Château Lascombes 2015

AOC Margaux, Deuxième Grand Cru Classé, Bordeaux, France

Combining power and elegance and an unctuous and tannin-rich texture, Château Lascombes is a complex wine. In its youth, it always has an amazingly deep colour. On the palate, finesse and a rich texture combine with very stylish fine-grained tannins.
Gradually over the years, Château Lascombes should be enjoyed again and again so as to fully appreciate its complexity of flavour and to see how its structure has developed a more and more suave mouth-feel.

PRESENTATION

Château de Lascombes, is a second growth classified of Medoc in 1855. On the Margaux Appellation this wine is made with mostly merlot by too great wine makers : Dominique Befve, General Manager of the winery and Michel Rolland, internationaly known wine maker.

THE VINTAGE

After a soft and dry winter, the bud break worked through in good conditions. Spring was generally warm but the freshness in June did not give an optimal flowering. However, the yield is guaranteed. Thereafter, the climate conditions were particularly dry and the coming of some beneficial rain at the beginning of August allowed to get a uniform ripening. Next in Margaux, a very beautiful late autumn took place, favoring largely the appellation compared to the others more watered. The harvest in Château Lascombes lasted 5 weeks, from September 17th to October 16th, with a lot of breaks in order to refine the grapes maturity. The 2015 vintage allowed us to rediscover the exception of our famous terroir and offered to us homogeneous vats. After an easy wine-making process despite alcoholic degrees rather high, vats expose a beautiful complexity and a power with plenty of elegance.
Château Lascombes 2015 finds undoubtedly his place as an exceptional vintage like 2005, 2009 and 2010.

LOCATION

The Château Lascombes vineyard stretches over 120 hectares within the Margaux appellation. This is nowadays one of the vastest growth classified in 1855.

TERROIR

The parcels making up the property display an interesting geological variety consisting of three main categories : argillaceous limestone and argillaceous gravel suitable for growing Merlot, argillaceous gravel and gravel for Cabernet Sauvignon and gravel for Petit Verdot.

IN THE VINEYARD

- Elimination of lateral vine shoots
- First de-leafing (on the east-facing side) : June/July
- Bunch thinning : end of July
- Second de-leafing (on the west-facing side) : end of August
- Grapes are entirely hand picked in ten-kilo crates
-☐Sorting before and after de-stemming

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ABUSE OF ALCOHOL IS DANGEROUS FOR YOUR HEALTH. DRINK RESPONSIBLY.

WINEMAKING
Château Lascombes leading-edge equipment allow the wine making process to be done plot per plot. It is being carried out by stages : pre-fermentation cold maceration which lasts about a week at a temperature averaging 8-10 °C, alcoholic fermentation then takes place at 28 °C, punctuated by light pumpings over the cap. Then juices are ran off and transfer into new wood barrels.
That is where the malolactic fermentation occurs, between end of October and beginning of February.

AGEING
Then the wines spend four months ageing on lees into the barrels. Yeast autolysis lends fatness and roundness to the tannins. To keep the lees in suspension, the barrels are rotated on Oxoline racks. Racking is done a first time in April then the wines go back into barrels for a total ageing of eighteen months.

VARIETALS
Cabernet sauvignon 50%, Merlot 47%, Petit verdot 3%

SERVING
The Château Lascombes should be served between 17 and 18°C.
In its first years, it can be aerated one hour before serving in order to free all its aromas.

TASTING
A deep, bright purple hue.
The nose is at first discreet, but after you swirl the glass it becomes very expressive. It then opens out revealing a delicate bouquet of black fruits, spices and chocolate. Subtle oak enhances this very elegant nose.
The entry on the palate is lively and suave at the same time. There is a seductive, unctuous, velvety structure with great concentration. Black fruit notes come to the fore while the tannins of the oak delicately envelop the whole. The gamble of using 80% new oak barrels paid off handsomely, since the wine's structure has beautifully absorbed the oak. The texture of this wine is precise, and the balance is superb. Château Lascombes 2013 is a complex wine and offers lovely length of flavour.

Though not on a par with some of its predecessors, Château Lascombes 2013 will nevertheless be a very pleasant wine with medium-term ageing potential that may be enjoyed while waiting for the great vintages to mature.

FOOD PAIRINGS
The power and elegance of this great wine calls tasty and savoury meat dishes : game, beef, grilled lamb, roasted or with sauce.
The Château Lascombes also can be tasted at the end of meals with certain cheeses like : Saint Nectaire, Brie de Meaux or Langres.

REVIEWS AND AWARDS

94
"Dense dark purple core. Youthful nose, fine intensity and purity with finely toasted wood, coffee, mocha, dark berries, cassis, tobacco and graphite. The palate is dense and concentrated with high extract, powdery tannin, a fresh acidity underneath, layered dark fruit with floral hints, wet tobacco and fine wood, very good grip and length. Persistent, dense and fresh with a promising future but already quite tempting."
Andreas Larsson, Tasted 100% Blind

92-95
"The 2015 Lascombes is rich, powerful and inviting. All the elements fall into place in a juicy, succulent Margaux endowed with superb overall balance. Sweet red cherry, plum, spice and grilled herbs are given an added kick of polish by the silky tannins. Racy and open-knit, the 2015 is built to deliver considerable pleasure with minimal cellaring. Readers should expect a bold, forward Margaux with modern contours and plenty of concentration."
Antonio Galloni, Vinous

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