

Château Côte de Baleau 2021

CSPC# 102708

750mlx12

13.8% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc
Appellation	Saint-Emilion
Classification	Grand Cru Classé
Website	http://www.cotedebaleau.com/
Sustainability	unknown
General Info	<p>The history of Château Côte de Baleau begins with the Reiffers Family. Indeed, they become owners of this estate after one of their descendants had brilliantly distinguished himself during the various wars launched by Louis XIV. He thus received the stronghold of Côtes de Baleau and the Great Walls as a reward. At the end of the 19th century, an elegant castle was built alongside the original building. A few centuries later, Sophie Fourcade, responsible for the Château until 2012, implemented significant resources to improve the quality of this wine and make it one of the best Saint-Emilion Grand Cru. Then bought by the family Cuvelier, owner of Château Poujeaux and Clos Fourtet, the estate is promoted Grand Cru Classé in 2012</p>
Winemakers	Michel Rolland consults.
Vintage	<p>The weather conditions were difficult, and yet the best properties turned out to be magnificent and classic wines. Around July 18 a heat wave began to build up but the cool night prevented water stress on the wines again. The veraison started at the end of July. Yields were quite low as more than 50% of the harvest was destroyed by frost.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The terroir of Château Côte de Baleau is composed of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, spread over 20 hectares of vines. Recent owners have, in turn, undertaken major renovations within the property. Thus, the cellars have been renovated, the cellar has been modernized and equipped with the latest technologies of control and monitoring, analysis and assembly, administration, and commercial management. Average vine age is 35 years.</p>
Harvest	<p>The harvest took place September 21 – October 19. Yield of 20hl/ha.</p>
Vinification/ Maturation	<p>To make this wine, the property harvests its grapes by hand and ferments them in temperature-controlled stainless-steel tanks, before élevage in a mix of 50% new & 50% 1yr old oak barriques.</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>Dense ruby red. The nose is fragrant and dark fruity, cool, and slightly vegetal, and also shows fine, floral aromas. Tight on the palate, well structured, with noticeable tannin, a delicate, juicy fruit, it's like biting into a basket of berries, wow, shows a lot of race on the finish and ends with pomegranate and raspberries. At the same level as last year, but stylistically completely different. 2027-2040</p>
Serve with	<p>Chateau Cote de Baleau is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Cote de Baleau is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. This Cabernet Sauvignon is ideal to serve with pizza with mushrooms or Gruyère burgers.</p>
Production	Annual production is 3,000 cases.
Cellaring	Drink 2026-2034
Scores/Awards	<p>87-90 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2022 81-83 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - May 2022 93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2024 91 points - Yohan Castaing, JamesSuckling.com - January 2024 90-91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2022 90 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - March 2022 87 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2022 90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2024 89-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2022 88-90 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - May 2022</p>



Scores/Awards **88-90 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2022
90-92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - June 2022
88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - April 2022
91 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2022
93 points - Vert de Vin - July 2022
91-93 points - Yves Beck - June 2022
88-89 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - May 2022

Reviews *"The 2021 Côte de Baleau is one of the richer, chunkier wines in the Cuvelier family's portfolio this year. Offering up aromas of sweet cherries and berries framed by creamy new oak, it's medium to full-bodied, fleshy, and textural, with powdery structuring tannins that assert themselves on the gently chewy finish."*
- WK, Wine Advocate

"Château Côte de Baleau's goal was to become one of Saint-Emilion's Grands Crus Classés... This has now been achieved with the 2012 vintage, consecrated by the appellation's famous prize list. The wine of Côte de Baleau seduces with its silkiness and greedy notes of black fruit, while retaining a discreet, elegant side. Suitable for laying down, it will also charm in its youth with its black fruit."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Black currant, black walnut, black berry, and dark chocolate with some black mushroom undertones. Medium to full body, chewy tannins, and a fresh finish. Solid for this vintage. Graphite and lead pencil at the end. Drink after 2026."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Plenty of blueberry and black cherry with some walnut and spice undertones. Medium body. Creamy, medium tannins"
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Gorgeous dark scented nose with dark chocolate and herbal tones. Quite textured and chalky straight away, the crushed stone and graphite elements coming through strongly alongside the fruit with dense chewy tannins. It's a little serious right now but this has an appealing mouth-coating aspect to it with the bitter chocolate and bramble fruit edges coming back in on the finish. I like the identity of this! Tasted three times. 3.45pH. A yield of 20hl/ha."
- GH, Decanter.com

"Licorice, chocolate, dried flowers, and black cherries show up easily in the nose. Medium-bodied, vibrant, almost high-toned red fruits with a dark chocolately edge finish the experience. Yields are quite low as more than 50% of the harvest was destroyed by frost. Drink from 2024-2034."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Red fruit and flowers show up easily in the nose and on the medium-bodied, fresh, vibrant, red berry filled palate. The wine blends 90% Merlot with 10% Cabernet Franc, 13.8% ABV. Yields are quite low as more than 50% of the harvest was destroyed by frost. Drink from 2023-2033."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"The 2021 Côte de Baleau was hit hard by frost and so yields were just 20hL/ha. This has a very high-toned bouquet of copious blueberry and cassis fruit. The palate is ripe on the entry with sweet chewy black fruit and a smooth texture, though it's missing just a little complexity. But it feels long and should cohere during its barrel maturation. (13.8% alcohol)"
- NM, Vinous

"The 2021 Côte de Baleau is a soft, easygoing Saint-Émilion, but offers only modest depth. Not quite the overachiever it can be. A bit light in this vintage, but quite attractive just the same."
- AG, Vinous

Reviews

“The 2021 Château Côte de Baleau, which comes from a northern facing hillside vineyard next to Fonroque, is impressive and certainly worth your time and money. A blend of 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc from 35-year-old vines, it offers a great bouquet of ripe blackcurrants, tobacco, loamy earth, and spicy oak. Medium-bodied yet concentrated on the palate, I like its tannins, it's balanced, and it has a great finish.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“Opaque ruby core, purple reflections, subtle brightening on the rim. Open bouquet with ripe plums and hints of nougat. Juicy, ripe cherries, subtle fruit sweetness with vivid tannins, a vibrant mineral finish, and hints of chocolate.”

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

“The nose is fruity, racy and offers some minerality and purity. There are notes of blackcurrant, racy minerality and more lightly ripe, fresh wild blackberry combined with delicate hints of fleshy, fresh cherry as well as discreet hints of fresh violet and a fine touch of green cardamom and fresh almond. The palate is fresh, juicy, fine, and controlled, revealing good definition, energy, and a nice acidic backbone. On the palate this wine expresses juicy, fresh raspberry, tart, ripe red berry, and slightly juicy blackcurrant notes combined with hints of violet, peony, and fine points of racy minerality, a touch of camphor, green cardamom, and a very discreet touch of tonka bean. Good length. The tannins are elegant, well-managed and finely mellow. Harmonious.”

- Vert de Vin

“The bouquet reveals pleasant floral nuances as well as chalky notes. The wine is slightly creamy and rather lively. The tannins are velvety and carry well throughout the palate. A wine that benefits from the freshness of its terroir.”

- Yves Beck
