

Château Beau-Séjour Bécot 2009

CSPC#753874

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
General Info

70% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon
Saint Emilion

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.

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

Fresh strawberries and damsons dominate the nose of the 2009 Beausejour-Bécot, with plummy fruit following on the lush, round palate. With great elegance and freshness, this is a very rewarding wine with supple fruit, fine tannins and a toasty complexity on the finish. Lovely.

**Production
Cellaring**

4,600 cases made

Drink 2014-2024



Scores/Awards **92 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2012
93-96 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
94+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #199 - February 2012
93-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #188- April 2010
95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2012
92-94 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2010
96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 1, 2012
94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 8, 2010
92 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July 2012
16.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2010
17-18+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - March 2010
18 points/5 stars - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010
94 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com -February 10, 2012
93 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - June 28, 2010

Reviews *"Dark but racy, with chocolate-covered raspberry and blackberry fruit carried by graphite and toasty cinnamon, black tea and anise flavors. Firms up on the finish, with a lovely note of singed apple wood that should meld nicely after cellaring. Best from 2014 through 2024. 4,600 cases made"*
- JM, Wine Spectator

"Blueberry, licorice and floral aromas follow through to a full body, with a beautiful core of fruit and a long, fine finish. Layered and gorgeous. Score range: 93-96 "
- JS, Wine Spectator

"My favorite Beau-Sejour-Becot to date, this sumptuous, dense blue/purple-hued 2009 reveals a blockbuster nose of blueberry pie, black fruits, licorice, forest floor, spring flowers and a hint of mocha. A blend of 70% Merlot and the rest Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon made from tiny yields of 27 hectoliters per hectare, this big, inky, powerful, tannic wine is sensationally concentrated. With an unctuous texture, full-bodied power and tremendous levels of tannin (largely concealed behind a cascade of rich fruit), this is a fabulous effort from a beautifully situated St.-Emilion premier grand cru classe. It will need 5-8 years of cellaring and should keep for three decades."
- RP, Wine Advocate

A great effort from the Becot family and their consultant, Jean Philippe Fort, the 2009 is a blend of 70% Merlot and the rest equal parts Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon. This is one of the highest-octane wines of St.-Emilion at 15% alcohol. Yields were very small (27 hectoliters per hectare) with the harvest taking place between October 10 and 14. The wine has an inky bluish/purple color and a big, powerful nose of raspberry confiture intermixed with crushed rock, licorice, and a very subtle hint of wood. A wine of enormous density, power, full-bodied richness and viscosity, it has good vibrancy and a boatload of tannin, but it is all seamlessly integrated in this colossal effort. Give it 3-5 years of cellaring and drink it over the following 30+ years. (Tasted four times.)"
- RP, Wine Advocate

"I was bowled over by this sublime expression of Saint Emilion terroir! What a lovely, fragrant bouquet with crushed rose petals and vibrant red-berried fruit. Superb delineation here. The palate is smooth, suave and harmonious with great precision and delineation on the finish, surpassing my expectations out of barrel. Bravo! Tasted November 2011."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Tasted at the Saint Emilion UGC, the Cabernet shows very well on the nose that has impressive clarity and precision: blackberry, black plum, crushed stone and a touch of graphite. Very good lift from the glass. The palate is very harmonious with silky tannins, succulent red-berried fruit, graphite and a touch of spice on the finish that fans out nicely across the palate. This is in superb Becot that will drink well for 15-20 years. Tasted March 2010."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Minty new wood aromas on a wine that shows both great tannins and sweet wood. The fruit is still to show but promises fresh plum flavors that will be delicious and juicy. Ripe, concentrated wine."
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

Reviews *"94-96 Barrel sample. A wine that makes the most of its freshness, with bright acidity, great blackcurrant fruits. It has density balanced with a beautiful final acidity and final smokiness."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

"Bright full ruby. Sweet, expressive aromas of dark berries, dark chocolate, cola and exotic spices. Lush, velvety and sweet, with expansive flavors of dark fruits, mocha and cola complemented by sexy oak. The expansive finish features building ripe tannins and excellent lingering sweetness. Very much in the fleshy style of the year and attractive from day one."

- ST, International Wine Cellar

"Rich, dark fruits on the nose, with a hint of smoked meat. Very thick and sweet and Napa Valley-like. Super-sweet. Perhaps difficult to match with food but it has been well made. Thick and drying and hard work. Very drying finish. Tarry."

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

"This has rather a bold style on the nose here, with some slightly meaty oak tinged fruit. Lots of supple texture here, grippy tannins, rich and broad. The structure is in fact quite massive, although there is a bright layer of fruit above. Great substance here too. The style seems firm but harmonious with the necessary fruit included within the composition of the wine. Should be very good indeed, although in a very expansive style. From my 2009 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 17-18+/20 (March 2010)"

- CK, The Wine Doctor

"Has all the characteristics expected of this consistent cru - deep colour, generous fruit, seductive aroma and firm but refined tannic frame."

- SS, Decanter.com

"70 % Merlot along with 15% Cabernet Franc and 15% Cabernet Sauvignon created a wine with intense floral, boysenberry, stone and licorice aromas that give way to a soft, low acid, sensuous, perfumed St. Emilion. This ends with plush, silky, fennel, chocolate and cherry."

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

"2009 Beau-Sejour Becot is a deeply colored wine filled with the aromas of minerals, ripe blackberries, licorice, and chocolate. This full bodied, opulent, round textured, ripe wine has a long, chocolate covered black cherry finish with hints of licorice. 92-94 Pts"

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
