and wet earth. On the palate, which is where this really shines, the wine is rich, full-bodied, elegant, fruity, luscious, and lively. I like the spicy, fresh cherry ending with its sprig of mint. The wine was produced blending 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot, reaching 13.9% alcohol with a pH of 3.79. The picking took place from September 12 to October 12. Due to issues with mildew, the production was down close to 30%.”*

- JL, [thewinecellarinsider.com](http://thewinecellarinsider.com)

*“Deep black colour with blue fruits and roasted coffee bean on the nose, as well as a peppery warmth of alcohol. The palate is rich in tannins and somewhat foursquare at this stage, leaving the concentrated fruit somewhat at odds with the firm nature of the wine. There are hints of green pepper alongside the riper damson notes on a long and firm finish.”*

- Farr Vintners

*“The 2018 Giscours is based around a slightly higher proportion of Merlot (39%) this year. It has an attractive bouquet of tightly packed blackberry, bilberry and freshly rolled tobacco, desiccated orange peel emerging with time in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with fine-grained tannin's, structured and grippy. The very saline finish needs a little more finesse and refinement. Not bad, but it needs bottle age to shave its rough edges. Drinking window: 2023 – 2045.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2018 Giscours contains a high percentage of Merlot this year. It was picked from September 12 – incidentally, the same start date as in 2019. It was cropped at 35hl/ha after some mildew earlier in the season, especially on the organically cultivated plots. Matured in 50% new French oak, it has an attractive bouquet of blackberry, raspberry, rose petals and touches of orange peel. The medium-bodied palate is quite cohesive and refined, with fine tannins and notes of white pepper sprinkled over the red fruit. This is a classic Giscours and, with 13.8% alcohol at the moment, the DNA of the château really comes through. Drink 2023-2045.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2018 Giscours is another in a series of brilliant wines from the estate. Bold and explosive in the glass, with tremendous fruit richness, the 2018 has so much to offer. In 2018, Giscours is radiant, exotically ripe and incredibly inviting, with a relatively high percentage of Merlot that adds juiciness. All the elements are in gorgeous harmony. The 2018 is an especially fine Giscours. It is certainly the best recent vintage I have tasted. The blend is 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 39% Merlot and 6% Petit Verdot. Tasted two times.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“Lots of ripe black cherry and cassis fruits as well as graphite, lead pencil, and scorched earth notes emerge from the 2018 Château Giscours, a medium-bodied Margaux that has a fresh, focused texture, plenty of underlying structure, and the purity of fruit that's the hallmark of the vintage. This beautiful Margaux builds nicely with time in the glass, and while it plays in the more elegant side of the spectrum, it has terrific mid-palate depth, stunning balance, and outstanding length. I think the 2019 might ultimately surpass it, but it's certainly in the same ballpark as the 2016. Give bottles 3-5 years and enjoy over the following 20 years or more.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“(55 Cabernet Sauvignon, 39 Merlot, 6 Petit Verdot) | 30% new oak | 14% alc This is a structured Giscours, and it is a well-built and flavour-packed wine, too. I like the nose and the palate doesn't overstep the mark and this means that it manages to keep on track all of the way to the finish. One of my favourite Giscours in recent vintages, I am impressed with this wine.”*

- MJ, [matthewjukes.com](http://matthewjukes.com)

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