

## Château Lascombes 2016

CSPC# 749576	750mlx12	13.5% alc./vol.
CSPC# 869813	750mlx6	13.5% alc./vol.
CSPC# 872872	750mlx12	13.5% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	50% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 3% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Margaux
<b>Classification</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grand Cru Classe
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.chateau-lascombes.com/en/home/">https://www.chateau-lascombes.com/en/home/</a>

**General Info** Château Lascombes was classified second growth of Margaux in the 1855 classification. It bears its name of its first owner, Chevalier Antoine de Lascombes, born in 1625. The existing chateau was built in 1867 after its acquisition by barrister Chaix d'Est Ange. Alexis Lichine took over the property in 1952. He completely restructured Château Lascombes and renovated the vineyard and cellars. In 1971, he sold everything to the English brewer Bass-Charrington. In April 2001, Château Lascombes was bought by Colony Capital who undertook important restructuration works, reduced significantly the yields and introduced vats made of French oak. Combining power and elegance, smoothness and tannins, Château Lascombes is a wine of great complexity. In its youth, its depth of colour never fails to impress. Finesse and softness on the palate are complemented by stylish, fine-grained tannins. Château Lascombes should be enjoyed as it ages over the years to enable full appreciation of its aromatic complexity and the development of its ever-more suave structure in bottle.

**Winemaker** Michel Rolland – wine consultant; Rene Vanatelle - winemaker

**Vintage** The vintage is characterized by a wet and relatively cool beginning of the season, followed by a very dry summer, at a rarely reached level, and rather warm, with a dry and sunny autumn, with strong thermal amplitudes. As a result, the quality of the grape harvests was very dependent on the part of the work done on the vines in the spring, on the other hand the quality of rooting, which will have more or less responded to the water needs of the plant. The sunshine was generally faithful to the averages, but its particular distribution strongly contributed to the personality of the vintage. After a mild, dry autumn (November and December 2015 with above-average temperatures and 50% rainfall deficit compared to averages, with a constant south current), the months of January and February, until March 10, were mild and wet (1 ° C more than the average and three times the 30-year average over January, with 240 mm!). April was relatively dry, but overcast and with frequent rains, then May and June were rainy, with much lower sunshine than in 2015 and relatively cool (June 1 ° C below average, with only one hot episode at the end of month (33-35 ° C)). The flower, between the end of May and the middle of June, forecast harvest around September 26th. The temperatures of the summer months were close to the averages, August slightly warmer than July, with two peaks of heat, August 15 and 23 to 27, with a high of 36.7 ° C on the 23rd. From the 28th, the nights were cool, around 15 ° C. September remained summer until the storm of 13/09. Overall, it was mild, with rare rainy episodes, and dry with great temperature differences between day and night. This favored a slow maturation of the grapes which remained perfectly healthy. October was dry, so that the beginning of the harvest could be delayed until the end of September.

**Vineyards** Comprised of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 50% Merlot and 5% Petit Verdot, anchored predominantly on gravel, clay and sandy soils.

**Harvest** Grapes are entirely hand picked in ten-kilo crates. Yield 45 hl/ha.

**Maturation** 4 months ageing on the lees. The wine is vinified in a combination of wood and stainless-steel vats and then aged in 70% new barrels for 18 months



<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>The nose is fine, elegant, and seductive and offers a fine concentration of aromas, with everything in balance. Blackberry, coffee, and fine notes of red berry fruit come through together with touches of liquorice stick, mocha, spices, as well as discreet hints of cardamom.</p> <p>The palate is elegant, suave, and round and offers flesh, nice definition, precision, minerality, tension, lovely harmony, depth of flavour as well as fine acidity. Notes of fresh blackberry, juicy blackcurrant, and subtle raspberry hints, together with notes of red berries/fresh redcurrants as well as a touch of toasted bread and mocha/chocolate.</p>
<b>Serve with</b>	Chateau Lascombes is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Also great with appetizers, Roasted lamb, braised veal, rib of beef with bones and pan-seared mushrooms; Hard cheese, such as tommes or gouda.
<b>Production</b>	31,667 cases made
<b>Drink</b>	Drink 2021-2039
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>92 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2019</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - May 11, 2017</p> <p><b>94+ points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim - November 2018</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p><b>95 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>93-94 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2019</p> <p><b>94-96 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2019</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p><b>91 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>15.5 points</b> - Farr Vintners - February 2017</p> <p><b>87-90 points</b> - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p><b>88 points</b> - Neal Martin, Vinous - August 2020</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p><b>89-92 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p><b>94 points</b> - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2019</p> <p><b>17.5 points</b> - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2017</p> <p><b>96 points</b> - Bettane &amp; Desseauve (score only) - May 2017</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This is dark and lush in feel, with alluring steeped plum and blackberry fruit carried by velvety tannins, picking up lilac, incense, black tea and alder notes along the way. Fresh acidity runs throughout, keeping everything detailed and focused. Best from 2022 through 2035. 31,667 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Solidly built, with a note of baker's chocolate adding heft to the mix of plum and blackberry fruit. Velvety, but showing persistent grip through the finish. 31,667 cases made. Score range: 90 – 93."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2016 Lascombes features beautiful, candied violets, Black Forest cake, cassis and menthol with hints of underbrush, cloves, pencil lead and tar. Medium-bodied with good intensity and firm, grainy tannins, it finishes long and perfumed. Drink 2019 - 2037."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Lascombes has a decadent, but pure bouquet with layers of black cherry and blueberry fruit, the new oak conspicuous and (as usual) quite glossy and extroverted in style. The palate is very ripe with saturated tannin, bold and extravagant with a voluminous middle of blackberry, graphite and blue fruit. There is a powerful and heady finish; what it just lacks is finesse and that sense of personality. I tasted this Margaux on several occasions, and it was one of the most variable samples, hence the question mark against my score. Drink 2022-2045."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *“Very attractive, ripe dark berries with a meaty edge that delivers a very compelling wine from the outset. Quite plush and elegant tannins with a smooth, juicy, and attractive finish that holds long and is saturated in flavor. Seamless build. Really stunning. Try from 2022.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Full, focused and precise with dark berries, intensely fine tannins and a fresh finish. Medium to full body and a persistent finish. More refined than in the past, yet it remains very well structured.”*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “While there are serious layers of wood in this young wine, it scores with its rich black-currant fruits and fine ripe tannins. It has structure and concentration, a wine that has great potential. Drink from 2025.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Barrel Sample. This is full of fruit, a change of style for this estate. The result is a wine that is rich and smooth, as well as concentrated and firmly tannic.”*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Dark blackish purple. I'd hate to be given this blind. It's pure Napa Valley! So sweet! So concentrated! Not really Margaux but a mouthful of concentration, certainly. Drying finish with a slight suggestion of something underripe on the very end. Extremely different from most of its neighbours but the style will definitely appeal to some palates. Just goes a bit dead on the end. Drink 2025-2040”*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Some beautiful aromatics going on here, this has the sexy, ripe focus that is a signature of this property under consultant Michel Rolland and director Dominique Befve. It doesn't disappoint, and as ever for me it conveys a sense of joy and vibrancy in the fruit. The blend in 2016 is 50% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Petit Verdot, from a yield of 45hl/ha. There is deep black pepper and cinnamon spicing, and while the tannins are a little tight it has clear oak structure. A lovely wine that is a strong successor to the excellent 2015. Drinking Window 2027 – 2045.”*  
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Round, fleshy, ripe and with a strong espresso and smoke character to the ripe, dense, dark fruits, give this concentrated, lush round time in the cellar for everything to come together. Perhaps 10 years or more will be about right.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Dark in color, fleshy round, ripe and rich, with a healthy dose of oak, smoke, licorice and black cherries. The wine is concentrated, long and fleshy.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “With a good depth of color, the black and deep red fruits are aided by smoke, licorice and fresh brewed espresso. Fleshy and lush, the finish shows a lot of toasty oak, that masks the fruit to some degree. The wine was made from a blend of 50% Merlot, 47% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Petit Verdot.”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “There has been a total transformation in quality here recently. Modern, impressive wines are now being made here which are often criticised for not being very Margaux-like. Nevertheless, they are much better than the weedy efforts produced at Lascombes under the former regime. This is a large vineyard of 118 hectares that is planted with a high percentage of Merlot - 50% - along with 45% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Petit Verdot. Elévation in 70% new oak. A deep colour, with roasted fruits and smoke on the nose. The palate shows ripe black cherry in great concentration with hints of mint and spice. The tannins are firm, with a chewy texture supporting toasty new oak through to a long, dry and spicy finish.”*  
- Farr Vintners

**Reviews** *“Sweet and ripe the nose has fleshy richness the palate is full of ripe black fruits. Firm tannins in the middle these combined with the freshness tend to hold back the fruit, but it does fill out on the back palate and finishes with sweeter fruit. 2025-36.”*

- Derek Smedley MW

*“The 2016 Lascombes was tasted from two bottles, as the first felt very subdued. The bouquet on the second is high-toned with black cherries, cassis, dried blood, and crushed stone aromas. The palate is medium bodied with toasty oak, and grippy in the mouth, but here the wood tannins rather dominate the finish. So-so. Tasted blind at the Southwold tasting.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2016 Lascombes is grown into a gorgeous wine. Blackberry jam, chocolate, new leather, espresso, and copious new oak all flesh out in this ample, resonant wine. As always Lascombes is done in a style that brings out the more lush, flamboyant side of Margaux. In this vintage, all the elements meld together effortlessly, something that isn't always the case. Drink 2022-2036.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2016 Lascombes is done in a very modern, pushed style, with plenty of inky dark fruit, chocolate, spice and heavy torrefaction notes. It's hard to see any expression of site here. The 2016 is well made from a purely technical standpoint, but it is also not at all exciting. At this level, a wine should aspire to more. There is little doubt that Lascombes is the most anonymous wine being made in Margaux today.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“The 2016 Château Lascombes is another brilliant Margaux, and I was blown away by this wine on two separate occasions. Sporting a deep purple color as well as a thrilling bouquet of cassis, smoked earth, charcoal, and tobacco, it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, has obvious minerality, a big palate presence, and a terrific sense of elegance and purity. It's a beautiful wine, and while I'd happily enjoy bottles today, it's going to keep for 25-30 years. Drink 2021-2051.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“(50 Merlot, 47 Cabernet Sauvignon, 3 Petit Verdot) | 70% new oak | 14% alc. Lascombes continues its run of rewarding wines with a rich, hedonistic offering with a lot of oak used here and also a decadent, chocolaty texture. There is a dry finish and some tannin here which shuts down the fun, but this will soften, and you will be left with a nice, pliable, billowy wine with superb red and black cherry fruit and lovely, tart acidity. 17.5+.”*

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

*“The 2016 Château Lascombes is a drop-dead stunning wine in this vintage. It instantly begins to impress with its seductive aromas of ripe blackberries and dark cherries which are woven together with roasted coffee, exotic spices, leather, and hints of fresh florals. On the palate this possesses medium to full body with a beautiful plush, velvety texture that adds further appeal. It continues to impress with its outstanding depth and balance from start to finish. Overall, this is a simply fantastic Margaux which will be accessible earlier than most from the vintage.”*

- International wine Report

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