

Chateau d'Issan Margaux Bordeaux Wine



The Château de Candale, Haut Médoc appellation, is entirely located on rocky hilltops of the commune of ARSAC. It takes its name from a noble family, the Cameron, who was owner of ISSAN until the French revolution. Recently, and for commercial reasons, this wine is also released under another label: Haut Médoc of ISSAN. The wines from the chateau de Candale retain exquisite and bouquet so special to the region of Margaux

From a blend of 67% Merlot and 33% Merlot, the wine reached 13.24% alcohol. Dark ruby in color with coffee, truffle, licorice, tobacco, black cherry and smoke in the nose. Soft in texture with a supple core of cool black cherries and dark chocolate in the finish.

Chateau d'Issan is one of the oldest wine producing properties in the Medoc as well as in all of Bordeaux. In the late 1400's the vineyards were known as Teobon. Jumping ahead a few centuries to the 17th century, the Bordeaux wine estate became the official possession of d'Essenault. The name, d'Issan is based on an early phonetic spelling of d'Essenault. d'Essenault was a member of Parliament, a knight and the owner of Chateau d'Issan. He began an extensive program of rebuilding, renovating and redesigning the Bordeaux wine property. Eventually he built a new castle on the property and continued his construction projects until the French Revolution.

During the revolution, d'Issan was confiscated and put under the administration of Gustave Roy until it was sold at auction. Over the next few centuries Chateau d'Issan changed hands several times and eventually fell into a state of disrepair. Chateau d'Issan was purchased shortly after the conclusion of World War 2 in 1945. At that point, the well-known and established Cruse family took over Chateau d'Issan. They still own and manage the Medoc estate today. Chateau d'Issan remains one of the most picturesque estates in the area. With its moats, drawbridge and courtyard, Chateau d'Issan looks like a beautiful castle out of a fairy tale.

The current high level of quality at Chateau d'Issan can be traced back to 1998. That is the year Emmanuel Cruse took over the job of managing the Left Bank property and the wine making. Emmanuel Cruse earned dual degrees in law and oenology has slowly but surely turned Chateau d'Issan into a much more stronger winery. In February, 2013, Chateau d'Issan sold a 50% stake in the historic Medoc property to Jacky Lorenzetti. Jacky Lorenzetti has been working with Emmanuel Cruse, the owner and director of Chateau d'Issan for a while now. Emmanuel Cruse has been working with Jacky Lorenzetti on his other Left Bank Bordeaux chateaux including Chateau Lilian Ladouys in St. Estephe and Chateau Pedesclaux in Pauillac.

Chateau d'Issan remains a traditional Bordeaux chateau in its wines and outlook. Emmanuel Cruse modernized the estate with the addition of sorting tables and a new pneumatic press, along with a building a new reception area to receive the grapes. The portion of new French oak was also increased to a minimum of 50%. Most importantly, greater selection is now utilized with the fruit with much more of the harvest going into the second wine of Chateau d'Issan. It's possible that with a new partner owning 50% of Chateau d'Issan, the estate could take another step forward in quality and price in the near to moderate future.

Chateau d'Issan is one of the most beautiful estates in the Medoc. The entire property takes up 120 hectares, with 41 hectares under vine. This new vineyard size shows a marked increase in the amount of hectares due to a ruling in 2007 by the IAO that allowed Chateau d'Issan to add 10 hectares of vines that were previously classed as Haut Medoc which were now classified as Margaux.

The 41 hectare vineyard of Chateau d'Issan resides on gravel with clay based soils. The vineyard is planted to 62% Cabernet Sauvignon and 38% Merlot. The Margaux vineyards of Chateau d'Issan are planted to a vine density of 9,000 vines per hectare with vines that are on average 35 years of age. They have old vines as well, some of which are close to 65 years of age.

To produce the wine of Chateau d'Issan, the wine is vinified and fermented in temperature controlled, stainless steel vats. They use 37 vats that range from 73 hectoliters up to 148 hectoliters. Malolactic fermentation is conducted in a combination of tank and barrel. The amount of each method varies, depending on the vintage and grape variety as only the Merlot goes through malolactic in barrel. The wine of Chateau d'Issan is aged in 50% new, French oak barrels for an average of 18 months. Effective yields are kept low. It's common for close to 40% of the yields to be declassified and placed in their second wine. Production of the Chateau d'Issan is slightly more than 6,000 cases per year. The property also makes a second wine, Blason d'Issan.