

Château Beychevelle 2020

CSPC# 888341
CSPC# 888345

5000mlx1
750mlx6

13.45% alc./vol.
13.45% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
Classification
Website
General Info

51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot
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
Vintage

Romain Ducolomb

A mild, dry start to the year suggested that the harvests would be relatively early. This was confirmed by the wet, warm spring. There were a few short cool, wet spells in April and May, but they did not slow the vines' growth cycle. Véraison was also early with the first berries changing colour on the 10th of July. It continued in dry, sunny weather with some welcome rain in mid-August. The warm days and cool nights in the first two weeks of September enabled perfect ripeness to be reached before harvesting.

The harvests took place in good conditions, with some rain that did not affect the quality of the grapes but resulted in a few pauses in the picking. The grapes were small and concentrated with good colouring matter. Faced with a demanding vintage and the vagaries of the weather, our strategy in the vineyard and the responsiveness and commitment of our teams were vitally important!

They enabled us to harvest a generous crop of excellent quality

Harvest
Vineyards

From September 22nd to September 29th.

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	Château Beychevelle 2020 has a bright purple colour. It is a generous wine that is surprisingly accessible even at this early stage. The nose offers seductive notes of blackberries, black cherries, and dark chocolate. This is an exceptionally harmonious wine. It is both powerful and silky; fresh, fruity, and long on the palate. A fine expression of a Grand Terroir.
Winemaker's Notes	Ever since it was first produced, and down through the various vintages, Château Beychevelle has reflected the elegance and finesse of Saint Julien's finest terroirs. Graceful and complex, with a tremendous aromatic richness, Château Beychevelle is made from the best plots in the vineyard and undergoes a rigorous selection process. It reveals its character after about ten years, and can be kept for several decades, depending on the vintage.
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	Approx. 19,000 cases made annually.
Cellaring	Drink 2027-2055
Scores/Awards	<p>94 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p>93+ points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>94-96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - March 2023</p> <p>92-94 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent (score only) - July 2022</p> <p>94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2023</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 2021</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - January 2023</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only) - April 2021</p> <p>91-94 points - Farr Vintners - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>94-96 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - April 2021</p> <p>96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2023</p> <p>94-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p>97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2023</p> <p>95-97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>92-94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2021</p> <p>95-96 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Andreas Larsson, Tasted - May 2021</p> <p>93-94 points - Michael Schuster, The World of Fine Wine - May 2021</p> <p>95-96 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - July 2021</p> <p>95-96 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021</p> <p>16.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - September 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Delivers vivid fruit, with an eye-catching beam of cassis, kirsch, and plum sauce notes that flow through nicely, supported by a light brambly edge and a well-inlaid graphite spine. The finish is scored by violet and anise as the fruit lingers. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petit Verdot. Best from 2027 through 2037."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Rich and muscular, the 2020 Beychevelle offers up aromas of cassis, blackberries and baked plums mingled with notions of spices, pencil shavings and toasty new oak. Medium to full-bodied, thick, and fleshy, with an ample core of fruit framed by powdery, generously extracted tannins that assert themselves on the finish, this is a more powerful, chunky Beychevelle than the suave 2019."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Deep purple-black colored, the 2020 Beychevelle offers up vibrant notes of black raspberries, fresh black cherries, and cassis, plus hints of wild sage, chocolate mint, rose hip tea and fallen leaves, with an exotic hint of Indian spices. The medium to full-bodied palate offers layers of crunchy black fruits with a firm, grainy texture and just enough freshness, finishing long and perfumed."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *“Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2020 Beychevelle leaps with vibrant notes of crushed blackcurrants, juicy black plums, and black raspberries with fragrant hints of pencil shavings, dried roses, and aniseed. Medium-bodied, the palate is refined and elegant with bright acidity and fine-grained tannins, finishing long and earthy.”*
- LPB, Wine Independent
- “A very polished and refined 2020 with a medium body, integrated tannins, and a pretty texture. Nice currant, light chocolate, and cedar undertones. Fresh finish. Drink after 2026.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “Sweet-berry and tobacco character with blackberries and violets. It’s full-bodied with firm, polished tannins, and a fresh finish. Very fine at the end.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “The wine’s structure and serious tannins are, happily, balanced by the rich generosity of the fruit flavors. Together, the two elements of this very fine wine will allow it to develop with weight and concentration.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Full bottle 1,245 g. Cask sample taken 31 March. Concentrated purple. Headily aromatic with mulberry perfume and just a hint of oak. Silky tannins and marked freshness. Neat and the opposite of opulent. Classic wine for the table. 13.5%. Drink 2028 – 2044.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Smoke, grilled almond on the nose, even a touch of rubber from an edge of reduction. This has depth to black chocolate and bilberry fruit; it is well balanced and seductive. Enjoyable, it’s pretty broad shouldered but it sits well within the successful run of vintages at Beychevelle. A yield of 47hl/ha. 18 months ageing. 55% first wine.”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “Big shouldered, layers of dark berry fruits, liquorice, cigar box, cloves, and solid tannins, with character and depth, clear ageing potential. Muscular tannic construction, keeping its St Julien finesse a little hidden for now, but it will arrive with ageing, and you’d be hard pressed to be unhappy with drinking this 15 years from now. 47hl/h yield.”*
- JA, janeanson.com
- “The nose opens with a gorgeous display of flowers, chocolate, tobacco, black currants, blackberries, licorice, wet forest floor and espresso. As good as the perfume is, the wine is all about its layers of creamy, fresh, sweet, ripe, dark red pit fruits on the palate. The wine is full-bodied, elegant, lifted and refined, with length and purity to top it all off. The wine should age effortlessly for 3 decades, yet drink well, relatively early.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “Dark garnet in color, the wine shows off its black currants, licorice, wet forest floor, tobacco leaf, creme de cassis and blue fruit on the nose effortlessly. Full-bodied, fresh, elegant, lifted, and vibrant, the wine is refined, juicy, sweet, and long, with an ending packed with ripe, red, and black currants, silky tannins, spice and crushed stones from start to finish. 13.45% ABV, pH 3.8. 55% of the harvest was used in the Grand Vin.”*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- “The grapes were brought in from 14th-30th September. The Grand Vin represents 55% of the crop. Mid ruby in colour. Bright cherry fruit, herbs, and toasted spices on the nose. The palate is fresh with red berries and a little cool blackcurrant. The tannins are crunchy against the fruit, sweetened by a little cinnamon spice. Floral and lifted on the finish.”*
- Farr Vintners
- “The 2020 Beychevelle was perplexing from barrel. Re-tasting it three or four times, I discerned a faint but nagging vegetal note on the finish, though it was not evident on a bottle subsequently tasted at the property, which governed my banded score. Returning to Bordeaux to taste the wines that had been bottled in June 2022, I certainly appreciate the bouquet that is clean and pure with blackberry, bilberry, cedar, and background sous-*

Reviews *bois aromas. The oak is beautifully integrated. The palate is medium-bodied with pliant tannins and well-judged acidity. Quite intense black fruit laced with graphite, perhaps a tad more peppery than usual. On the first bottle encountered at a merchant, I picked up on the green note that sent alarm bells ringing. A second bottle at the chateau unequivocally showed no signs at all, very sleek and poised with a residual tingle of black pepper. Based on this sample, I am cautiously optimistic about this Beychevelle, though I will always keep a lookout for that trait."*

- NM, Vinous

"The 2020 Beychevelle is the one wine that I vowed to re-taste at the chateau since I found three samples tasting in the UK vexing because of a green taint on the finish. Here, the nose performs well: pure blackberry and crushed violet, none of those incongruous "mulch" or "vegetal" scents that I noticed before. That's a good omen. The palate? This is far different to the samples tasted before. I think there is still a very nuanced green/bell pepper note towards the finish, but here it is subsumed into the layers of black fruit. Swallowing a sip just to be certain, I am more reassured that the samples in the UK were unrepresentative and glad that I did not attribute a score, which I am happy to do now. 2028 – 2055."

- NM, Vinous

"The 2020 Beychevelle is a wild, exotic beauty. Blackberry jam, gravel, crushed rocks menthol and espresso ristretto give Beychevelle its flamboyant personality. All the elements are so well balanced in this full-throttle, hugely enjoyable Saint-Julien. The 2020 is lights out."

- AG, Vinous

"The 2020 Beychevelle opens with the most exotic bouquet imaginable. Wildflowers of all sorts, spice, lavender, and inky dark fruit all saturate the palate. As always, Beychevelle is an overt, flamboyant wine, but all of the elements are so well put together. The 2020 is sexy, alluring, and impossible to resist. Time in the glass brings out redder tonalities of fruit along with sweet floral notes that add striking inner perfume. Even as a barrel sample, I am so tempted to just drink it."

- AG, Vinous

"The Grand Vin 2020 Chateau Beychevelle is a tiny selection representing just 55% of the total production of the estate. The blend is 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, and 4% Petit Verdot which spent 18 months in 70% new French oak, hitting 13.5% natural alcohol. Surpassing both the 2016 and 2018, this inky-hued Saint-Julien offers a round, lush, full-bodied style as well as gorgeous aromatics of black cherries, blueberries, loamy earth, chocolate, and spring flowers. The vintage doesn't get any sexier, and this has sweet tannins, an opulent mouthfeel, and riveting purity and finesse. While it already offers pleasure, it's going to benefit from 4-6 years of bottle age and keep for 25+. Best After 2027."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"Based on 51% Cabernet Sauvignon, 45% Merlot, and 4% Petit Verdot, the Grand Vin 2020 Chateau Beychevelle is a stunner that does everything right, offering a monster bouquet of black and blue fruits as well as candied violets, incense, flowers, and toasty oak. A ripe, full-bodied, incredibly sexy wine in every sense, it has a great mid-palate, ripe, velvety tannins, no hard edges, and a great finish. It's one of the more up-front, exotic wines in the vintage and should be accessible with just short-term cellaring."

- Jeb Dunnuck

"A very clear, fresh fragrance: elderberry, Kirsch, moss and woodruff, nutty wood. Sandalwood. Also, some liquorice and violet pastille. Creamy opening, well-extracted tannins with a sense of proportion: ripe, mellow, yet fresh, in quantities well suited to the body. Vivid palate fruit, balanced acidity. A wine that radiates precision and harmony."

- PM, Falstaff Magazine

"On the nose it is elegant and complex it offers certain richness (in delicacy) and subtlety. It reveals the notes of fresh raspberry/blackberry, bright red berries and slightly cassis combined with hints of violet, racy minerality, flowers, star anise and fine pepper. On the mouth it is fruity and offers juiciness, freshness, minerality, tension, elegance as well as delicacy, a little tightness, tension, a certain richness, a very nice tangy frame, an airy side, well – balanced. The wine expresses the notes of fresh/pulpy raspberry, small bright red currants and more lightly violet associated with touches of cassis as well as hints of fresh violet plum, nutmeg, chocolate, lily/lilac,

Reviews *cardamom, discrete hints of toast, sweet spices, and hazelnut. Good length. The tannins are racy, elegant, and mellow. A nice wine! A beautiful sapidity and suavity on the finish/persistence.”*

- Vert de Vin

“Floral and elegant aromas, violet, ripe dark berries, fine tobacco, and mild oak. Good volume with a finely rounded texture and grainy tannin, fluid and succulent fruit, good purity, and a long bright finish.”

- AL, Tasted.com

“(51% CS, 45% M, 4% PV; 55% harvest; 47hl/ha; 13.4% ABV). Smells Merlot-plummy and subtly gravelly; full, fresh in acidity, very fine in tannin, a most delicious and particular balance; density and flesh, with a delicious freshness to taste, so easy at only 13.4% ABV; very finely tannic, long, juicy, characteristically fleshy from its 45% Merlot, remarkably harmonious and very satisfying; succulence, sap, complexity, and great length. Like the 2018 (especially), another magnificent Beychevelle, of slightly more classic proportions and style than either 2018 or 2019. In any case, a wonderful trio! The last trio of vintages, of both the Beychevelle and the Amiral, are a great achievement, in which Philippe Blanc can take very legitimate pride. 2030–50+.”

- MS, The World of Fine Wine
