

Château Beau-Séjour Bécot 2020

CSPC# 771461

750mlx12

14.3% alc./vol.

CSPC# 888340

5000mlx1

Grape Variety

85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 2% 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 Bécot have 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

The winter took place with mild temperatures for this 2020 vintage. On the other hand, the spring was very heavy with water and rain, allowing the reserves of the soil to be cheerfully filled. The summer started quickly with big peaks of heat and a drought that forced the Beau-Séjour Bécot vines to fetch water very deep in the ground. Fortunately, the storms in August were life-saving and enabled the vines to be revived and the ripening of the grapes to be finalized before the manual harvest which took place in September.

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

Manual harvest from September 8th to September 29th.

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 barrels with the first four months spent on the post-malo lees. The wine of Chateau Beau-Sejour Becot is aged in 65% new French oak that comes from five different coopers, and 35% in tanks, amphorae, and casks. The wine is aged in barrels for 16 months. Michel Rolland is the consultant.



Tasting Notes	For 2 vintages already, this red wine has impressed with its progress. On the nose, intense aromas of black fruits emerge. On the palate, the material is very dense. The fruit clearly brings out the limestone terroir of Beau-séjour Bécot. This wine is deep with a crunch and a juicy mouthfeel. The tannins are structured and fine. Very nice success! We find the brilliance of the fruit, the fresh and tonic aromatic, which is now typical of the property, but with an additional density, depth, fabric, the whole carried by a limestone vibration which signs the identity of the place. The crunch gives way to juiciness, with a very nice work on the finesse of the tannins.
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	7,700 cases made
Cellaring	Drink 2027-2055
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p>95+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>95-97+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p>96-97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p>17+ points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p>95 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>96-98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>97 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>95 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>95 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>96-98 points - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>98 points - Terres de Vins (score only) - September 2021</p> <p>99 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p>95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>“Very expressive, with cassis, cherry puree and plum pâte de fruit notes leaping to the fore with good energy, while violet, red tea, savory, and sanguine details add range and guile through the stylish finish. It's not easy to capture such freshness in this vintage as this version does. Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon. Best from 2026 through 2038.”</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>“A terrific performance for an estate on a continuing upward trajectory, the 2020 Beau-Séjour Bécot unwinds in the glass with a deep bouquet of cherries and blackberries mingled with violets and spices. Medium to full-bodied, pure, and layered, it's deep and concentrated, with a vibrant core of fruit, polished tannins, and a long, sapid finish. The 2020 is a blend of 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, some two-thirds of which was matured in new oak, with the balance in tanks, amphorae and foudres. Fully four hectares of Beau-Séjour Bécot are lying fallow, and two more, recently replanted (with massal selections), are entering production only this year. That amounts to huge restructuring for an estate that only amounts to 22 hectares, sitting on Saint-Émilion's limestone plateau, and it will be fascinating to see the results. What has transformed this estate since 2018, however, has just as much to do with a change of approach in the winery and cellar as it does a change in the vineyards. Long but gentle macerations, more judicious extraction, and a much defter touch with the choice of new oak are delivering wines of much greater finesse and complexity, without any loss of intensity, and the quality of this superb terroir is at last front and center in the glass.”</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>“Displaying a deep purple-black color, the 2020 Beau-Sejour Bécot prances out of the glass with showy scents of preserved plums, chocolate-covered cherries, wild blueberries, and raspberry preserves, plus suggestions of rose oil, ground cloves and licorice. The elegantly crafted, medium-bodied palate shimmers with energy, offering a fantastic intensity of crunchy red and black fruits, supported by fine-grained tannins and bold freshness, finishing long, and perfumed. Simply stunning.”</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *“This has a fantastic finish with crushed blackberries and raspberries and salt undertones. It’s full-bodied, yet really racy and polished with such fine, intense tannins. Love the length of this. Very distinguished and toned. Excellent energy. 85% merlot, 13% cabernet franc and 2% cabernet sauvignon. Barrel Sample: 96-97.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“The wine's structure shows right through the vibrant fruit to give both great freshness and powerful tannins at the back. Black currant fruits shine with impressive acidity that gives a floral character to the aftertaste.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Absolute expression of place with stony, chalky notes superimposed over the berry fruit. Lovely texture of tannins, the palate fine, fresh, fruity, and persistent. Really elegant and digeste. Reinforces the change of style seen since 2017.”
- JL, JancisRobinson.com

“Velvety rich deep blue fruits, this is powerful and measured, fruit-forward and yet subtle, layered blueberry and raspberry with smoked almonds and mocha on the finish. Sleek and finessed fruit flavours, a sense of forward motion from beginning to end and a burst of freshly-grated minerality on the finish. Extremely good quality. This is the second to last vintage in the new cellar, before building a new cellar for 2023 vintage. They have done a lot of work in the vineyards studying the terroir to understand how smaller sectors and zones within each plot reacts, and this work of studying the plots will help to inform the new cellar. Harvest September 8th to September 29th. 3.5ph. A yield of 42hl/ha. 16 months aged in 65% new oak barrel, 35% in vats, amphoras and 20hl oak tanks. Barrel Sample: 95.”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Beau-Sejour Bécot is on a hot streak and 2020 shows why. Opening with a wealth of flowers before you get to all the red, black, and blue fruits, thyme, spice-box, espresso beans, cocoa, and licorice in the bouquet. The palate is even better with its multiple-layers of crushed stones, sensuous fruits, velvet-tannins and long, expansive, lifted finish, with its hint of salt in the endnote. As I penned after tasting a barrel sample, this is a new level of quality at Beau-Sejour Bécot that embraces less volume, but more intensity, and purity in the fruit. With their new cellars about to come into use, you are looking at a new level of Beau-Sejour Bécot! Drink from 2025-2055.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“With striking floral notes on the nose, you also find licorice, Asian spice, spearmint, cigar wrapper and an array of red and black plums. The wine is lifted, elegant, refined and focused on its purity and silky tannins. The energetic palate leaves you with layers of velvet-textured, sensuous, spicy fruits that lingers and expands for over 50 seconds in the finish. This is a new level of quality at Beau-Sejour Bécot and also a change in style with less volume, but more intensity, purity and precision. The wine blends 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc and 2% Cabernet Sauvignon, 14.3% ABV.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“The 2020 Beau-Séjour Bécot was picked 8 September until 30 September, but mostly between 8-12 September, around 70% of the production. It is one of the highest percentages of Merlot in recent years partly due to restructuring of the vineyard and also higher yields (47-48hl/ha) compared to the Cabernets. With no SO2 used during fermentation and matured in 55% new oak (20hl Stockinger and Taransaud foudres and regular barriques) it is tightly wound on the nose, so I afforded the sample an hour to really open. It offers predominantly red berry fruit, wild mint and traces of dried honey, more floral scents emerging, violet and iris flowers blossoming with time in the glass. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins, very well-judged acidity, a very graceful and unpretentious Saint-Émilien, harmonious with a touch of white pepper enhancing the precise finish. This is a classically styled Beau-Séjour Bécot that conveys a brooding intensity, so I would give it several years in the cellar.”
- NM, Vinous

Reviews

“The 2020 Beau-Sejour Bécot is a dense, powerful wine. A rush of black cherry, plum, chocolate, new leather, licorice, spice, and sweet oak builds as this towering, vertically explosive Saint-Emilion opens in the glass. This is an especially broad, expansive Saint-Emilion, much of that attributable to the clay in these soils. The 2020 is magnificent in its intensity and overall volume. Superb.”

- AG, Vinous

“A brilliant wine that's up with the finest to date from this incredible terroir, the 2020 Chateau Beau-Sejour Bécot checks in as 85% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon. Revealing a vivid purple hue as well as a drop-dead gorgeous nose of black raspberries, cassis, violets, and a liquid rock-like sense of minerality, it's medium to full-bodied and concentrated, with ultra-fine tannins and perfect balance. This beauty deserves 4-5 years of bottle age and will evolve gracefully over the following two decades or more. Don't miss it. Best After 2023.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The vivid purple-hued 2020 Château Beau-Séjour Bécot is another ethereal, incredibly perfumed, mineral-laced Saint-Emilion, which is common from wines from the upper, limestone plateau. Gorgeous cassis and black cherry fruits as well as floral notes, violets, and chalky minerality all define the nose, and it's medium-bodied, has wonderfulness and purity, and reveals a liqueur of rocks-like minerality on the finish. It's another thrillingly complete wine from this team that shines for its purity, elegance, and complexity.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Fine and complex fragrance; black cherry and chalky limestone notes, alongside coconut, thyme, sage, Darjeeling tea, redcurrant, wild cherry, black pepper. Smooth in the mouth with very ripe fruit, the alcohol does not disturb the silky, juicy impression, well-integrated tannins, fine-nervy acidity; very graceful, ethereal.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is elegant, fine and offers power (in delicacy), a nice finesse, freshness, deepness, an aerial character, complexity, intensity (in finesse) as well as a nice very fine grain and racy. It reveals notes of bright wild cassis, griots, small notes of bright small black berries associated with touches of violet, blueberry, crushed strawberry as well as fine hints of crushed redcurrant, cardamom, fine hints of Badiane as well as a subtle hint of sweet pepper, a very discreet hint of nearly smoked and an imperceptible hint of pepper (in the background). the mouth is fruity, balanced, nicely racy and offers juiciness, freshness, a nice definition, gourmandize, an acidulous frame, roundness in finesse, tension, deepness in finesse, minerality, a nice finesse of the grain, an aerial side in the balances, a nice acidulous/pulpy fruit, suavity as well as a finesse in its richness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/pulpy cassis, juicy/fresh griots, small notes of bright redcurrant associated with touches of camphor, small black juicy/acidulous berries, dark tea, cornflower, juicy blueberry as well as fine hints of dark chocolate, a discreet hint of caramelization and toasted hazelnut. The tannins are precis, elegant, fresh, and finely creamy. The presence of a discreet hint of bitterness of the cacao in the finish/persistence. good length and a very nice aromatic persistence (and sapidity). A precis wine that is all in finesse and delicacy in its power.”

- Vert de Vin
