

Château Beychevelle 2016

CSPC# 886856

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot, 1% Cabernet Franc

Saint Julien

Fourth Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

<https://beychevelle.com/?lang=en>

Château Beychevelle 2016, 4th cru classé is a red wine from Château Beychevelle in Saint-Julien, which is located at the extreme south-east of the appellation in Gironde. In 1970, Aymar Achille-Fould took over Chateau Beychevelle. In 1984, Achille-Fould took on a partner for the first time, the GMF group. In 1988 the GMF group partnered with the Japanese Suntory company, who were already familiar with Bordeaux, as they owned the neighboring estate, Chateau Lagrange. Philippe Blanc was brought as the managing director in 1995.

In February 2011, Chateau Beychevelle took on new owners when Suntory along with Pierre Castel, the head of the massive company Castel Freres, purchased the estate. Aside from Chateau Beychevelle, the partnership counts the well-known Bordeaux negociant companies Barriere Freres and Oenoalliance, numerous branded wines and Chateau Beaumont in the Haut Medoc appellation as part of their holdings. They also maintain investments in Burgundy, Africa and in China with Changyu-Castel.

The 2016 vintage had the honour of inaugurating Château Beychevelle's new winery facilities. The results exceeded our expectations! Thanks to this cutting-edge equipment, the vintage reveals the full potential of Château Beychevelle's exceptional terroir. The new winery has been customized to the vineyard, with every vine having a place in a plot-by-plot vinification process that enables each terroir to express all of its complexity and depth.

More spacious, and with an improved layout, our new technical facilities also enable a gentle transfer of the grapes by gravity, very precise temperature control, and extractions adjusted to the characteristics of each vat.

Combining innovation and tradition, Château Beychevelle demonstrates its "haute-couture" expertise.

Winemaker

Romain Ducolomb

Vintage

The winter of 2015-2016 was characterized by its mildness and high rainfall; the vines were therefore given a relatively short pause in their growth cycle. It was only due to a lowering of temperatures in March that bud break arrived just one week earlier than usual.

These cool, wet conditions continued until June, which did not augur well for flowering. The risk of disease was very high.

Fortunately, flowering was uniform and abundant, and took place in the first half of June in perfect conditions with warm temperatures and plenty of sunshine. It was the start of the creation of a great vintage.

The summer was particularly hot and dry, offering the necessary conditions for the production of high-quality grapes. The uniform start of the ripening stage benefited from high summer temperatures, and ripening was helped by the considerable differences between day and night-time temperatures.

Finally, September enabled this slow but steady ripening to continue, creating ideal conditions to begin the harvests.

Harvest

Spread over a month, with some pauses dictated by the various ripening dates of the different terroirs and grape varieties, the 2016 harvests were the latest in Château Beychevelle's history.

They took place in perfect weather conditions. The quality of the harvest was exceptional: the grapes were ripe, healthy, and flavourful. Harvested between October 3rd and 18th. October.

Vineyards

The 90 hectare Left Bank vineyard of Chateau Beychevelle is planted to 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. However, it is the goal of the estate to slowly replace a portion of their old Merlot vines over time with more Cabernet Sauvignon.

The vines are planted to a density that ranges from 8,300 to 10,000 vines per hectare. Newer plantings are at the higher levels of vine density. On average, the vines are over 30 years of age. Starting in 2008, Chateau



Vineyards	Beychevelle began moving closer to organic farming techniques. Today more than 35% of the vineyard is farmed organically. Progress is always slow and steady in Bordeaux, especially in the Medoc.
Maturation	18 months in oak barrels
Tasting Notes	The 2016 vintage confirms the refined, elegant character of Château Beychevelle's wines. It benefits from a new dimension with a more precise, more generous structure. This is a wine of immense but controlled power, wrapped in a silky, voluptuous texture.
Serve with	Chateau Beychevelle is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, stewed, and grilled dishes.
Production	19,167 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2038
Scores/Awards	<p>93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019</p> <p>93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p>95+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p>96-98 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - July 2022</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2019</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p>94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 2017</p> <p>17.5+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - December 2020</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - February 2020</p> <p>16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - October 2018</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2017</p> <p>98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - October 2022</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - September 2020</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 2019</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018</p> <p>97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p>90 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - January 2016</p> <p>93 points - Farr Vintner - April 2017</p> <p>87-90 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2017</p> <p>96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - January 2019</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p> <p>96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2019</p> <p>18 points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2017</p> <p>94 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2019</p> <p>95 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - April 2017</p> <p>93 points - Connoisseurs' Guide - April 2017</p> <p>95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2017</p> <p>95 points - Vert de Vin - April 2019</p> <p>95 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted.com - April 2019</p> <p>18 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2017</p> <p>16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This has a slightly beefy edge, with warmed plum and blackberry paste flavors pumping through. Shows a touch of heft on the back end, with dark tobacco and earth notes leaving a subtly chewy feel, though there's ample fruit to soak that up. Best from 2024 through 2038."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A textbook St-Julien in the making, with crushed plum and warm cassis notes inlaid with anise and graphite accents. The muscular, driven finish is just a touch chewy in feel but gets soaked up quickly on the finish by the pure fruit. Really solid."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Beychevelle is comprised of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. It spent 18 months aging in 50% new and 50% second-use barrels. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, it is a little broody to begin, opening slowly to reveal subtle savory notes of dried herbs, charcuterie, and black</i></p>

Reviews *olives before breaking through to a profound core of warm cassis, baked black plums, red currant jelly and candied violets. The palate is medium-bodied and delicately played with a quiet intensity of tightly wound nuances and fantastic freshness, finishing with a lingering savory lift. This latent beauty will require a bit more time than most 2016s but promises to over-deliver to those prepared to wait. Around 19,000 cases were made.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“The 2016 Beychevelle is a blend of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc cropped at 45 hectoliters per hectare between 3 October and 18 October. It is matured in 50% new oak. Furthermore, it is the first vintage to be matured in the new chichi winery whose glass exterior overlooks the passing traffic on the D2. It has a very pure, fragrant bouquet with black cherries, cassis, cedar and wet limestone, extremely precise to the point where you might think it was from the Right Bank (logical given the proportion of Merlot in the blend). The palate is sensational: understated at first and bridled with ultra-fine tannin, it is a Beychevelle armed with a disarming sense of symmetry. It builds in the mouth towards a fabulously tensile finish that is so fresh and full of energy that the senses are almost overwhelmed. Frankly, it leaves all the other Beychevelles in recent years standing. This is an electrifying 2016 from winemaker Philippe Blanc and his right-hand man, technical director, Romain Ducolomb. Drink 2026 – 2060.”
- NM, Wine Advocate

“Stacks of cassis, graphite, and smoke on the nose of this rather full-bodied St.-Julien with a ton of velvety tannins that drive the long finish that’s simultaneously sweet, fresh, and powdery. Try in 2022.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“The softness and finesse to this are indeed impressive with blackberry and blackcurrant character. Full-bodied, dense, and polished. Lovely texture and length. It builds on the palate. Clearly better in 2015. This is the first year in from the new cellar.”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“Now with a brand-new, see-through glass winery, this estate is showing its true elegance. The wine does not have great power, but it offers a ripe, smooth, sophisticated texture and black fruits. It already shows delicious flavors that will improve. Drink from 2025.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Barrel Sample. With tannins that are beautifully integrated into the rich black-fruit flavors, this is already a well-balanced wine. It is solid and will last, though the attractiveness of the fruit is already there.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Tasted blind. Purple fruits and lots of come-hither opulence followed by some green leafiness. One of the more immediately charming St-Julien 2018s. Drink 2025 – 2039.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Dark purple. Light peppery nose. Sweet palate entry with a hint of sweet oak, and then a bit austere on the palate. Lively coconut hint. Falls away on the finish. Competent rather than exciting. Drink 2025-2040.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“By this vintage, the gravity-operated vat room and cellar were in operation, with smaller steel vats allowing for greater parcel selection. Still closed on the nose, though with firm blackcurrant and blackberry aromas in the background, it’s suave and concentrated, showing ripe tannins and ample acidity. The wine seems balanced, though it’s not showing much complexity yet. Structured and persistent. Drinking Window 2024 – 2045.”
- JA, Decanter.com

“Barrel sample. Savoury bitter-cherry notes with real energy, depth, and interest. Polish and freshness. Great stuff! Long and a really nice combination of concentration and life. Really long. Chapeau!”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

Reviews

"An extremely successful Beychevelle this year, a carefully drawn wine where the fruit register is deep and dark, the tannins a little brooding, and a seam of freshness runs right through and picks things up. Excellent persistency, a beautiful wine. Drinking Window 2027 – 2050."

- JA, Decanter.com

"This is a serious wow wine, that is one of the great vintages of all time for Beychevelle. The complex aromatics with their floral, leafy tobacco, forest floor, blackberry, and black currant profile is the perfect introduction to the wine. On the palate, the wine is deep, full-bodied, concentrated, long, and rich, ending with layers of elegant, soft, lifted black and red fruits. Drink from 2024-2056."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep in color, truffle, tobacco, herbs, cigar box and dark red fruits are already in play. The wine is full-bodied, deep, concentrated with a non-stop wave of black fruit that adds another dimension. Clearly this is polished, powerful, elegant, and fresh with lift, complexity and a finish that keeps on going. Give this at least a decade and enjoy it over the next 30-40 years!"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Deep in color, the wall of black fruit picks up an additional dimension from the hints of blue fruits that enter the mix. Polished, powerful, elegant, and fresh, there is good energy here that lets the wine move forward on the palate, ending with a blast of ripe, pure, black fruits, licorice, espresso, and earth."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Without a doubt, this is the best wine ever produced at the estate. The levels of richness, depth of flavor and silky, polished tannins all work together to deliver a supple, lush, opulent wine with layer after layer of pure, black, and dark red fruits. The velvet-textured wine remains with you for at least 50 seconds in its long, multi-dimensional finish."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"A blue-black deep red, nearly opaque, this the sexiest wine ever created at Beychevelle. The nose moves with cassis, tobacco, cigar box, flowers, boysenberry, and dark chocolate. The fruit has unbelievable length, purity, density, and silk sheets for tannins -- grand style and character here. This is the first vintage produced in their gleaming, brand new, state-of-the-art cellars. The wine reached 13.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.62. The Grand Vin represents just 60% of the harvest, which took place from October 3 to October 15, the latest harvest in the history of Beychevelle."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"With its distinctive label of a sailing boat, Beychevelle is a Bordeaux that is popular the world over. Always one of the most forward and "user-friendly" of the Saint Julien classed growths, this is a wine that is usually made to give relatively early drinking pleasure rather than to win academic blind tastings. We have noticed a significant step-up in quality in recent vintages. The percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon is low for the Northern Medoc and there is always a high percentage of Merlot in the final blend. Always polished and supple, it is in huge demand in China where it is known as "Dragon Boat Wine". The vineyard is 78 hectares. In 2016 the wine was made in their brand new, glass-walled winery. 47% each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, with 5% Petit Verdot and 1% Cabernet Franc. As always, this wine is juicy and fleshy with blackcurrant and cherry fruit. The tannins are super-slick and refined, making this one of the most approachable wines of the vintage. Cinnamon, cedar, and clove bring moreish complexity to the round, seamless fruit. A refined, yet sumptuous wine that will prove delicious drinking from an early age."

- Farr Vintners

"Black fruits dominate the palate has firm black cherry at the start bright and fresh. Rich and ripe in the middle the black cherry and cassis is supported by fine ripe tannins. Although lighter bright at the back it fills out on the finish fleshy and rich. 2025-37"

- Derek Smedley MW

"The 2016 Beychevelle has a stunning bouquet of vibrant, shimmering blackberry and wild strawberry fruit laced with crushed stone and rose petals. The well-balanced palate is medium-bodied with supple tannin and a slightly savory/dried blood finish that lingers in the mouth. Tasting both in London and in Bordeaux, I found the latter bottle to have a little more precision and race on the finish. This will surely be a benchmark for this Saint Julien

Reviews *estate. Drink 2023-2055.”*
- NM, Vinous

“A heady wine, the 2016 Beychevelle possesses off-the-charts richness and intensity. White truffle, plum, lavender, black cherry, and incense, along with an unctuous, racy feel, give the wine much of its exotic, voluptuous personality. Not at all subtle, the 2016 shows the more flamboyant side of Saint-Julien. Its balance is beyond reproach, however. Ripeness is pushed to the edge in 2016, yet the wine is absolutely compelling. This is a fabulous showing from Beychevelle and technical director Romain Ducolomb. Tasted two times.”
- AG, Vinous

“I was able to taste the 2016 Château Beychevelle on two occasions, and it showed beautifully both times. This is also the first vintage made in the new cellar. Medium to full-bodied, incredibly seamless, and elegant on the palate, yet beautifully concentrated, it offers a heavenly perfume of spring flowers, violets, saddle leather, and blueberry and cassis fruit. A blend of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 5% Petit Verdot and the rest Cabernet Franc, brought up in 50% new oak, it’s still tight, taunt, and reserved on the palate, yet has the hallmark purity of fruit and balance of the vintage front and center. Hide bottles for 4-6 years, and it will keep for 25+ years or more.”
- Jeb Dunnuck

“77 IPT. There is a dark, tea-like perfume at the core of this wine, and it is incredibly attractive. The richness and power of carefully macerated berries, on the nose, never oversteps the mark and the summer sunshine is evident at the same time as the cool nights, too, in the restraint and finesse throughout. The finish is long and spicy, and it props up the oak perfectly while hinting at the superb condition of the fruit at harvest. Exotic and floral, this wine will be slow to soften but when it does it will be a real eye-opener and it is another massive performance for this impressive estate. 18+”
- MJ, matthewjukes.com

“Very rich upon first nosing with a wealth of dark, slightly plummy fruit framed by lovely oak and laced with elements of toast and caramelized meats, Beychevelle delivers on its terrific aromatic promise with broad, deeply extracted flavors that follow suit. It is at once both showy and unequivocally age worthy with integral, never-gruff tannins providing proper finishing grip, and it is hard not to get excited about where it looks to be headed with another decade of age.”
- Connoisseurs’ Guide

“Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, subtle lightening of the edges, cassis nuances underlaid with subtle herbal spices, hints of ripe black cherries, a hint of tobacco. Juicy, good complexity, dark berry fruit, well-integrated tannins, blackberry finish, extract-sweet aftertaste, good aging potential.”
- PM, Falstaff

“The nose is elegant, fine, fresh and offers a beautiful racy power. It reveals notes of ripe/fresh blackberry, gravels (terroir) and small notes of fresh strawberry/blackberry associated with very fine touches of lily, lilac as well as fine hints of tonka bean, toasted, very discreet hints of exotic spices as well as a very discreet hint of Cuban pepper and an imperceptible hint of incense. The palate is fresh, fruity, well-balanced and offers a good definition, juiciness, precision, a fine straightness, a fine tension, delicacy as well as gourmandize. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy/fresh raspberry, juicy/fresh cherry and small notes of juicy/fresh blackberry associated with fine touches of racy minerality (terroir/gravels), flowers as well as very discreet hints of toasted, tonka bean as well as a subtle hint of spices. Tannins are elegant and finely chewy.”
- Vert de Vin

“Intense nose with high ripeness, jammed cherry, plum, cassis and some new oak notes. The palate is dense and concentrated with fine extract, ample dark fruit flavours with mild spiciness, cocoa bean, and a very long and grippy finish. A wine with high concentration, yet without heaviness.”
- AL, Tasted.com