

Château Beau-Séjour Bécot 2018

CSPC# 847776

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

CSPC# 848990

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% 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 family's 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.

Winemakers

Thomas Duclot consultant.

Vintage

2018 Saint Emilion was not an easy vintage for producers. The winter months were easy, but the spring is one of the wettest in history. Depending on where you located in St. Emilion, during the initial 6 months of the year, between 550 mm to 600 mm (21"-24") of rain soaked your soils. This is more than the normal amount of rain the region experiences in a year!

From there growers fended off violent attacks of mildew, which struck fast and furious. 2018 Saint Emilion was saved by the hottest, driest, sunniest vintage conditions since 2003. Barely any rain fell from July to harvest.

Picking took place under warm, sunny and dry conditions. On average, production was down 10-20% for many vineyards. Conditions were so good between late September and mid-October; vigneron were able to pick at their chosen level of maturity. Harvesting took place from mid-September to mid-October.

At their best, 2018 Saint Emilion are just great! Across the board the wines are deeply colored. They are concentrated, ripe, opulent and velvety on the palate. Many are alcoholic. But the top estates held everything in check, maintaining balance between ripeness and freshness.

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.



Vineyards	Planting density: 6,600 vines per hectare. Average vine age: 40 yrs.
Harvest	The Merlot was harvested on September 12-25, and the Cabernet varieties were harvested on October 4, 5 and 10. Yields were 46 hectoliters per hectare, and it is anticipated that the wine will age for 16 months.
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	This blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon was cropped at 46 hectoliters per hectare and is aging in less new oak than usual (60%), thanks to the sound advice of rising star wine consultant Thomas Duclos. The wine tastes fresher than usual and deserves to be on the Liv-Ex list of top value wines of the 2018 vintage. Give credit to Michel Rolland actually for already a soft pedal in 2016, a vintage that shines bright as well here! But with Duclos, we go full (soft) Monty. Malolactic is no longer carried out in new oak, but rather in stainless steel, so that that glossy modern sheen that sometimes annoyed me here is gone. It helps that the wine is aging in 20% amphorae, which is a growing trend as well in Bordeaux (see also La Conseillante). So, in short, elegance with tannic bite: a wine that has the richness, too, of Merlot, but staying power. Nice job!
Serve with	Chateau Beau-Sejour Bécot is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Beau-Sejour Bécot is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese.
Production	8,750 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2023-2034
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2021</p> <p>96-99 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - June 2019</p> <p>94+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>95-97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2020</p> <p>95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2021</p> <p>16+ points - Tom Parker, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020</p> <p>95 points - Decanter.com - April 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>96-98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>94-97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2019</p> <p>96+ points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Juicy, with a mix of fig, blackberry and black currant fruit laced with light bramble, anise, bay and tobacco notes. Good energy through the finish, with a late mineral tug. Relies on purity and elegance overall. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2023 through 2034. 8,750 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Juicy and forward in feel, with fresh plum, blackberry and anise notes. Dense, but still silky and refined in feel, revealing a long mineral echo through the finish. This is so pure, it seems almost too easy to drink already, just as you realize how ridiculously long it is. Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. 8,750 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it slips slowly, sensuously from the glass with notes of boysenberries, black raspberries, baked plums and chocolate-covered cherries, plus hints of star anise, dried Provence herbs and lavender. The medium to full-bodied palate offers soft textured, perfumed black fruit layers with just enough</i></p>

Reviews *freshness and a lifted finish. A little closed and shy at this youthful stage, give it a good 5-6 years in bottle and enjoy it over the next 25 years or more."*

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"The 2018 Beau-Sejour Bécot is composed of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. The Merlot was harvested on September 12-25, and the Cabernet varieties were harvested on October 4, 5 and 10. Yields were 46 hectoliters per hectare, and it is anticipated that the wine will age for 16 months. Sixty-five percent of the wine will be matured in new barriques, while 35% will be aged in vats, amphorae, and large oak casks of 20-hectoliter capacity. Deep garnet-purple colored, it leaps from the glass with bold, expressive notions of stewed plums, blackberry pie and Black Forest cake with nuances of menthol, mocha, molten licorice, and wild sage plus a waft of lavender. Full-bodied, the palate is laden with latent energy, offering slow-releasing glimpses at dark, seductive berry preserves layers and vibrant earthy accents, framed by firm, grainy tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and mineral laced."

- LPB, Wine Advocate

"Lots of leaf, mushroom, bark and plum aromas and flavors. It's medium-to full-bodied with juicy fruit and firm, fine tannins. Tight at the finish. The quality and the polish of the tannins are exceptional. So integrated. Needs three or four years to open. Try after 2024."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"A very fresh and beautiful wine with extremely fine tannins that melt nicely into the pure fruit. Medium to full body. Crisp and very fruity. Wonderful finish that lasts for minutes. It grows in stature at the end."

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Big, rich and packed with smoky black fruits, this is not a shy wine. Dark chocolate and black-plum flavors mingle with the solid structure and concentrated tannins. With its ripe, juicy fruitiness at the end, the wine has all the elements in place. Let it age and drink from 2027."

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. Mid-deep ruby in the glass. Red fruit on the nose, but also some darker and incense-laced blackberry. Polished texture on the palate allows the fruit to shine through. Bursting with blueberry and black cherry. The oak brings a slightly aggressive smokiness through the finish, but the fruit weight retains the balance in the wine. Chalky but ripe tannins are persistent, suggesting good ageing potential."

- TP, JancisRobinson.com

"Blueberry, blackberry, coffee beans, slate, sage and rosemary are layered up here, opening slowly to show a gun smoke edge. A success en primeur and has lived up the billing. The first vintage to be entirely overseen by Juliet Bécot. A mix of amphorae, 20hl Stockinger casks and 225l barrels used for the ageing. Drinking Window 2026 – 2044."

- Decanter

"This is the first vintage to be entirely overseen by Juliet Bécot, as her uncle and father have begun their retirement. New technical director Jean de Cournaud joined the team, and it's the second year working with consultant Thomas Duclos. The changes that this team are bringing in are clear. There's a beautiful delicacy here that balances the creaminess and fleshy texture of the fruit. The aromatics gather pace in the glass while the tannins are plentiful but not heavy, serving to emphasise the minerality, slate and stunning rosemary and white pepper edge. Like some other estates in 2018, this was the longest harvest ever here, beginning on 12 September and continuing for one month, yielding 50hl/ha. There were no whole-bunch fermentation trials this time (as in 2017), as they didn't want to risk the stalks not being ripe enough. They used infusion rather than pumping over, yet the tannin count is 75IPT, showing the natural power of the vintage. It's a wine that seems to be ready to age with real grace. A mix of amphorae, 20hl Stockinger casks and 225l barrels will be used."

- JA, Decanter

Reviews

"Deeply colored, the wine is all about its sensuality. Texturally, the wine is silk and velvet with its layers of sweet, luscious plums, cherries, smoke, and licorice. Full-bodied with a fabulous depth of flavor, seamless textures, vibrancy, and purity of fruit, this is just great. The silky finish coats your mouth with flavor and the essence of pure fruit as it builds and expands. The wine is a blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. If I hadn't tasted the 2019, or heard about the 2020, I would have said this was the finest vintage ever produced at Beau-Sejour Bécot."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Just when I was sure the 2016 Beau-Sejour Bécot was the best wine ever produced at the property, along comes the 2018! Deep in color, the wine shows a strong floral and mint accent with dark chocolate, black plums, and even darker cherries. This is the highest level of concentration experienced with their wine, but it is also remarkably energetic. There is lift, vibrancy, minerality and multiple platforms of fleshy, opulent, sensual ripe, dark pit fruits. The silky finish coats your mouth with flavor and the essence of pure fruit. This is perfectly balanced between power and sensuality. The wine is a blend of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aging in a combination of 65% new, French oak with 35% of the wine raised in amphora and used oak casks. The Merlot was harvested from September 12-25 and the Cabernet's was picked between October 4 and October 10."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2018 Beau-Séjour Bécot is nicely detailed on the nose of pixelated black fruit laced with raspberry and subtle floral scents; back notes of marmalade come through with aeration. The pliant palate is medium-bodied with luscious tannin's disguising the structure behind this Saint-Émilien. I suspect that it might close up for a period before blossoming with bottle age. This is a sophisticated and very well-crafted wine that will age with style and panache."

NM, *Vinous*

"The 2018 Beau-Séjour Bécot is fabulous. Dense, rich, and explosive, the 2018 has it all. Soaring aromatics and a huge spine of tannin give the 2018 its regal contours. The 2018 was barreled down late, and it is still coming together, especially in its aromatics, but its potential is evident. A wine of tremendous character and personality Beau-Séjour Bécot dazzles in 2018. It is an utterly captivating Saint-Émilien from Juliette Bécot and Julien Barthe, along with their consulting winemaker Thomas Duclos. (AG)"

- AG, *Vinous*

"This estate makes an incredibly classic, elegant Saint-Emilion. The 2018 Château Beau-Séjour Bécot is based on 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon that was brought up in 65% new French oak. Coming from a beautiful terroir on the upper plateau, it reveals a deep purple/ruby color as well as perfumed cassis and mulberry fruits intermixed with ample spring flowers, chalky minerality, violets, and graphite. Medium to full-bodied and nicely concentrated on the palate, it has terrific mid-palate depth, flawless balance, background oak, and polished yet significant tannins. If you want to know what limestone soil gives to a wine, try this! It has the polish and balance to offer pleasure today, yet the cellar will be your friend. This warrants 5-7 years of bottle age and will have 30+ years of prime drinking. Rating: 96+."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Tasted on two separate occasions, the 2018 Château Beau-Séjour Bécot is a brilliant wine based on 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, aging in 65% new oak (there's some in amphora as well) that comes from a magical terroir on the upper plateau, just outside of Saint-Émilien. This is pure limestone soils, and the wine shows it with its fresh, vibrant style as well as incredibly minerality. Vivid cassis, graphite, white flowers, and spice characteristics all flow to a medium to full-bodied, pure, incredibly elegant wine that shows the new style of this estate beautifully. It's not for those seeking overt power and opulence, but it builds incrementally on the palate, with ultra-fine tannins and a great finish. It's as classy as it gets. Give bottles 4-6 years of bottle age, and it will keep for 2-3 decades."

- Jeb Dunnuck
