

Château Bolaire 2011

CSPC#763539

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

40% *Petit Verdot*, 35% *Merlot*, 25% *Cabernet Sauvignon*

Appellation

Bordeaux Supérieur

Website

<http://www.chateau-belle-vue.fr/>

General Info

Chateau Bolaire is situated on the "Isle of Macau" in a pocket well protected with a warm microclimate. The 4.5 hectares plantings consist of 40% Petit Verdot, 33% Merlot and 27% Cabernet Sauvignon.

Chateau Bolaire is an interesting estate in the Bordeaux Supérieur appellation. The vineyards boast the largest percentage of Petit Verdot planted in all of Bordeaux at more than fifty percent! Chateau Bolaire was first established at the start of the 21st century. The property was created by the young Vincent Mulliez, after he purchased it in 2003. Vincent Mulliez was also responsible for improving the quality of wines being produced at his Haut Medoc estate Chateau Belle-Vue along with Chateau de Gironville, which is also situated in the Haut Medoc. All three estates have earned a solid reputation for producing fine, affordable, value priced, Bordeaux wine of quality. Vincent Mulliez, who had a career as a banker before becoming a Bordeaux wine maker, passed away in 2010 at only 44 years of age.

Vintage

This property borders the Gironde River estuary, east of the town of Macau, and 12 miles north of central Bordeaux. The estate was created prior to 1860 and remained in the same family until its purchase in early 2003 by the owner of Château Belle-Vue and the Société Civile de la Gironville who saw the enormous potential at Bolaire as he studied the soils and the vines. The soils, locally called palus, are rich in clay, one of the secrets behind the tremendous success of the 2003, the first vintage under the new ownership. The well-maintained vineyard boasts an average age of 42 years old but there is a 2.0-hectare block of 80-year old Petit Verdot that yields some of the property's best fruit. Indeed, Bolaire's 5.5-hectare (13.6 acres) vineyard has an unusual arrangement of the blend for this region: 34% Merlot, 27% Cabernet Sauvignon, and, an exceptionally high 39% Petit Verdot, the same varietal that has been so successful at Château Belle-Vue. The aptly named property takes its name from the local hamlet or lieu-dit called "Bolaire", whose name is derived directly from an old French adjective used to describe reddish, finely grained, clay soils, les terres bolaires. Well-known neighbors of Château Bolaire include the grands crus classés La Lagune and Dauzac, and the cru bourgeois Siran, not to mention . . . Belle-Vue!

Vineyards

The 7.3 hectare Bordeaux Supérieur vineyards of Chateau Bolaire are planted to 54% Petit Verdot, 37% Cabernet Sauvignon and 9% Merlot. The vineyard is planted to a vine density of between 5,000 and 6,000 vines per hectare. While the vines are old, with an average age of 40 years, what makes the vineyard distinct is that Chateau Bolaire has some of the oldest Petit Verdot vines in Bordeaux at close to 90 years of age! The terroir features a distinctive soil composition with its fine grained, sandy, red clay.

**Vinification/
Maturation**

To vinify the wines of Chateau Bolaire, the juice undergoes on average a 21-day cold soak at 5° Celsius before being fermented in temperature controlled, stainless steel vats. The juice spends about 90 days on its post malolactic fermentation lees. The wine is aged for an average of 12 months in roughly 30% new, French oak barrels before bottling. Chateau Bolaire is one of the top wines designated as Bordeaux Supérieur. Finished wines mature for 12 months in barrels, 30% of which are new

Tasting Notes

Notes of earth, forest and spice, the wine is fresh and filled with crisp cassis and blackberry. This wine is full and round, with a frame of roasted spice caressing the dark plum and raspberry fruit. Nice sleek, graphite-tinged finish. Solid.

Serve With

Cassoulet, Meatballs, Gourmet Hamburgers

Cellaring

Drink 2015-2020



Scores/Awards **88-91 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2012
87-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #200 - April 2012 (no review)
88-89 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2012
16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2012 (no review)
88-91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 10, 2012

Reviews *"This is full and round, with a frame of roasted spice caressing the dark plum and raspberry fruit. Nice sleek, graphite-tinged finish. Solid. Score range: 88-91"*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Made from a large percentage of Petit Verdot, it shows a lovely density and richness for the vintage. Decadent character. Full and chewy. Lots of personality. James Suckling, jamesuckling.com"
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Very dark crimson. Clean, fresh, mildly toasty nose."
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"Produced from an unusual blend of 40% Petit Verdot, 35% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, the goal is to move the property to an even higher percentage of Petit Verdot with hopes that the wine will eventually become an even mix of Petit Verdot and Merlot. With leaf, forest and spice, the wine is fresh and filled with crisp cassis and blackberry."
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
