

Château Joanin Bécot 2020

CSPC# 888289

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux

Website

<http://www.beausejour-becot.com/>

General Info

With a great location in the town of Saint-Philippe d'Aiguilhe, Chateau Joanin Bécot is one of the most beautiful references of the Castillon Cotes de Bordeaux appellation, on the right bank of Bordeaux.

After the 2000 vintage, Juliette Bécot and her father Gérard Bécot wanted to join forces to acquire a new family property. A new challenge for Gérard, and for his daughter Juliette, who is taking her first steps in this magical and fascinating profession. Days and seasons follow each other but are never alike. It was while looking in the neighboring Appellations of Saint-Emilion, a property offering great potential for the quality of its wines and its terroirs, that they discovered Château Joanin in Saint-Philippe-d'Aiguilhe. With the desire to personalize this vineyard, they wanted to add their family name to it. Thus, they gave life to this vintage, giving it a first name and a family name: "Joanin Bécot".

Chateau Joanin Bécot was purchased by the Bécot family in February 2001, who was already well-known for owning Chateau Beau-Sejour Bécot in St Emilion.

According to Juliette Bécot, they chose this Bordeaux wine property because of the unique terroir. Joanin Bécot is located at some of the highest elevations along the Gironde in the Cotes de Castillon.

Shortly after purchasing the estate, the family added their name to the property as well. In 2001 at the time of the purchase, Joanin Bécot was 5.4 hectares. With additional purchases, they increased the size of their vineyards to 12 hectares.

Juliette Bécot, the owner and winemaker of Joanin Bécot says, her philosophy is to consider her vineyard like a beautiful garden that takes work during the summer. She treats her grapes carefully, just like refined roses.

Starting with the 2010 Bordeaux vintage, Joanin Bécot sported a new label to accompany the famous pink capsule.

Winemakers

Jean-Philippe Fort is the consulting winemaker

Vintage

The growing season began with an unseasonably warm winter and the high temperatures continued into the spring, which meant the worst of the April frosts were avoided. Instead, the region saw heavy rains create a warm, humid atmosphere and diseases like rot and mildew became prevalent, meaning producers had to be vigilant. However, the downpours did provide one boon by revitalizing the water tables in the soil, which would prove invaluable in the upcoming summer months. The summer was extremely hot and arid although infrequent showers did fall until late August, when the season then completely dried out. Good weather prevailed through to the harvest. The resulting crop was smaller than usual, it was in excellent condition with small, thick-skinned berries in great health.

Vineyards

The 15-hectare Cotes de Bordeaux vineyard of Joanin Bécot is planted to 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. This shows a change in the vineyard with more Cabernet Franc plantings. The vineyard has also increased in size after the purchase of 2 additional hectares of vines, which include a parcel of old vine Cabernet Franc that dates back to 1870. Chateau Joanin Bécot has a terroir of clay and limestone soils. The vineyard is planted to a vine density that ranges from 5,200 vines per hectare to 6,250 plants per hectare. The higher levels of vine density are found with all the newer plantings.

Harvest

Manual harvest with 3 stages in the sorting of the grapes (2 sorting before de-stemming, 1 after). September 19th to October 9th. A yield of 20hl/ha, low mainly from the hail at the end of May rather than the drought. They lost around 40% of the vineyard (also why less Cabernet Franc is in the blend than usual).



Winemaking	In 2002 at Joanin Bécot they installed new cellars for the vinification. The fermentation takes place in the upstairs portion of their cellar. The cellars for the barrel aging are on the lower level, which allows the wine to move by gravity. The family ordered custom-made tanks for their Right Bank estate. These appear to resemble large pans, with a conical shape. This allows for extensive manual cap punching here. Vinification in thermo-regulated stainless-steel vats. Fermentation for approximately 30 days. Malolactic fermentation in vats. The aging is carried out in new barrels (50%), in barrels of one wine (10%), in vats (25%) and in amphoras (15%).
Tasting Notes	The wine is smooth with notes of blackcurrant, blackberry, and blueberry, mixed with a hint of spice. It offers caressing tannins and good volume.
Serve with	Best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Chateau Joanin Bécot is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Joanin Bécot is also good with grilled red meats. Hard cheeses such as Old Comté. Dark chocolate-based desserts.
Production	Approximately 49,000 bottles made
Cellaring	Drink 2025 - 2030
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2023</p> <p>93 points - William Kelley, Wine Advocate - April 2023</p> <p>90-92 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - May 2021</p> <p>92-93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - May 2021</p> <p>16 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - April 2021</p> <p>92 points - Georgina Hindle, Decanter.com - January 2023</p> <p>93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2023</p> <p>92-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021</p> <p>87-89 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - June 2021</p> <p>90-92 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2021</p> <p>88 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2023</p> <p>94 points - Vert de Vin - May 2021</p> <p>91-92 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - July 2021</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Direct and a bit high-pitched, with damson plum and bitter cherry notes carried by a savory streak. A very fresh and unadorned wine. For fans of the understated style. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2028."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2020 Joanin Bécot offers up notes of cherries, dark berries, violet and flower aromas with delicate hints of peony flowers. On the palate, the wine is medium to full-bodied, precise and fresh, with bright acidity and a delicate, crystalline and fine texture; in a word: exquisite.</i></p> <p><i>In the early 2000s, Juliette Bécot and her father, Gérard, co-owners of Château Beau-Séjour Bécot, decided to undertake a "father and daughter" project by buying an estate in the Castillon appellation. Today, Joanin Bécot covers nearly 12 hectares of clay-limestone soil and is planted with 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. Beyond the traditional winemaking techniques, what is striking about this estate is the aromatic brilliance of the wines, the precision of the palate and the great value. I confess to having a soft spot for this domaine."</i></p> <p>- WK, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"The 2020 Joanin Bécot has a deep purple-black color and fragrant notions of Morello cherries, black raspberries, stewed plums, and violets, with hints of cardamom and Sichuan pepper, plus a touch of forest floor. The medium-bodied palate is soft and juicy, delivering compelling freshness and a beautifully harmonious finish."</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"This is very spicy with lots of crushed sea salt and cloves. Dark fruit, chocolate, and blackberries. Very round, yet chewy. A luxurious red from this appellation. 90% merlot and 10% cabernet franc."</i></p> <p>- JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"90% Merlot, 10% Cabernet Franc. 20 hl/ha (Half the volume due to hail). No SO2 (at this stage) Cask sample. Pretty floral nose with violet notes. Hint of boiled sweets/hard candy as well. Lively and fruity, the tannins well honed. Touch of oak from the prise de bois but should settle. (JL) Drink 2024-2030."</i></p> <p>- JL, JancisRobinson.com</p>

Reviews

“Full of life, with a blueberry coulis burst on the attack and raspberry leaf edging. Some austerity to the tannins, but settles into the glass, and this should be ready to go within a year or two of bottling. A yield of 20hl/ha, low mainly from the hail at the end of May rather than the drought. They lost around 40% of the vineyard (also why less Cabernet Franc is in the blend than usual). Consultant Thomas Duclos, technical director Jean de Cornuaud. The estate is located in St-Philippe d'Aiguilhe, with a cooler terroir than Beausejour Bécot, meaning harvest here was September 19th to October 9th. Drinking Window 2023 – 2036.”

- GH, *Decanter.com*

“Flowers, truffle, sweet cherries, and cocoa create the nose. Medium-bodied, silky, sensuous, fresh, and packed with layers of ripe red fruits and a touch of cocoa on the backend in the finish that already expresses a beautiful sense of purity. This is in contention for one of the top vintages of Joanin Bécot ever produced. Drink from 2023-2036.”

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

“The combination of fresh, savory, spiced fruits, plums, mint, and cherries is great from the get-go. Medium-bodied, soft, silky, and pure, with a beautiful sweetness to fruits on the mid-palate, the wine ends with gentle polished kirsch and juicy plums. The wine is made from blending 90% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Franc. This is clearly a new level of quality for Joanin Bécot.”

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*

“The 2020 Joanin Bécot was affected by a hailstorm in May which resulted in some Cabernet Franc being parsed out from the blend, so this year there is half the normal production. It has quite a dense and quite earthy nose, introverted black fruit mixed with potpourri and traces of orange zest, the latter becoming more prominent with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied with dry, gritty tannins with a smudge of dark chocolate towards the sandy finish. It needs a little more flesh around the bones, but that should come during its barrel maturation. Drink 2025-2030.”

- AG, *Vinous*

“Readers looking for a good case purchase that will provide lovely, classic drinking over the coming decade should look at the 2020 Château Joanin Bécot. Medium-bodied, beautifully fruited, and textured, with ripe tannins and a great mid-palate, it’s a no-brainer purchase.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The nose is fruity, elegant and offers richness (in finesse), power (in delicacy), subtlety, a certain deepness, a small concentration, a nice finesse of the definition in its richness as well as an aerial side in its power. It reveals notes of fleshy/pulpy raspberry, fleshy/pulpy cassis, small notes of fleshy strawberry associated with touches of violet, saffron, voatsperifery pepper, fine hints of bright blueberry, star anis as well as a discreet hint of chocolate and an imperceptible hint nearly menthol/eucalyptus. The mouth is fruity and offers juiciness, freshness, gourmandize, a nice definition, minerality, richness in finesse, a fine creaminess, pulpiness, an aerial side as well as delicacy in its power. The wine expresses notes of pulpy/juicy blackberry, bright cassis, small notes of crushed raspberry associated with touches of juicy/pulpy blueberry, small notes of crushed raspberry associated with touches of juicy/pulpy blueberry, hints of violet, lily, lilac, a fine hint of Badiane, dark tea and tonka bean. The presence of a discreet hint of varietal and discreet hints of nearly iodine in the background that augments the sensation of freshness. Good length.”

- Vert de Vin