

Château Belle-Vue 2011

CSPC# 744966

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 23% Petit Verdot

Appellation

Haut-Medoc

Website

<http://www.chateau-belle-vue.fr/>

General Info

Chateau Belle Vue is located in Haut Medoc in the commune of Macau. Petit Verdot is particularly important on this gravelly terroir making up 20% with Cabernet Sauvignon around 55% and Merlot around 25% also playing a part. Belle-Vue is established in 1996 when the previous owner Rémy Fouin set apart his best (Gironville) vineyards with the aim of producing a wine of... say Margaux quality: Belle-Vue directly borders the 3rd classed growth Château Giscours.

Acquired in 2004 by Vincent Mulliez, Castle BELLE-VUE comes from a land whose history is intertwined with that of Bordeaux wine. Mulliez joked that it would be a good sign when one day people would describe Giscours "as the neighbour of the famous Château Belle-Vue." But until today this is the other way around, I'm afraid.

Vincent Mulliez passed away in 2010, at the age of 44.

Vintage

A vintage with reverse and paradoxical climate, yet with two major advantages. The return of the sun led to an exceptionally maturation, unfolding into a very fresh wine during the harvest.

The wine started out closed but achieved fullness throughout the maturation process and flourishes with a little time.

Vineyards

The vineyard is maintained with care and protection reasoned yields are restricted to obtain the best possible fruit maturity.

Maturation

Wines receive between 12 and 16 months in barrel to mature, with 40% of barrels being new and 60% having been used for one previous vintage.

Tasting Notes

In 2011 Belle-Vue delivers lovely deep, leafy fruit notes with an overlay of classy oak. It shows an appealing depth of colour and the palate is both fresh and alive. It is hard not to be impressed this year. Drink 2016 -2024.

Production

5,900 cases made

Cellaring

Drink now-2022

Scores/Awards

88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - December 31, 2013

88-91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012

87 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #212 - April 2014

83-85 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012

87 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2014

87 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2014

86-87 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012

16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com (no review)

16 points - Decanter.com - April 2012

87-89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 8, 2012

87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (no review)

Review Only - Roland Hankerson, JJBuckley Wines - April 2012

16 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews

"Well-focused, with black currant, blueberry and plum sauce notes, featuring a charcoal frame to the solid, slightly toasty finish. Drink now. 5,900 cases made."

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Nice, ripe, saturated feel, with lots of cassis and crushed plum fruit coursing along, and mouthwatering spice and graphite kicking in on the finish. Very tasty. Score range: 88-91"

- JM, Wine Spectator



Reviews *“Consistently one of the better Cru Bourgeois, Belle-Vue’s 2011 possesses a dark ruby/plum color, abundant fruit, good purity and ripeness, a Margaux-like finesse as well as floral notes, soft tannins and medium body. Drink this sleeper of the vintage over the next 3-5 years. The blend in 2011 is 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and a whopping 23% Petit Verdot.”*

- RP, Wine Advocate

“Tasted at the Cru Bourgeois tasting in London. The Belle-Vue is unashamedly more modern and precocious on the nose with swathes of plump dark plum and raspberry coulis on the plush nose that is more 2009 than 2011. The palate is rounded on the entry with noticeable oak lending a lot of grip. It seems full in the mouth with very good weight and presence towards the finish, but it will need a couple of years for the wood to fully be subsumed. Tasted September 2013.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“Full-bodied, with polished tannins and smoky, currants and mineral. Very Petit Verdot character on the palate with a spice, fresh herb undertone.”

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Very classic in style, it has firm tannins that come before black currant fruits. Its structure is dry, lightly smoky from wood aging and with a crisper fruit character underneath. The tannins need to soften before the wine can be drunk with pleasure, so wait until 2017.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Firm cassis fruit, very good depth and tannins. Drink 2015-2022.”

- Decanter.com

“From an assemblage of 46 % Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot and one of the larger percentages of Petit Verdot at 23%, the wine reached 13% alcohol and will be aged in 40% new oak. Cassis and licorice, medium bodied and a soft, red berry finish.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“46% cabernet sauvignon, 31% merlot, and 23% petit verdot. 15-hectare vineyard planted in deep, gravelly soils. Hand harvested between September 10 and October 1. Aging will be 12-16 months in 40% new oak and 60% one-year old barrels. Succulent dark fruit fills the nose. The palate follows, with notes of prune, cocoa, dark chocolate, coffee, and tobacco. A bit tight right now, so approach in 2015 and enjoy over the following 5-6 years. 7,800 cases produced.”

- RH, JJ Buckley Wines
