

## Château Beau-Séjour Bécot 2012

CSPC#771461

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

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

**Appellation**

Saint Emilion

**Classification**

Premier Grand Cru Classe B in 2006.

**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**

After the very cold and dry winter of 2011–2012, bud break lasted throughout April. The rains of April and May, coupled with mild temperatures, resulted insignificant mineralization and strong vegetative growth of the vines.

Flowering was late (29 May) and drawn out, with a delicate fruit set. The old Merlot plants have at times seen yields reduced due to coulure (shatter, a failure of the fruit to set) or millerandage (shot grapes, incomplete development).

There was settled summer weather from 15 July, with the hottest August since 2003, allowing partial recovery of the growth cycle. From mid-July onwards, 2012 was one of the driest vintages of recent years (along with 2005, 2009 and 2010), resulting in a significant water deficit (120mm lower than the thirty-year average). Ripening in early August was prolonged, with peaks of temperature from July to September and reduced rainfall. The biggest daily temperature difference recorded was 12.9°C, the highest in eight years, favoring a high level of anthocyanins and aromatic intensity. September and October were mild, close to the seasonal norm (27–28°C on 5 October).

**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.



<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	To vinify the wine of Chateau Beau-Sejour Becot, the grapes are table sorted three times. A portion of the grapes are whole berry fermented. Vinification takes place in stainless steel tanks ranging in size from 80 to 100 hectoliters following a 4-day cold maceration. Microbullage is performed during fermentation. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel with the first four months spent on the post-malo lees. The wine of Chateau Beau-Sejour Becot is aged in 75% new French oak that comes from five different coopers. The wine is aged in barrel for between 18 to 20 months. Michel Rolland is the consultant.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	Saturated very dark ruby color; ripe red currant, raspberry nose; creamy textured, ripe red currant, ripe raspberry palate; needs 1-2 years; medium-plus finish
<b>Production</b>	5,416 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Drink 2013-2033
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<p><b>91 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015</p> <p><b>89-92 points</b> - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013</p> <p><b>92-95 points</b> - Robert M. Parker Jr., Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013</p> <p><b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013</p> <p><b>91-92 points</b> - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com (score only)</p> <p><b>93-95 points</b> - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - September 4, 2013</p> <p><b>88-91 points</b> - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July/Aug 2013 (score only)</p> <p><b>16 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>91-92 points</b> - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013</p> <p><b>17+ points</b> - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 11, 2015</p> <p><b>90-93 points</b> - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 26, 2013</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 10, 2013</p> <p><b>89 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)</p> <p><b>93 points</b> - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)</p> <p><b>94+ points</b> - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2013</p> <p><b>92 points</b> - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013</p> <p><b>91-93 points</b> - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p><b>18 points</b> - Gault &amp; Millau (score only)</p> <p><b>17 points</b> - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p><b>16.5 points</b> - La Revue du Vin France (score only)</p>
<b>Reviews</b>	<p><i>"This has a nice core of bramble-edged plum and blackberry pâte de fruit flavors, underscored with lightly singed alder and juniper hints. A mineral note maintains a little tension through the finish. This should age nicely in the mid-term. Best from 2016 through 2022. 5,416 cases made"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This is bouncy, with a briary backdrop to the blueberry, lingonberry and cherry fruit. Delivers a mouth filling finish of fruit cake and anise. Score range: 89-92"</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A spectacular wine from this nearly 50-acre vineyard situated atop St.-Emilion's famed limestone plateau, the final blend for the 2012 Beau-Sejour Becot was 70% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon. It achieved 14% natural alcohol and yields were 31 hectoliters per hectare. One of the stars of the vintage, it is elegant yet powerful, rich and authoritative with abundant black raspberry, blueberry, graphite and toasty vanillin notes. Full-bodied and super rich for a 2012, it is packed with potential. The tannins are ripe as well as abundant suggesting several years of bottle age will be required. It should turn out to be a 20-year proposition. Kudos to the Becot family for producing this beauty."</i></p> <p>- RP Jr., Wine Advocate</p>

- Reviews** *"A blend of 70% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc and 6% Cabernet Sauvignon, the Beausejour Becot has a vibrant, brightness on the nose. The palate is packed full of lush ripe red berry fruit – quite lavish and exotic for the vintage with a "furry", sexy finish. Modern in style, this is an opulent Beausejour Becot that should be approachable after bottling, but age well. Tasted April 2013."*  
- NM, Wine Journal
- "93–95. Barrel sample. This is a finely balanced wine that's ripe and structured at the same time. It has richness and spice, with a powerful context of wood, juicy blackberry fruits and delicious acidity. With such concentration, this is a wine with excellent ageing potential."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Ripe and savoury on the nose. Palate sweet and plump but fresh. Firm, long, dry finish. Tannins a little angular. La Gomerie now incorporated."*  
- JL, Decanter.com
- "If we were ever doubting that the 2012 vintage could produce some modern, plummy Saint Emilio, here we are with this wine! Tannins aplenty, fruit plummy and rich, some vanilla custard, creme patisserie, lovely attack, good freshness, a touch abrupt on the finish, probably due to high alcohol levels, but certainly see what they are doing here, and It's got plenty of potential. Fun, contemporary, it's good. 91-92 / 17.5-17.75. Highly recommended. Drink 2018-2030."*  
- JA, The New Bordeaux
- "Polished, elegant, concentrated and silky smooth, with a good concentration of flavor, length and a supple, mineral and plum filled finish."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "This is the first vintage using the new cellar with the inverted stainless-steel vats for vinification. The wine is filled with the essence of minerals, licorice and juicy plums with fresh blackberries, vanilla and fennel in the finish. Using 75 % Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine reached 14% alcohol. 90-93 Pts"*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep and saturated colour; dark at core; lots of ripe plummy Merlot; pretty deep and fat; some spices; depth; pretty lush nose; density on the palate, some oak tannin but lots of plummy fruit; chewy and dense. Looks good. 70% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc 6% Cabernet Sauvignon. 90-92+ [second tasting] Deep and dense; ripe, layered but pretty dense; quite tight on the palate but with plenty of density; good length. 91-93 UGC Wednesday April 10, 2013"*  
JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep and saturated colour; dark at core; lots of ripe plummy Merlot; pretty deep and fat; some spices; depth; pretty lush nose; density on the palate, some oak tannin but lots of plummy fruit; chewy and dense. Looks good. 70% Merlot, 24% Cabernet Franc 6% Cabernet Sauvignon. 90-92+ [second tasting] Deep and dense; ripe, layered but pretty dense; quite tight on the palate but with plenty of density; good length. 91-93 UGC Wednesday April 10, 2013"*  
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Elegant, intense red with ripe plums and blackberry fruit. Tasted twice, this wine showed well both times. Good concentration and depth, beautifully crafted red with layers of delicate flavours. Fairly long length. Tasted in: Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (07-Apr-2013)"*  
- JCL, asianpalate.com
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