

Château Belle-Vue 2008

CSPC# 744966

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 20% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Haut-Médoc

General Info

Chateau Belle Vue is located in Haut Medoc in the commune of Macau, just slightly south of a one of the original drainage ditches (built by the Dutch) separating Chateau Belle-Vue from Chateau Giscours in Margaux. Chateau Belle-Vue is a young estate. The first vintage was 1996, when the owner at the time, Remy Fouin took his plots from his other estate, Chateau de Gironville and sought to make a wine worthy of the Margaux appellation. Belle-Vue directly borders the 3rd classed growth Château Giscours.

The estate was purchased by Vincent Mulliez in 2004. Mulliez who earned his fortune while working at JP Morgan investments in London made considerable improvements to the estate and its wines before his untimely death at the age of 44 in 2010. Making his early death even worse was the fact that his efforts began paying off by that point in time as the 2009 and 2010 are the best vintages Chateau Belle-Vue has produced yet.

Vineyards

Chateau Belle-Vue, which is not to be confused with the Bordeaux wine producer Chateau Bellevue in St. Emilion, comes from a 10.4-hectare vineyard in the Haut Medoc appellation. The vines are planted to a vine density of 6,700 vines per hectare and are on average, 30 years of age. The gravel based terroir is planted to 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot, 20% Petit Verdot and 3% Carménère.

Maturation

Malolactic fermentation in new barrels 30% of the crop. With a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (50%), Merlot (30%) and Petit Verdot (20%).

Tasting Notes

Château Belle-Vue 2008 displays a dense, long and powerful wine, similar to the 2006 vintage. The 2008 probably has more sweetness. Thanks in part to its higher-than-usual proportion of Petit Verdot, the natural freshness of the wine should give it ageing potential in excess of 10 years.

Production

4,870 cases made

Cellaring

Drink 2012-2016

Scores/Awards

89 points - Thomas Matthews, Wine Spectator - April 30, 2011

87 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011

88-90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #182 - April 2009

84-86 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2009

90 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 31, 2010

16.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - May 8, 2009

16.5 points/4 stars - Decanter.com

87 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010

3 stars - Decanter Magazine - April 2009

87 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com – October 31, 2011

Reviews

"Toasty and smoky oak frames black cherry and currant flavors in this firm yet racy red, which has solid tannins, but fresh acidity keeps it lively. Balanced and harmonious, this is polished, in the modern style. Drink now through 2016. 4,870 cases made."

- TM, Wine Spectator

"This elegant, charming, supple-textured effort reveals good berry fruit, a hint of spicy oak and underbrush, and a stylish, classic personality. Enjoy it over the next 5-6 years. Drink 2011-2017."

- RP, Wine Advocate



Reviews *"A sleeper of the vintage, this outstanding, over-achieving estate in the southern Medoc continues to turn out beautifully crafted wines. The 2008, a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and a whopping 20% Petit Verdot, displays a deep ruby/purple hue, a sweet bouquet of blueberries, incense, spice, and spring flowers. Pure with good acidity, sweet tannin, and beautiful density given the low yields, it should drink well for 3-4 years."*
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A ripe mulberry, plummy nose that just lacks some definition. The palate is better defined on the entry, nice cohesion on the middle but there is a cardboard note right on the finish that is distracting. Tasted March 2009."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Initially mineral and austere, but after a moment, the richer sweet berry fruits come through. The wine has spice from new wood as well as a solid core of dry tannins. The aftertaste reveals the dense texture, and the aging potential."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Heavy bottle! Sweet, ripe and meaty. Massive and mouth filling with lots of sweet fruit and oaky spice and also a savoury depth. Concentrated but also has lovely freshness and good length. More impressive than elegant but impressive, nevertheless. Drink 2011-2015"
- JH, JancisRobinson.com

"Sweet black fruit, cream, spice, leaf, oak and classic Médoc precision and class. Good depth of smooth fruit, good oak and ripe tannins. Vigorous yet graceful and stylish. Drink 2011-18. (16.5 points)"
- SS, Decanter.com

"Medium bodied, with red and black plums, spice, olive and floral scents, this is already drinking well. This Haut Medoc wine was produced from a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, and 20% Petit Verdot representing the highest percentage of Petit Verdot planted in Bordeaux! Later vintages show a marked increase in style, quality and depth."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
