

Château Belle-Vue 2020

CSPC# 888334

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 20% Petit Verdot
Appellation	Haut-Medoc
Classification	Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel
Website	http://www.chateau-belle-vue.fr/
Analysis	pH: 3.66
Sustainability	H.V.E Certificate: High Environmental and acknowledgment of good Agricultural practices.
General Info	<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. Since the death of Vincent Mulliez in May 2010 (at 44 yrs. 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>
Winemaker	Christophe Coupez (Ch. Retout) as consultant oenologist and Vincent Bache-Gabrielsen (Ch. Pédesclaux & Ch. Lilian Ladouys) as a consultant.
Vintage	<p>The 2020's vintage starts with a rainy winter (380mm from the 1st of November to the 31st of March), followed by a mild but just as wet Spring with 200mm of rainfall between the 1st of April to the 15th of June 2020.</p> <p>Mid-June, the good weather finally settles in and allows a homogeneous flowering. July and the beginning of August, hot and dry, promote the vine growth. The first berries mature and change colour from mid-July whit about 10 days of earliness which will persist until the harvest.</p> <p>On the 21st of September, the picking begins under high temperatures near 30°C. The return of the rains, from the 18th of September, will force us to speed the late ripening varieties picking and finish on the 3rd of October.</p>
Vineyards	The vineyard is maintained with care and protection reasoned yields are restricted to obtain the best possible fruit maturity. The average vine age is 39 years, and the 15.58-hectare estate comprises 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 28% Merlot, 21% Petit Verdot.
Harvest	<p>On the 21st of September, the picking begins under high temperatures near 30°C. The return of the rains, from the 18th of September, will force us to speed the late ripening varieties picking and finish on the 3rd of October. A yield of 33hl/ha.</p>
Vinification	<p>During the vinification, the extraction is done as gently as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cold pre-ferment maceration (0 ° C) for 10 days.- Exclusive use of release by gravity, the juice is re-sent by sprinkling on to the grappa which prevents it from destructure.- Post-ferment maceration: 20 days on average at 28 ° C to refine the tannins.
Maturation	Wines receive 14-16 months in barrel to mature, with 30% of barrels being new and 60% having been used for one previous vintage.



Tasting Notes	The Chateau Belle-Vue 2020 boasts a beautiful bouquet of ripe blackberries, blackcurrants, and dark cherries, along with subtle hints of vanilla and oak. On the palate, the wine is full-bodied and rich, with bold flavors of black fruit, chocolate, and espresso, as well as a touch of earthy minerality. The tannins are firm yet silky, providing a lovely texture and structure to the wine, and the acidity is well-balanced, adding freshness and vibrancy to the finish.
Winemaker's Notes	The property's 10 hectares of vines are planted on a remarkable terroir, which, located between the Gironde estuary and the Atlantic Ocean, benefits from a microclimate with very stable temperatures. The choice of grape varieties is slightly unusual with, in addition to the traditional Cabernet Sauvignon (50%) and Merlot (30%) there is 20% Petit Verdot, a much larger proportion than is found in most vineyards, but which gives the wines an elegant acidity. There is also a hint of Carmenère, an old Bordeaux variety, which subtly enriches the aromatic palate with a mild spiciness.
Serve with	Chateau Belle-Vue is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. The red wine of Chateau Belle-Vue is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes.
Production	6,200 cases made. 77,000 bottles made.
Cellaring	Drink 2023 - 2031
Scores/Awards	<p>88 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p>88-90 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>87 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p>91-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>92-94+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>89 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>91 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Open-knit, with gently mulled plum and blackberry notes laced with singed sandalwood, dark tea, and anise. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Cabernet Franc and Carmenère. Drink now through 2026. Tasted twice, with consistent notes. 6,200 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2020 Belle-Vue is a blend of 55% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot and 20% Petit Verdot, with an alcohol of 13.5%. Deep purple-black colored, it prances out of the glass with exuberant notes of blackcurrant preserves, stewed plums and mulberries with hints of menthol, mocha, and cardamom. The medium-bodied palate delivers appealing freshness and balance, delivering minted black fruit flavors and a soft, well-managed texture, finishing with a spicy lift."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A full-bodied, firm, and intense red with blackcurrants, toasted walnuts, violets, smoked paprika and dried herbs on the nose. Sturdy frame from firm yet polished tannins. Powerful and wonderfully integrated. Better from 2026."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Bright currants, cherries and some currant leaf with baking spices and gravel to the nose. The medium- to full-bodied palate is tightly wound with dense, chalky tannins that will need some time to fully melt and integrate. A mineral drive in the finish. Drink from 2025."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"A rich slick stripe of damson and smoked oak, but things close down pretty quickly on the palate. There are fine but tight tannins here, with a sweep of acidity traveling fast and swift through the palate, until the whole thing expands and softens after a minute in the glass. Great delicacy, power, and depth, you would almost think there is Cabernet Franc in here because of its verticality, and beautifully rough slate texture on the finish. I love it. A yield of 33hl/ha. Barrel Sample: 94."</i></p> <p>- JA, Decanter.com</p>

Reviews *“The nose with its flowers, cherries and herbs gets things going. The palate is medium-bodied, with ample fruit, along with a strong, savory, herbal and chalky, green olive character in the finish. It is interesting to note that Belle-Vue is one of the few Bordeaux wines produced using 5 allowable grape varieties. Drink from 2024-2038.”*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Spicy black raspberries, tobacco, cedar, and flowers work on the nose, while on the palate the wine is bright, chewy, crisp, and fresh with endnotes of savory kirsch and peppery currants. Belle-Vue is one of the few Bordeaux wines produced using 5 allowable grape varieties.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2020 Bellevue is always so seductive out of barrel, and this is no different, armed with glorious, extremely pure black cherries, blueberry, crushed violet and iris scents, the oak seamlessly integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with lithe tannins, and quite zesty on the midpalate, revealing veins of blood orange. Cohesive on the finish with a veneer of new oak that will require a few years to be fully assimilated. Lovely. Barrel Sample: 93-95.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2020 Belle-Vue is a gorgeous Cru Bourgeois Exceptionnel. Dark plum, gravel, cloves menthol and licorice convey an impression of brooding intensity. The 2020 packs a serious punch but offers very good freshness to balance things out.”

- AG, Vinous

“I loved the 2020 Château Bellevue, and this might be the finest vintage I’ve tasted from this address. Lots of cassis and blue fruits as well as toasted spice, chocolate, and chalky minerality emerge from the glass, and it’s medium to full-bodied, with a great texture, ripe tannins, and a nice mix of freshness and richness.

Barrel Sample: 92-94+.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The nose is fruity and offers a certain juiciness, a fine richness. It reveals the notes of blackberry, small red currants, small black currants, violet, licorice, lilac, discreet hint of Cuban pepper. The mouth is fruity, and it offers juiciness, a tangy frame, a good definition, gourmandize, the tension, depth, racy minerality. The wine expresses the notes of blackberry, cassis, violet, small red currants, cherries, iris, lily, tonka beans, toast. The tannins are precise and relatively mellow. Good length.”

- Vert de Vin
