

## Château Belle-Vue 2012

CSPC# 749534

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 20% Petit Verdot
<b>Appellation</b>	Haut-Médoc
<b>Classification</b>	Cru Bourgeois
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.chateau-belle-vue.fr/">http://www.chateau-belle-vue.fr/</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Since the death of Vincent Mulliez in May 2010 (at 44 years of age), his wife Isabelle took over the management of the Civil Society of Gironville to pursue with determination the work begun by her husband.</p> <p>This rigorous and enterprising man had succeeded in a few years to impose its three properties, Belle-Vue, Gironville and BOLAIRE among the best recognition in the Médoc.</p>
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>The problem with the appellation of Haut-Médoc is that they are so dependent on Cabernet Sauvignon, the late ripening variety that had such difficulty achieving full ripeness in 2012. The whole season, in stark contrast to 2011, was so late, with horrid weather during flowering resulting in very uneven ripening even on the same bunch.</p> <p>Lots of unsettled weather in spring and early summer was followed by an unusually hot, dry summer - so much so that the ripening process shut down completely at times. By early September Cabernets were a long way from achieving not just phenolic but even sugar ripeness.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<p>The vineyard is maintained with care and protection reasoned yields are restricted to obtain the best possible fruit maturity. Average vine age is 32 years, and the 15.58-hectare estate comprises 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 21% Petit Verdot.</p>
<b>Maturation</b>	<p>Wines receive 16 months in barrel to mature, with 40% of barrels being new and 60% having been used for one previous vintage.</p>
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>Fresh, Cherry, Red Fruit, Light-bodied. Rich red fruit flows on and on in this charming little wine. The ripe tannins make it a great wine to bring home for dinner.</p>
<b>Serve with</b>	<p>Cheese &amp; sliced deli meats; roast pork, pork ribs, steak.</p>
<b>Production</b>	<p>9,200 cases made.</p>
<b>Cellaring</b>	<p>Drink 2017-2022</p>



**Scores/Awards** **88 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015  
**84-87 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013  
**84 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #218 - April 2015  
**86-88 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013  
**84-86 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013  
**88 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2015  
**87-89 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 11, 2013  
**86-89 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2013  
**87-88 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013  
**15.5 points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013  
**16.25 points** - Steven Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013  
**88-90 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 23, 2013  
**86-87+ points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013  
**87-88 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (no review)  
**89 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)  
**83 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013  
**15.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)  
**15.5-16** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**15.5-16 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)

**Reviews** *"Toasty and polished, with a mocha note melding into the core of plum and blackberry compote flavors. Good tobacco and espresso hints run through the finish. A frankly modern style, and a savory, solid effort for the vintage. Drink now through 2017. 9,200 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"Frankly dusty, with cherry and plum notes that struggle to push through in the end. A chalky edge holds sway on the finish. A bit disjointed and a touch drying overall. Score range: 84-87"*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"This is usually one of my favorites among the lesser-known properties in the Médoc, but the 2012 is hard, angular and lacking charm. It is a blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 20% Petit Verdot, the latter component quite unusual and very elevated for a Bordeaux blend. Drink it over the next 4-5 years, as I don't think this is going to sweeten up or shed enough tannin to come into balance."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"This blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot and 20% Petit Verdot displays the ripeness it was possible to achieve in this vintage as it boasts 13.5% natural alcohol. It is medium-bodied with cedary, herbaceously-tinged red and black currant fruit intermixed with a hint of loamy soil. Drink it over the next 4-5 years."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"The Belle Vue has a slight marine-like scent on the nose with tobacco scents developing soon after. The palate is a little tough on the entry and it is missing some weight and breadth on the middle and finish. A little simple, but not bad. Tasted April 2013"*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"A wine with good polished tannins. Balanced & fresh but a little hollow in the mid-palate. Should evolve nicely through the vintage."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Belle-Vue changed its usual blend for 2012 to emphasize the ripe Cabernet Sauvignon. That gives a fresh black currant-flavored wine that is layered with ripe tannins and acidity. Fruity, it will develop quickly, so drink from 2017."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"87-89. Barrel sample. This ripe wine is attractively fruity, showing acidity, soft tannins and a smooth and juicy black-currant aftertaste."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

- Reviews** *“Deep dark cherry colour. Delicately scented with pure black fruit and just a hint of oak char. Smoothed chocolate texture and sweetness on the palate, owing more to oak than anything else at the moment but there's harmony and freshness. Just not so keen on the kick of chocolate on the finish.”*  
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “Dense colour, dense firm fruit with 20% Petit Verdot to add grip, a firm and spicy wine with a good future.”*  
- SS, Decanter.com
- “With oak, licorice and dark berries, this wine is spicy, fresh and lively, offering good character. 88-90 Pts”*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Deep and earthy looking; mineral tones; wet rocks, sturdy; attractive palate with surprising mid-palate richness for the vintage and appellation. Good and gutsy. 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot, 20% Petit Verdot. Tasted at the Cru Bourgeois tasting Tuesday, April 9, 2013. 86-87+”*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- “Well made, supple red with plums and dark berry flavours. Balanced, medium weight with modest finish. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young.”*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com
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