

Château Bolaire 2014

CSPC# 763539

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

60% Petit Verdot, 35% Merlot, 5% 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.

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.

Vineyards

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!

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 Note

The high proportion of the grape variety Petit Verdot gives the Château Bolaire 2014 in combination with Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon its distinctive aroma after blueberry and black currants. The Château Bolaire 2014, thanks to its juicy body, is already fun in its youth and will also inspire its followers in 10 years.

Serve With

Cassoulet, Meatballs, Gourmet Hamburgers. Chateau Bolaire is also good when matched with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms and pasta.

Cellaring

Drink 2018-2028



Scores/Awards **87-90 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2015
90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate Interim - March 31, 2017
86-88 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #218 - April 29, 2015
89-90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2015
88-89 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2015
87-90 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2015 (score only)
15.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
15.5 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only)

Reviews *"Lightly firm-edged, featuring dried anise and plum skin notes, followed by a core of cherry and blueberry pâte de fruit. A toasty edge holds the finish. Shows more guts than purity. Score range: 87-90"*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"The 2014 Bolaire from Macau-en-Médoc appears to have blossomed now that the wine is in bottle. It has a lively, floral bouquet, the ancient Petit Verdot vines offering plenty of blueberry and blackcurrant fruit. The palate is medium bodied with gutsy, black fruit, quite svelte tannin, good body and a gentle grip on the finish. This is well worth checking out. Drink over the next 4-6 years."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"The Château Bolaire 2014, which is a blend of 55% Petit Verdot and 40 % Merlot with just 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, has an attractive, clean bouquet with blackberry and boysenberry fruit, the Petit Verdot working well with the Merlot (Petit Verdot rarely works as a monovarietal.) The palate is medium bodied with fine tannin, plenty of blackcurrant tinged with salted licorice with good length. This is definitely worth checking out at the price."
- NM, Wine Advocate

"A savory and minerally red with dark fruit and lemon peel character. Medium to full body, fine tannins. Pretty texture. Well done for the vintage. 60% Petite Verdot. Lots of old vines."
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

"Sweet, lush, fat, juicy, ripe, spicy fruit for a price you can afford and drinkable on release. This unique wine is produced with the highest percentage of Petit Verdot in Bordeaux that takes up 60% of the blend, the remainder consists of 35% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine reached 13.5% alcohol. 88-89 Pts"
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
