

Château Beau-Séjour Bécot 2008

CSPC#753874

750mlx12

14.0% Alc./Vol.

Grape Variety

70% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc, 6% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Website

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

General Info

Situated on the St Martin de Mazerat plateau, immediately to the west of the old town, Beau-Séjour Bécot lies in the very heart of Saint-Emilion.

This historic vineyards of Chateau Beau-Sejour Becot has a long and interesting history. Beau-Sejour Becot began life as an estate owned by the monks of St. Martin Abbey in St. Emilion. The monks managed the Bordeaux vineyards at what later become Chateau Canon. They also watched over the vines that were used to eventually create Beau-Sejour Becot.

Beau-Sejour Becot found its name in 1787 with the help and idea of a member from the Figeac family. General Jacques de Carles, who was part of the Figeac family said the estate should be called Beau-Sejour Becot. The name stuck! Skipping ahead over 100 years, Pierre-Paulin Ducarpe split the Beau-Sejour Becot vineyards between his two children, giving the chateau, plus other structures along with half his vineyards to his daughter. After she married, she took her husband's name, Duffau-Lagarosse. That marriage gave birth to what we now know of as Chateau Beausejour-Duffau-Lagarosse.

In 1924, Chateau Beau-Sejour became the property of Doctor Jean Fagouet. Michel Becot, whose family lived in St. Emilion since 1760 owned Château La Carte since 1929. In 1969, the Becot's purchased Beau-Sejour, renaming it Beau-Sejour Becot. In 1979, the Bécot family enlarged Beau-Sejour Becot with the purchase of 11 acres of Bordeaux vineyards on the Trois Moulins plateau. Since 1985, the property has been managed by his sons, Gérard and Dominique. Gerard's daughter, Juliette Becot is involved in running Beau-Sejour Becot, as well as the families other properties in St. Emilion and Cotes de Castillon.

Michel Bécot retired in 1985, turning over the management of the chateau to his two sons Gérard and Domonic. Juliette rejoined them in 2001.

Vintage

The 2008 vintage was kind to those in Saint-Émilion with warm days and cool nights and the resulting Merlot dominated blend is one of the bargains of the vintage

Vineyards

Situation: on the western plateau of Saint-Emilion, in the old parish of Saint-Martin de Mazerat. Surface area: 16,52 ha. Whole estate: 18,50 ha.

Soil: chalk with fossilised starfish. Grape varieties: 70% Merlot, 24% Cabernet franc, 6% Cabernet sauvignon. Planting density: 6,600 vines per hectare.

Average age of vines: 40 years.

Harvest

Harvest: by hand. Yields: controlled to between 30 and 38 hl per hectare.

Vinification/

Maturation

Fruit screening on three separate tables. (2 before de-stemming, 1 after).

Vatting: in stainless steel, temperature controlled, vats and in new barrels (600 litres). Processing of fruit plot by plot. The floating crust is regularly immersed in the must by hand

Vatting period: approximately 30 days (between 28° and 32° C) The wine is run-off into barrels without using pumps. Malolactic fermentation in barrels.

80 to 100 % in new barrels, according to vintage. 16 to 18 months in a cellar at constant temperature of 16 °C.

Tasting Notes

Nice sweet cassis, blackberry, caramel nose; ripe cassis, blackberry, caramel palate with soft entry and soft tannins; medium finish

Cellaring

Drink 2013-2033



Scores/Awards **89-91 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2009
91+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011
91-93+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #182- April 2009
90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2012
91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2011
84-86 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2009
90 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com (score only)
93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2011
93-95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - December 31, 2009
92 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July/Aug 2011 (score only)
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2009
17 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - November 2012
17+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2010
17-18+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2009
18.9 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2009
91 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 17, 2012
92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 25, 2011
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 18, 2010
91-94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 1, 2009
90 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - October 2010
89-91 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2009
92 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)
17 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)
17 points - Gault & Millau (score only)

Reviews *"Crushed blackberry on the nose, with spices and toasty oak. Full-bodied, with lovely sweet fruit and polished, refined tannins. Long and delicious. Score range: 88-91"*
 - JS, Wine Spectator

"This exceptional wine is presently as impressive as the 2010, but obviously it is much more drinkable. Made from yields of 32 hectoliters per hectare with 14% natural alcohol, this blend of 70% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon reveals some spicy new oak along with lots of vanillin, underbrush, black currants and black cherry jam. Dense ruby/purple-colored and full-bodied with moderate tannin, it is more supple and forward than the 2010. Nevertheless, this big 2008 needs 2-3 years of cellaring and should keep for 15-20 years."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"This red/purple-colored offering reveals a sweet toasty oak character, wonderful ripeness, full-bodied opulence, superb purity, a layered mouthfeel, high but ripe tannin, and an underlying minerality and crispness from the vintage's acid profile. This wine appears to just be coming off of malolactic fermentation, and it will benefit from several years of bottle age. It should keep for two decades or more. The natural alcohol came in at 14%. Proprietor Gerard Becot's 40-acre vineyard, planted in pure limestone, is relatively large for St.-Emilion. The final blend of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon represents a sweet, rich, concentrated 2008 that competes favorably with the 2005."
 - RP, Wine Advocate

"Tasted ex-chateau and single blind in Southwold. The Beausejour Becot 2008 is a little oaky on the nose, but it displays attractive purity with red cherries and raspberry fruit, offering floral, violet scents with aeration. Very pretty. The palate is medium bodied with restrained tannins, the finish having "calmed down" since 2010 and showing much more poise and elegance. Tasted January 2012."
 - NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the UGC 2008 tasting in London. There was certainly some bottle variation when tasted out of barrel but in bottle, I think the Beausejour Becot is turning into a very pretty Saint Emilion. It has a beautiful nose with ripe black cherry, cassis and a touch of raspberry sorbet – very floral with touches of rose petal wafting from the glass. The palate has a very smooth, seductive entry with supple tannins, raspberry and wild strawberry vying for attention with a touch of black pepper right on the voluptuous finish. Drink 2013-2025. Tasted October 2010."
 - NM, Wine Journal

Reviews *“En primeur barrel sample. This has a light but well-defined “patisserie” nose (cherry Bakewells!) with hints of something more floral that may emerge after bottling – rose petals. The palate is supple, fleshy, lacks a little structure, rather linear with sweet cherry fruits towards the pretty but not intellectual finish. Well-made but not a long-term prospect. A second bottle at the UGC was tasting rather raisiny with some astringency on the finish. Tasted April 2009.”*
- NM, Wine Journal

“This formal, upright wine has solid, dense tannins and is well structured: with acidity and firm fruit, it shows its more opulent side slowly, leading to a smoky finish.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“93-85 Barrel sample. Mint and eucalyptus aromas are the hallmark of this tensely tannic wine, which relies on finely polished new wood as well as blackcurrant flavors. It is very dry, with a hard edge, but the potential balance is there.”
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Blackish crimson. Slightly burnt tinge on the nose. Sweet chocolatey start. Sinewy, polished but it does remind me a little more of Mendoza than St-Émilion. Very drying finish. Mouthful of ripe fruit, that’s for sure.”
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Fragrant open fruit, herbaceous florality, nutmeg, vanilla and really classy oak in the background. Tremendous fruit, which is generous and satisfying with grainy tannins, natural acidity and pleasing freshness. Very polished.”
- SS, Decanter.com

“A really pretty nose here, a delight after some other more fudgy, over-ripe and over-extracted wines. Red fruits to the fore, but in a confident and elegant style, and not one that suggests leanness or lack of substance. The palate has a lot of polished flesh to it, supple and weighty, with creamy character truth be told. But in the mid-palate that structure wells up, the perfume erupts, and the wine shows really appealing character. This has come together really nicely and has plenty of confidence and form. Long, slightly savoury, and convincing.”
- CK, The Wine Doctor

“Attractively sweet fruit on the nose, smoky and nicely concentrated, with lots of lovely but well-judged spice. A supple and well-judged palate on entry in terms of texture, and in the middle, it builds in terms of substance, extract and grip. Good tannins, good acidity, with a sufficient layer of fruit to keep them in check. It seems a little soft and fuzzy at the edges, not superbly focused but this should firm up with time in bottle, I hope. Aromatically it certainly appeals, and this could be a little better than my score suggests if the palate comes together.”
- CK, The Wine Doctor

“Bright character, with damson, cranberry and sloe berry fruit. A nice entry, harmonious, with lovely, ripe, gently polished grip underneath. Stylish and composed, rich but with firm acids and grip. Lots of delicious and appealing character here.”
- CK, The Wine Doctor

“Coffee bean, cassis, blackberry and vanilla scents make up the perfume. Soft and round in texture, there is a lightly dusty sensation to the tannins. The wine ends with mineral, chocolate and black cherries.”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“This wine opens with oak, stone, caramel, plum and black cherry aromas. It’s full bodied, concentrated and elegant in texture with a finish that is filled with layers of sweet, fresh, black and red fruits. 92 Pts”
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *"2008 Beau-Sejour Becot starts with spice filled aromatics complicated with licorice, blackberry, oak, and earthy scents. Plush and full bodied, the wine ends with a mouthful of deep, fresh blackberry. 93 Pts"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"08 Château Beau-Sejour Becot shows a lot of black cherry, minerals, and plum on the nose. Full bodied, structured, and stuffed with ripe fruit, the wine offers a long, black fruit filled finish. 91-94 Pts"
JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"Saturated colour; dense at core; nicer nose; sweet fruit, but meaty fruit with more complexity; lots of depth; ripe palate, lots of meat and fruit characters and supple tannins. Depth. Very good. 92 '12 [Earlier] Deep and dark, sweet aromas on the nose of oak with ripe fruit beneath, feels dense and substantial; palate has lots of extract and fruit; some tannin here too plus acid and crunch. Good finish. Typically extracted style and quite a mouthful, but it adds up. 90/100 UGC Oct '10"
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com

"Plush, velvety tannins with ripe plums and richness in the middle. Full bodied, round with a moderate amount of depth. Well made but closed at the moment and should open up with several years in bottle."
- JCL, asianpalate.com
