

Château Beau-Séjour Bécot 2013

CSPC# 780482

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classe B in 2006.

Website

<http://www.beausejour-becot.com/>

General Info

Situated on the St Martin de Mazerat plateau, immediately to the west of the old town, Beau-Séjour Bécot lies in the very heart of Saint-Emilion.

This historic vineyards of Chateau Beau-Sejour Becot has a long and interesting history. Beau-Sejour Becot began life as an estate owned by the monks of St. Martin Abbey in St. Emilion. The monks managed the Bordeaux vineyards at what later become Chateau Canon. They also watched over the vines that were used to eventually create Beau-Sejour Becot.

Beau-Sejour Becot found its name in 1787 with the help and idea of a member from the Figeac family. General Jacques de Carles, who was part of the Figeac family said the estate should be called Beau-Sejour Becot. The name stuck! Skipping ahead over 100 years, Pierre-Paulin Ducarpe split the Beau-Sejour Becot vineyards between his two children, giving the chateau, plus other structures along with half his vineyards to his daughter. After she married, she took her husband's name, Duffau-Lagarosse. That marriage gave birth to what we now know of as Chateau Beausejour-Duffau-Lagarosse.

In 1924, Chateau Beau-Sejour became the property of Doctor Jean Fagouet. Michel Becot, whose family lived in St. Emilion since 1760 owned Château La Carte since 1929.

In 1969, the Becot's purchased Beau-Sejour, renaming it Beau-Sejour Becot.

In 1979, the Bécot family enlarged Beau-Sejour Becot with the purchase of 11 acres of Bordeaux vineyards on the Trois Moulins plateau. Since 1985, the property has been managed by his sons, Gérard and Dominique. Gerard's daughter, Juliette Becot is involved in running Beau-Sejour Becot, as well as the families other properties in St. Emilion and Cotes de Castillon.

Michel Bécot retired in 1985, turning over the management of the chateau to his two sons Gérard and Domonic. Juliette rejoined them in 2001.

Vintage

2013 saw probably the most challenging growing season on record, starting with a late, cold spring which put the vines on the back-foot right from the beginning. Budding and then flowering ran some three weeks behind schedule, with flowering occurring in the last half of June during very unsettled weather - a hot sunny day at 30oC would be followed by a stormy, wet one at just 14oC, the antithesis of perfect flowering weather. The result was substantial coulure and millerandage (fertilized flowers which then fail to develop or abort), particularly affecting old Merlot vines, and the vigneronns knew already that they had a small harvest on the horizon, up to 30% smaller than average. July was very hot, around 3oC higher than the norm, and all seemed fine until the last weekend of July when the weather broke with a spectacular hail-infested storm which decimated the Entre Deux Mers and some outlying St Emilion properties like Château Puy Blanquet, in some cases destroying the entire crop.

Following the break in the weather, August proceeded cooler and slightly damper than usual, a few degrees below the norm, allowing grey rot, which had been hanging around the vineyards since flowering, to get a new foothold amongst the vines. Normally, the labour-intensive vineyard work starts to wind down in mid-August whereas in 2013 most producers stepped up their vineyard patrols at this time, excising rotten and under-ripe grapes as soon as they became apparent. This was clearly a vintage where the small producer had the edge over the larger estates as they could visit all their vines on a daily basis, keeping an eye on every small change



and reacting accordingly. Every trick in the viticultural book was deployed - green harvesting, despite the small load on the vine, to ensure that the vines weren't carrying more than they could ripen given the late season; leaf-thinning to increase air circulation and inhibit rot; the removal of later-ripening grapes which would have been hard to spot come harvest time - not to mention preventative spraying against the rot. It was an all-out battle between the farmers and the elements.

Vineyards Situation: on the western plateau of Saint-Emilion, in the old parish of Saint-Martin de Mazerat. Surface area: 16,52 ha. Whole estate: 18,50 ha.
Soil: chalk with fossilised starfish. Grape varieties: 70% Merlot, 24% Cabernet franc, 6% Cabernet sauvignon. Planting density: 6,600 vines per hectare.
Average age of vines: 40 years.

Harvest Harvest: by hand. Yields: controlled to between 30 and 38 hl per hectare.
October 7-18, 2013.

**Vinification/
Maturation** To vinify the wine of Chateau Beau-Sejour Becot, the grapes are table sorted three times. A portion of the grapes are whole berry fermented. Vinification takes place in stainless steel tanks ranging in size from 80 to 100 hectoliters following a 4-day cold maceration. Microbullage is performed during fermentation. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel with the first four months spent on the post-malo lees. The wine of Chateau Beau-Sejour Becot is aged in 75% new French oak that comes from five different coopers. The wine is aged in barrel for between 18 to 20 months. Michel Rolland is the consultant.

Tasting Notes The 2013 Château Beau-Séjour Bécot is a veritable success. A wine with balance, sophistication and silkiness - a reference for the vintage.

Production 5,500 cases made

Cellaring Drink 2014-2029

Scores/Awards **90 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2016
89-92 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014
91-93 points - Robert M. Parker Jr., Wine Advocate #214 - August 2014
89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2014
89-90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2014
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 4, 2014
88-91 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - Aug 2014
15 points - Richard Hemming, JancisRobinson.com - June 2014
16.75 (89) points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2014
93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2014
90-92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 28, 2014
88-90 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2, 2014
87 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
85-87 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2014
17+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2014
90 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2014
87-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2014
90+ points - Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants - April 2013
89-91 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)
17.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)
92 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)
15 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

Reviews *"Frankly ripe, with a slightly jammy core of creamed raspberry and boysenberry fruit, liberally coated with mocha and roasted vanilla notes. Offers a polished feel and good depth for the vintage. Maybe a bit obvious in style, but the fruit and depth are there. Drink now through 2023. 5,500 cases made."*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Fresh and bright, with pure cassis and blackberry fruit gently inlaid with sweet spice and licorice hints. The lively finish lets everything hang nicely. Score range: 89-92."
- JM, Wine Spectator

Reviews *"A strong effort from this Premiere Grand Cru Classe in St.-Emilion, the 2013 final blend of 80% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon hit 13.5% natural alcohol. The wine was made from grapes harvested October 7-18. About 5,500 cases were produced, which is far less than usual, but what's there is*

impressive in this tough year. Dense, plum/purple in color, with a serious bouquet of graphite, black currants, kirsch, licorice and toasty oak, it is well-endowed, medium-bodied, and moving toward a fuller tactile impact and more texture than most wines. This has a long, supple finish and should be drinkable at a relatively early age. Look for this wine to come into its own in another several years and last for 12-15."

- RP Jr., Wine Advocate

"The Chateau Beausejour Becot has a ripe bouquet with dark berries, creme de cassis and iodine scents that are nicely defined and for the vintage, quite opulent. The palate is medium-bodied with fine extraction: smooth and velvety in texture with nicely judged acidity and a long spicy, almost Pomerol-like finish. It does not possess the depth or complexity of a great Beausejour Becot, but it should give pleasure over the next 8 to 10 years. Tasted April 2014."

- NM, Wine Journal

"A juicy, savory wine for the vintage with a mineral, berry and dark-fruit character. Medium to full body, firm tannins and a fresh finish. 89 - 90/100"

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"93-95. Barrel Sample. This is a structured, dry wine that is more about dry tannins than fruit. There is a juicy element that should give the wine great richness for the future, although it will be a long time."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Dark ruby. Deep aromas of small dark berries, cedar, ink and graphite. Rich and dense, showing an almost unctuous quality to the plum, blackberry and floral flavors, a real rarity in 2013 wines. Finishes with youthfully chewy but ripe tannins. This wine has well above average density and is a real success for the vintage. 88-91"

- ID, International Wine Cellar

"Light palate with a vegetal under ripeness beneath the fruit. Simple, light, not unattractive but not wholly expressive either. Seems a little warm on the finish too. (RH) Drink 2016-2023. 15."

- RH, www.JancisRobinson.com

"Purple hue. Red fruit nose. Good depth of fruit. Harmonious and fresh. Touch grainy and dry on the finish. Drink: 2018-2030. 16.75 James Lawther MW, decanter.com"

- JL, Decanter

"The rich vein of form continues at this impressive St Emilion property. The tannins are particularly fine in this 2013, supported by sweet, aromatic oak, bright acidity and flavours of blackberry, plum and Asian spices. The 4% Cabernet adds backbone. 2018-25 93."

- TA, www.timatkin.com

"Deep ruby in color with a nose of licorice, espresso, clay and black raspberry, the wine is medium bodied with an accessible, soft personality. The wine is fresh, spicy and finishes with sweet black cherries. From a blend 73% Merlot, 21% Cabernet Franc and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine reached 14% alcohol, and yields were 27 hectoliters per hectare. 90-92 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep and saturated; opaque at centre; colour tight to rim; rich and thick nose, some sweet vanilla with plum tones; glossy; palate feels a little hard but there is some weight; overall OK, not too pushed. Perhaps a fraction short in the end but should fill out during élevage. Tasted UGCB 2/4/14. Drink 2018-2028. 88-90"

- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

Reviews *"Fresh on the nose the palate has a mix of red and black fruits with the red dominating. The mid palate is tight the tannins very firm tending to shorten the finish. 2017-27. 85-87 "*

- Derek Smedley MW

"Has B-B's usual deep dark glossy purple-edged look. Harmonious black fruit nose. Rich fruit on palate is warm and smooth, but dryer than recent years, tightening on the finish, but it's all complete and whole, a big velvet mouthful. 90+ L&S"

- Lea & Sandeman Wine Merchants

"A serious St Emilion red with ripe plums, blackberries and cedar notes. Palate texture is supple and round with nice depth of fruit for this vintage. Fairly long finish with ability to age for at least 10 years. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (01-Apr-2014)"

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"Pretty good core of ripe red fruit in the core and a nice, if masculine, oaky tang throughout. Good depth and impact and nice weight, too. It needs some time to settle down but will be a medium-weight charmer with blackberry and spice in due course. 17+."

- MJ, www.matthewjukes.com
