

# Château Bolaire 2016

CSPC# 813900

750mlx12

13.21% alc./vol.

## Grape Variety

50% *Petit Verdot*, 50% *Merlot*

## Appellation

Bordeaux Supérieur

## Website

<http://www.chateau-belle-vue.com/nos-vins/marque-5006D3V27A-chateau-bolaire/>

## 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.

## Winemaker

Christophe Coupez. Consultant: Vincent Bache-Gabrielsen

## Vintage

2016 proved superb for reds: a long Indian summer ensued after early September rains bringing grapes to excellent maturity. While conditions were not quite as optimal for whites, some producers handled the hot, dry summer very well, as this tasting proved.

## 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!

## Harvest

Spread from October 3 to 20, the 2016 harvest allowed us to harvest each parcel surgically. Our Merlots were picked from October 3 to 6 to express an intense and complex fresh fruit. Our Petit Verdot's, once again exceptional, reached a frisky maturity between October 15 and 22. Fresh, density and velvety, aromatic opening and complexity, these descriptors characterize the great Bordeaux vintages, with a key word: Balance!

## Vinification/ Maturation

During the vinification, the extraction is done as gently as possible:

- Cold pre-fermentation maceration (0 ° C) for 10 days.
- Exclusive use of the load shedding by gravity, the juice is returned by spraying on the marc without de-structuring it.
- Post-fermentation maceration: 20 days on average at 28 ° C to refine the tannins. Finished wines mature for 12 months in barrels, 10% of which are new.



<b>Tasting Note</b>	With so much Petit Verdot in the blend, the Château Bolaire 2016 has a lustrous royal purple color, with flashes of bright crimson at the edge. Floral aromas of crushed violets and faded rose petals, along with griotte cherries, sun-warmed blackberries, and pan-wilted basil sometimes alternate with crème de cassis, melted dark Chocolate, and black truffles, as the exotic nose evolves in the glass: like a tarte aux myrtilles just out of the oven. On the palate, the wine is juicy and sleek, with a succulent core of racy, very fresh red and black fruit, along with fleeting suggestions of fennel, roasted coffee, and dark chocolate that echo the evolving nose. Restrained silky ripe tannins, and the bright minerality and intertwined berry acids of the Petit Verdot keep it nimble and refreshing.
<b>Serve With</b>	Cassoulet, Meatballs, Gourmet Hamburgers, heart pastas.
<b>Production</b>	2,722 cases made.
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2019-2027
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>88 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2019</p> <p><b>88-91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2017</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - November 2018</p> <p><b>89-91 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #230 - April 2017</p> <p><b>92-93 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2017</p> <p><b>90 points/Best Buy</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 2018</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>90 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017</p> <p><b>87-90 points</b> - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2017</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"Juicy and open-knit in feel, featuring a mix of cherry and blueberry fruit, accented by a jolt of toasted vanilla and backed by a flash of tobacco. A bit gussied up. Drink now. 2,722 cases made."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>Quite lively, with plum and raspberry coulis flavors stretching out over light anise and singed vanilla hints. The streamlined finish has a fleck of herb. Score range: 88-91"</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Deep garnet-purple colored, it has a perfumed nose of violets and kirsch with hints of cigar box and bay leaves over a core of black cherries. The medium-bodied palate has an alluring plush texture with loads of bright, juicy fruit and an herbal lift on the finish. Nearly 3,000 cases were made"</i> - LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"A beautiful young wine with linear and super-refined tannins as well as a long and delicious finish. Fantastic length and precision. Half Petit Verdot and Merlot. Best ever?"</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Ripe and spicy, balancing tannins with dark fruits, this wine has excellent potential. It is solid and concentrated. Tannins from the wood and from the black fruits have come together well. Drink from 2022."</i> - RV, Wine Enthusiast</p> <p><i>"Bright crimson with a very sweet start. Quite tight on the finish. Pretty aggressive tannins. But it's certainly trying. Just a bit hollow. "</i> - JR, JancisRobinson.com</p> <p><i>"With an unusual blend of 50% old vine Petit Verdot and 50% Merlot, it's easy to find the floral, ripe, very fresh, black raspberry fruits. Ripe, with length and lots of freshness going on here."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"The 2016 Bolaire is bold, juicy and delicious. Ripe black cherry, plum, mocha, chocolate, spice and leather are all pushed forward. Succulent, bold and racy, the wine is pure joy to taste today. The 2016 is bit more laid-back than usual, but that is not at all a bad thing. The blend is equal parts Petit Verdot and Merlot and no Cabernet Sauvignon, which is unusual for this wine. Petit Verdot, which is most often seen as a blender, takes a leading role in this super-expressive Bordeaux Supérieur from vineyards in Macau."</i> - AG, Vinous</p>

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