

## Château Beauséjour Duffau-Lagarrosse 2012

CSPC# 771444

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

### Grape Variety

73% Cabernet Sauvignon, 27% Merlot

### Appellation

St. Emilion

### Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classe B in 2006

### Website

<http://www.beausejourhdl.com/>

### General Info

Rated a *Premier Grand Cru Classé* since the start of the Saint-Émilion wine classification system, Château Beauséjour DL, a veritable gem of the Saint-Émilion wine region, has been managed since 1847 by the Duffau Lagarrosse family. Enjoying an exceptional location and a first-rate *terroir*, the château's vines produce some of France's best wines, famous around the world (best 2009 vintages, rated 100/100 by Parker, etc.). The wines of Saint-Émilion, like the other *grand crus* of Bordeaux and French wines in general, represent prestigious, luxury products.

Beauséjour is a family-run, wine-making estate jointly managed by Vincent Duffau Lagarrosse and Christophe Redaud, with the support of Nicolas Thienpont and Stéphane Derenoncourt since the 2009 vintage. Beauséjour wines can be purchased directly at the château or by filling out the downloadable order form (shipment and delivery within France, only). You will find exceptional and old vintages for purchase, in regular bottles, magnums and Jeroboams.

The château also offers several vintages of its excellent second wine, Croix de Beauséjour. In addition to our rolling vineyards, we invite you to visit the town of Saint-Émilion, one of the most beautiful villages of France and listed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. An excellent destination for a holiday or professional stay in the Bordeaux region

Forever considered a Great Wine, and from the very first classification of Saint-Émilion wines, as a *Premier Grand Cru Classé*.

Château Beauséjour hDL has been the property of the Duffau-Lagarrosse family since 1847. For nine generations, the Duffau-Lagarrosse Heirs have been very keen to perpetuate this vineyard - a gem of seven hectares, rooted in the hillside, exposed to the sun and wind – and to preserve its well-earned fame.

Château Beauséjour hDL travels tranquilly through time, in a family spirit open to modernity and progress, though unaffected by fashion and trends.

The ninth generation has taken the helm and the Duffau-Lagarrosse Heirs have entrusted the château's management to two of their members, Christophe Redaud and Vincent Duffau-Lagarrosse, whose mission is to perpetuate the values of Château Beauséjour hDL.

These two cousins rely on an experienced team to carry out, in their turn, all necessary evolutions and maintain the quality of the château's wines at the very highest level, vintage after vintage. This never-ceasing pursuit of excellence led them to request Nicolas Thienpont and Stéphane Derenoncourt to accompany Château Beauséjour hDL starting with the 2009 vintage.

**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, favouring 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** The vineyard area extends 7 hectares with the grape varieties of 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Of the Grand vin, Château Beauséjour there is a total annual production of 25–30,000 bottles. The estate also produces the second wine, Croix de Beauséjour.

A portion of the vineyard is rooted in argilo-calcareous soil with an asteriated subsoil, while the remaining vines are rooted in the limestone that, here and there, rises to the surface at the top of the hill.

Today, the vineyard's varietals are made up of 81% Merlot, which particularly appreciates the coolness and humidity of the clayey soil and contributes fruitiness and fullness to the château's wines, and 19% Cabernet (16% Cabernet Franc and 3% Cabernet Sauvignon), which provides powerful aroma and structure. On average, the vines are between 35 and 40 years old.

**Harvest** Due to its small contiguous surface area, Château Beauséjour hDL is able to await optimal maturity for each separate parcel, at which time a rapid manual harvest is carried out. An initial meticulous selection of grapes out among the vines is followed by a second careful sorting in the cellars after de-stemming. The more precocious Merlot grapes are the first to be harvested, while the Cabernets will enjoy a few more days of ripening to achieve perfect maturity.

**Vinification/  
Maturation** Each year, Château Beauséjour hDL takes into consideration the quality of the harvest and adapts its vinification accordingly. A subtle balance between the frequency and intensity of the "pumping-over" process must respect the wine's maceration, which varies in duration, in order to extract the best tannins.

For over thirty years, the Michel Rolland Laboratory has accompanied Château Beauséjour hDL during the vinification of each vintage. The wine is afterwards refined for 16 to 18 months in oak "shook" barrels, then aged in bottles at a constant temperature in limestone quarries.

**Tasting Notes** Great nose of sweet spices and bright red fruits, rich palate impression with present tannins not as great as the nose but obviously young, great color. I can see this turning into a beautiful wine in 5+ years.

**Production** 1,375 cases made.

**Cellaring** Drink 2017-2047

**Scores/Awards** **94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015  
**91-94 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2013  
**93-95+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013  
**90-92 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013  
**93-95 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 9, 2013  
**90-92 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2013  
**17+ points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013  
**17.25 points** - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2013  
**94 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**94-96 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 26, 2013  
**94-96+ points** - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - April 2013  
**16 points** - Farr Vintner - April 2013  
**86-88 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2013  
**93-95 points** - Gilbert & Gaillard - April 16, 2013  
**17 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)  
**17.5 points** - Gault & Millau (score only)  
**16.5-17.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)

**Reviews** *"Quite ripe, with unctuous plum sauce and warmed fig fruit. A solid graphite spine gives this definition and drive, while smoldering tobacco and anise notes fill in the finish. The gorgeous echo of boysenberry at the very end bodes well for the cellar. Best from 2017 through 2030. 1,375 cases made."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

**Reviews** *“Quite juicy, with notes of anise, blackberry, blueberry and raspberry all wrangling with one another, while singed wood spice and licorice snap fill out the finish. A touch chewy and briary in the end, but there's ample fruit in reserve. Score range: 91-94 “*

*- JM, Wine Spectator*

*“ The 2012 exhibits a black/purple color along with a striking nose of incense, spring flowers, blueberries, blackberries and hints of mulberries and crushed chalk. The sumptuous aromatics are followed by a full-bodied, super-concentrated, rich, layered wine that builds incrementally across the palate, finishing with an explosion of fruit, spice, tannin, glycerin and minerality. While neither as backward nor impenetrable as the 2009 and 2010, the 2012 should be approachable in 4-5 years and keep for 2-3 decades.*

*A massive, concentrated effort from this great terroir, the 2012 Beausejour Duffau comes from a 16+-acre vineyard located on the clay and limestone southern slopes of St.-Emilion. It was cropped at 23 hectoliters per hectare, and the final blend was 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc. Only 66% of the production went into the top wine, which boasts 14.3% natural alcohol. Readers can usually count on this cuvee being one of the finest wines of the vintage given the talented team behind it, Nicolas Thienpont, Stephane Derenoncourt, David Suire and Julien Lavenu.”*

*- RP, Wine Advocate*

*“The 2012 is a blend of 87% Merlot and 13% Cabernet Franc, cropped between 13th and 18th October and 20th and 23rd October respectively. That late picked Cabernet tells on the nose that is glossy and ostentatious with touches of raisin and fresh prune informing the red fruit profile. The palate is full-bodied with sumptuous, decadent ripe red fruit. It has a soft, sexy mouthfeel and it glides across the mouth without a murmur. Yet I prefer the tension and delineation exuded by Pavie-Macquin this year. I would have picked a little earlier. Tasted April 2013. “*

*- NM, Wine Journal*

*“93–95. Barrel sample. This is a powerful wine with solid fruits and structure. The palate is full of beautifully ripe fruit—packed with rich and juicy blackberries. It shows how the potential of this property is being realized.”*

*- RV, Wine Enthusiast*

*“(83% Merlot and 17% Cabernet Franc; 28 h/h production): Opaque purple-ruby. Perfumed aromas of red cherry and sweet spices complicated by rose petal, white pepper and minerals. Then suave and juicy on the palate, offering pure flavors of red cherry jam, raspberry and vanilla nicely framed by lively acidity. Finishes impressively long, with a steely quality and repeating floral notes. The Cabernets were harvested very late here, from October 20 through 23. Technical director David Suire told me that this was due to a 15-year-old parcel of Cabernet Franc vines that had been grafted over from Cabernet Sauvignon because of the estate's dissatisfaction with the Sauvignon's quality. But the grafting caused the vines to ripen even later and it was necessary to wait them out in 2012. “*

*- ST, International Wine Cellar*

*“The ripest of the Nicolas Thienpont line-up so far. Ripe sweet cherry. Merlot energy and generosity. Rich but held in check by the finesse of the tannins and the freshness. Lovely and long too. All well-judged. But has the firmness and freshness for a good long life. (JH)”*

*- JH, JancisRobinson.com*

*“Deep colour. Dense fruit on the nose. Palate ripe and plush but good acidity and freshness. Great definition.”*

*- JL, Decanter.com*

*“Showing a lot of depth in the color, fresh, dark, smoky and jammy berries, fleshy, rich, opulent textures and a velvet-textured, full-bodied, mineralistic, rich, and concentrated finish are the hallmarks of this wine. 94-96 Pts”*

*- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com*

**Reviews** *“Deep and saturated; very deep and tight to the rim; legs; very full and plump on the nose; lush; layer upon layer of ripe fruit – black cherry, summer compote, plum; very lush entry; plush palate with lots of material and depth. Chewy on the finish with some minerality. Very good length. Terrific wine. Very brave late picking here. 87% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc 94-96+ Tasted Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at Chateau Pavie Macquin”*  
- JW, [winewordsandvideotape.com](http://winewordsandvideotape.com)

*“This Saint Emilion property has recently had a change of management with Nicolas Thienpont (of Pavie Macquin) now in charge and ably assisted by Stephane Derenoncourt. The 7 hectares of vines are planted with 70% Merlot, 20% Cabernet Franc and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. 2000 to 2500 cases are produced annually. One of the few non-First Growths to have 2 previous vintages scored 100 points by Robert Parker. This is a massive wine with a dense black colour. There is black tar and wood smoke on the nose with black cherry and kirsch fruit. Very powerful on the palate, full throttle, plenty of fat and glycerol. Quite a monster with extracted fruit and tannin. Rather too heady for us but some may love this.”*  
- Farr Vintners

*“The nose is rich with a mix of black and red fruits, but the palate is firm quite tight with freshness more red fruit in character. Towards the back there are more black fruits a richer feel, but the obvious tannins tend hold back the fruit and close down the finish. 2017-26”*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*“Profound nose of black fruits, still subtle. Lovely silky stuffing on the palate with evident fruit and silky tannins. Very full. (16-Apr-2013)”*  
- [en.gilbertgaillard.com](http://en.gilbertgaillard.com)

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