

Château Bellevue 2016

CSPC# 814267

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

100% Merlot

Appellation

Saint-Emilion

Classification

Grand Cru Classé

Website

<http://www.chateaubellevue.fr/en/presentation-chateau-bellevue.php>

General Info

Chateau Bellevue is a Saint-Emilion Grand Cru Classe located in the Saint-Emilion appellation. Owned by the Pradel de Lavaux and de Bouard de Laforest family. Since 2007, the team from Chateau Angelus has been over-seeing the 6.82-hectare vineyard and cellar. The vineyard is one plot of land and has only Merlot grapevines planted. Chateau Bellevue has an exceptional view, with neighboring Grands Crus.

Winemakers

Hubert de Bouïard de Laforest and Emmanuelle d'Aligny-Fulchi

Vintage

Chateau Bellevue 2016 is a 100% Merlot produced in Saint-Emilion. Summer was very hot, and especially dry. The clay-limestone soil and blue clay allowed the vines to continue maturing, despite the extreme summer temperatures.

Vineyards

Covering a single block of 6.82 hectares (16.85 acres), Château Bellevue's vineyard is made up solely of the Merlot grape variety. Situated on one of the finest terroirs of Saint-Emilion and having some of the great Premiers Grands Crus Classés as its close neighbours, the vineyard stretches out seamlessly over both slopes and plateau. Château Bellevue enjoys stunning views of the surrounding countryside. The estate's 2.5 hectares (6.18 acres) of grounds, which feature both Mediterranean and Atlantic plant life, offer an oasis of unique biodiversity set in the very heart of the vineyard. A stroll through this magical place allows visitors to discover a delightful 17th century chartreuse with balustrade-line terraces and a rich heritage depicting the history of Saint-Emilion's vines and wine

Harvest

picked by hand

Vinification/

Maturation

Malolactic fermentation takes place in 100% new, French oak. The wine of Chateau Bellevue is aged in 100% new, French oak barrels. Sur lies aging takes place in barrel for the first six months of the aging process.

Tasting Notes

Bellevue 2016 has a powerfully enticing mixture of aromas. Notes of black fruits, pastries, and gillyflowers. In the mouth, creamy sensations and a great tension combine for a pleasant silky texture. The tannins provide the backbone and structure for the wine. The finish has flavors of flint stone, confirming the minerality of Saint-Emilion

Serve with

Chateau Bellevue is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised and grilled dishes. Also, a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta as well as cheese.

Production

1,667 cases made.

Cellaring

Drink 2019-2039

Scores/Awards

93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019

94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - March 2019

90-92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017

97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019

97-98 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017

92 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019

92-94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017

16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017

93 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017

95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017

93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019

93 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - January 2019



Scores/Awards **93-96 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017

94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019

95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2017

Reviews *"Lush and inviting, with warm cassis and plum sauce flavors that glide through, laced with anise and rooibos tea hints while sweet toast and wood spice notes stays nicely buried through the finish. A delicious, fruit-driven example. Drink now through 2035. 1,667 cases made."*

- JM, Wine Spectator

"Made of 100% Merlot on clay and limestone soils, the 2016 Bellevue is medium to deep garnet-purple colored and charges out of the glass with enthusiastic notions of crushed red and black plums, kirsch, ripe blackberries and rose petals plus touches of yeast extract, black olives, aniseed and cinnamon toast. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is built like a brick house with a solid frame of ripe, grainy tannins and oodles of freshness lifting the densely packed, multilayered fruit to a good, long finish."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2016 Bellevue has an attractive bouquet with bright redcurrant and cassis notes although not as complex as either the Angelus or Carillon d'Angelus. The palate is medium bodied with smooth tannin, silky to the touch with a touch of oyster shell tincturing the red fruit on the finish. Probably earlier drinking than others, it is a well-crafted Saint Emilion."

- NM, Wine Advocate

"A dense and layered red with ripe plums and blueberries, as well as hints of wet earth and moss. Full-bodied, velvety and layered with fantastic fruit and creamy, velvety tannins. Plush and deep. Great wine. Try from 2023."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This is very exciting this year with a profound depth and power of fruit in addition to mineral undertones. Full and intense. Great finish. Better than the 2015?"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"This wine offers intensity and concentration. If it is one-dimensional it also has layers of acidity, tannins and juicy freshness that are immediately delectable. Drink this wine from 2023."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Barrel Sample. This 100% Merlot is elegant, fresh and fruity, with fine acidity and just enough structure. The wine has a fresh energy that makes it delicious, and a delicious juiciness at the end. (RV)"

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Owned by the de Bouïard family. Deep crimson. Not much nose. Very sour and dry on the end. No real impact on the palate. Light. Drying end."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"There is a lovely creamy texture to this wine, joined by attractive spice notes. It's ripe but not overly so, showing good persistency and juicy fruit that fills out the tannins. Organically farmed."

- JA, Decanter.com

"Deep in color, this blend of 100% Merlot is all about the rich, silky textures, polished tannins, freshness, and the ripe, plush, plummy, mineral-driven finish with that touch of dark chocolate, spice and earth in the endnote. This could be the best ever wine from Bellevue."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2016 Bellevue has retained the attractive bouquet evident when in barrel: quite rich in style but well defined, offering ample, luscious red cherry, mulberry and pressed iris aromas. The palate is medium bodied with lush tannin, impressive depth and freshness and just the right amount of salinity toward the finish. This has gained a little panache during its élevage, and it comes highly recommended. Excellent."

- NM, Vinous

Reviews *“The 2016 Bellevue is dense and powerful, but also quite reticent following its bottling this past June. Dark and virile, the 2016 is going to need at least a few years to come into its own. The intensity and volume the wine showed en primeur are very much in evidence, but also presently enshrouded by a wall of potent tannins. Gravel, smoke, game, leather and tobacco give the 2016 much of its savory character. (AG)”*
- AG, Vinous

“The 2016 Bellevue is simply extraordinary. The aromatics alone are captivating, but it is the wine's balance and poise that are most impressive. Graphite, gravel, smoke, licorice, crème de cassis and blueberry jam all flesh out on the palate as this deep, dense Saint-Emilion shows off its personality. Hints of blood orange and citrus add a touch of freshness. Complete and satisfying, Bellevue is a total knock-out on 2016. Tasted two times.”
- AG, Vinous

“Made from 100% Merlot and cooler limestone and clay soils, the 2016 Château Bellevue shows a beautiful minerality and freshness in its black raspberry, crushed rocks, graphite, and dried flower aromas and flavors. It's medium-bodied, focused, and precise on the palate, with fine yet certainly present tannins. Give this beauty 3-5 years and it will cruise for two decades.”
- Jeb Dunnuck
