

Château Beychevelle 2008

CSPC# 742335

750mlx12

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety
Appellation
General Info

48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc
Saint Julien

Château Beychevelle is a prestigious great growth steeped in three centuries of history. Beychevelle was the fiefdom of the Ducs d'Epéron. The first duke, Jean Louis Nogaret de la Valette, French Grand Admiral, wielded enormous power. According to legend, all ships had to lower their sails as they sailed past the Château in homage to its powerful owner. This accounted for the name Baisse-Voile, which changed to Beychevelle over the years. Built in the 17th century and reconstructed by the Marquis de Brassier in 1757, Château Beychevelle is one of the jewels of the entire Bordeaux region. Maintaining a wonderful balance between power and finesse, Beychevelle's wine reflects its elegant architecture. The château places great emphasis on environmental protection and health and earned both Agriculture Raisonnée ("Sustainable Agriculture") and "Terra Vitis" certification in 2005.

Vintage

The 2007-2008 campaign is characterized, like the previous two seasons, with rainfall excess and climatic conditions dreary March to mid-September. However, the sunshine of the year, very close normal was significantly better than in 2007. These weather conditions have favored the pest pressure, mildew in particular, but the lessons learned from the 2007 campaign have yielded a result very satisfying. Bud, rather regular and clustered between different varieties, is widespread in the first week April. Merlot flowering begins in the last days of May, confirming that it is in a year rather late. The flowering conditions cool and wet generated sagging phenomenon very important, a level not seen since 1996. Yields are particularly affected, especially in the grape Merlot. In July and early August, green harvesting was carried out on an area of about 35 ha, especially in plot of young vines and some overloaded. The first berries appear around the vérées July 22-23 for widespread use in the early days of the month August. The cool and wet conditions involved a slow ripening with little difference between varieties, Cabernet sometimes seem more homogeneous than the Merlot.

Harvest

Tuesday, September 30, 2008 - Thursday, October 16, 2008.
Merlot was harvested on 29 September in the Haut-Médoc appellation and 30 September to 03 October (4 days) Saint-Julien appellation, and Cabernet Franc October 8, followed by Cabernet Sauvignon from 9 to 16 October. Interruption of five days between the two varieties of crop has prevented the precipitation period. This is the first time that such a provision was speaking at the castle Beychevelle. Grape quality is very good level through upstream work in the vineyard and the necessary sorting at harvest. This is the first time in the history of the property that there are natural alcohol levels greater than 14.4% for the Merlot and 12.5% Cabernet. The first tastings of running off to reveal fruity intense colors. The year 2008 seems to be a good surprise considering the difficulties encountered throughout the campaign. It is hoped a higher level than in 2007.

Vineyards

The deep Garonne gravel vineyards at Beychevelle currently account for 90 ha of the 250-ha estate, planted with 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. Average vine age is 25 years, planted at 10000 vines/ha.

**Vinification/
Maturation**

Fermentation is temperature controlled, staying below 30°C, and is followed by a period of eighteen months in oak, of which 50% is new each year. The wine is fined but not filtered

Production

22,000 cases made



Cellaring	Drink 2014-2026
Tasting Notes	This estate just gets better and better and Philippe's sunny disposition was a reflection of the bright fruit shining out of his wine. The round, plump, fleshy feel of 47% Merlot certainly comes across with opulent notes of ripe morello cherries but 48% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc add to its darker side and provide an elegant backbone. This is well balanced and rewarding: a fine achievement.
Scores/Awards	<p>90 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 30, 2011</p> <p>83-86 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2009</p> <p>89+ points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194 - May 2011</p> <p>88-90 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #182 - April 2009</p> <p>92 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2012</p> <p>90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2011</p> <p>91-93 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2009</p> <p>88-90 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2009</p> <p>91 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2011</p> <p>90 points - Stephen Tanzer, ST's International Wine Cellar - July/Aug 2011</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - November 11, 2010</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2009</p> <p>17.5+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - October 2010</p> <p>17-18+ points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - April 2009</p> <p>3 stars - Decanter Magazine</p> <p>87 points - Jean Marc Quarin - March 2010</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2010</p> <p>88 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - January 28, 2011</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This has a slightly brawny edge, but feels like it's filling out quickly, with lush, dark fig sauce, black licorice snap and graphite notes taking on more depth as it airs in the glass. Extra black tea and anise hints flash on the finish. Drink now through 2019. 20,833 cases made."</i></p> <p>- JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"Offers berry and mineral character but finishes austere. Score range: 83-86"</i></p> <p>- JS, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This age worthy, elegant, well-made Beychevelle displays copious red and black cherry fruit notes intertwined with dusty, loamy soil and oak undertones, decent acidity, moderate tannin and impressive intensity as well as length. Give it 1-3 years of cellaring and enjoy it over the next 15-18 years."</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Made in a seductive, soft, charming style, the 2008 Beychevelle is destined to be drunk during its first 15 years of life. It is a sensual St.-Julien offering pretty raspberry and cranberry fruit as well as hints of darker fruits on the palate. With soft tannins and good purity, this is a medium-bodied, well-made, evolved, forward 2008. Drink 2009-2024"</i></p> <p>- RP, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"Tasted ex-chateau and single blind in Southwold. The Beychevelle 2008 appears to be improving in bottle, even at this early juncture. Sure, there remains some oak to be subsumed on the nose, but it does not overwhelm its attractive aromas of crisp blackberry, cassis and a touch of graphite. It is more Pauillac in style than Saint Julien. The palate is medium bodied with firm, grippy tannins. There is impressive precision and minerality on the finish. This is an excellent Saint Julien. Tasted January 2012."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Journal</p> <p><i>"Tasted at the UGC 2008 tasting in London. The Beychevelle is a little reticent and quite earthy on the nose, very taut with cedar and sous-bois dominating the profile, but it has very fine lift, becoming floral with aeration. The palate has firm, robust, quite thick tannins, very structure with cedar and pencil-lead infusing the black fruits, very good weight, but lacking the finesse of the 2009. Good length and persistency but a little sharp on the finish. This is still a classy Saint Julien. Drink 2012-2025+ Tasted October 2010."</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Journal</p>

- Reviews** *"This has really started putting on the style during its elevage and I duly upgrade my score. Very fine definition on the nose: blackberry, cedar, lifted boysenberry, almost floral in nature. This is a Beychevelle that is eager to please. The palate is medium-bodied, a little austere, well balanced with good acidity. Clean fresh blackberry and boysenberry, nice poise towards the finish. This Beychevelle is suffused with class and femininity. Tasted September 2009."*
- NM, Wine Journal
- "En primeur barrel sample. A blend of 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 47% Merlot and 5% Cabernet Franc, this Beychevelle has a very tobacco dominated nose, the fruit just a little suppressed at the moment. Very tight, rather introverted. The palate is better, ripe entry, a little sharpness, blackberry, nice vanillary oak and grainy texture towards the finish with decent weight. Hopefully the bouquet will meliorate during elevage. Tasted April 2009."*
- NM, Wine Journal
- "A big, spicy wine packed with new wood as well as ripe, soft fruit. It's smooth, polished and balanced. Fine tannins add to the structure."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "Red-ruby. Perfumed aromas of redcurrant, licorice, chocolate, flowers and baking spices. Classic taut claret, showing insidious intensity without weight. Juicy, nicely delineated flavors of redcurrant, black cherry, pepper and herbs. Finishes vibrant and persistent, with ripe, dusty tannins and a lingering note of redcurrant."*
- ST, International Wine Cellar
- "Sweet and fragrant and transparent with lots of polish and ripe tannins almost submerged in crunchy black fruit flavours. Sufficient acidity. An appetising package. Dry finish. Good integrity. Appetising."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Fragrant with cedary spice. Silky texture, elegant, red-fruited and already showing finesse. Drink 2013-2025"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Quite aromatic. Very neat. Lovely sweetness on the front and a perfume. Great balance. Fine tannins. Fresh without being tart. Very well put together even if not the most extreme 2008."*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Dark and rather smoky nose, a honeyed oak quality, a good depth of fruit, dark and even a little brooding despite the evident polish to it. The quality comes through on the palate too though, where there are dark berries in abundance along with a firm layer of sooty tannin. Good substance but with a rather loose-knit composition although this will come together with time. Firm and tannic finish."*
- CK, The Wine Doctor
- "A lovely nose, aromatic and fresh, and just a little toasty. Fresh on the palate too, with a fine, cool, purity of fruit. Stylish, minerally and textured, with fairly dense but crisp fruit, all well balanced. Gently supple, with lovely underlying structure. A real success here. From my 2008 Bordeaux primeur assessment. 17-18+/20"*
- CK, The Wine Doctor
- "Ruby-violet, elegant, rather discreet blackcurrant nose, quite supple, quite forward fruit, lacks a little structure and depth. Drink 2014-20. (15.5 points)"*
- Decanter.com

Reviews *“Very intensely coloured, more so than many. This has a charmingly smooth, understated but complex nose. Good acidity that underpins things. It takes a moment for the fruit to kick in, which is a bit disconcerting, but it is there. Good butterscotch and mocha. And very nice finish, which tapers off elegantly but is still there for a good long while with these sweet butterscotch flavours.”*

- JA, *The New Bordeaux*

“Old school in style, the wine combines cassis, cranberry and earthy flavors. The finish has a hint of tart and green flavors along with the bright cassis sensation. Fans of old school Bordeaux wine will like this much more than I did.”

- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*
