

Château Beychevelle 1989

CSPC# 742335

750mlx12

12.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 2% Petit Verdot
Appellation Saint Julien
General Info

Bishop François de Foix-Candale commissioned the first Château building in 1565. This passed to his niece and heir, spouse of Jean-Louis de Nogaret de la Valette, First Duc d'Epéron, favourite of King Henri III, Grand Admiral of France, and later successively governor of Provence and Guyenne. It was this man who was responsible for the name Beychevelle: ships sailing past his residence had to lower their flags (Beychevelle is an archaic spelling of Baisse Voile, which means, literally, 'Lower Your Sails') in homage of the all-powerful Duc d'Epéron. The start of the nineteenth century saw the property in decline, but then Bordeaux wine merchant Pierre-François Guestier, brought Château Beychevelle back to its splendor by winning a gold medal in 1866. His successor, Armand Heine, cousin of German poet Heinrich Heine, had the north wing of the castle built. He also replanted the vineyard after the phylloxera disaster. His wife, Marie-Amélie Kohn then re-established this vineyard.

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.

There is a second wine, Admiral de Beychevelle. The estate also owns vines in the Haut Medoc appellation which are produced and sold under name of Les Brulieres de Beychevelle.

Vintage An exceptional year with a harvest that exceeded all performance records. Of near-perfect conditions, combined with extremely early harvest (seconds after those of 1893) contributed to the development of mature wines, a perfect concentration, with velvety tannins. Powerful and highly alcoholic, most of these wines have a great aging potential.

Harvest September 24 – October 7, 1998

Vineyards The Chateau Beychevelle, St. Julien vineyard cover 77 hectares. The terroir consists of deep, gravel-based soils. The vineyard is planted to 62% Cabernet Sauvignon, 31% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc and 2% Petit Verdot. The vine density of 10,000 vines per hectare. On average, the vines are close to 25 years of age.

Maturation The wine of Chateau Beychevelle is vinified in a combination of temperature controlled, stainless steel and concrete vats. Malolactic fermentation takes place in tank. The wine of Chateau Beychevelle is aged in an average of 50% new, French oak barrels for about 18 months.

Tasting Notes Classic aromas of cassis, leather, cedar, and pencil shavings. As the evening wore on, sour cherries, coffee grinds, and autumn leaves emerged. Rich yet elegant on the palate with a long persistent finish. A complex and beautiful wine. Suckling got this one right.

Production 25,000 cases made

Cellaring Drink 1997-2013

Scores/Awards **93 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2010
93 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - May 31, 1999
95 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - May 15, 1992
89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #109 - February 1997
91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #85 - February 1993
91 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #80 - April 1992
86 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - September 2008



Scores/Awards **88-89 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2000
18 points - Chris Kissack, The Wine Doctor - January 2002
18 points - Decanter.com - December 1995
89 points - Jean Marc Quarin - no review
88 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - February 27, 2006

Reviews *"There is so much tobacco and red fruit on the nose of this wine. Exotic and decadent. Full-bodied, with a sleek and racy tannin structure and fresh acidity. Refreshing and clean, yet mature and wild. Still one of the big surprises of the vintage. —'89/'99 Bordeaux blind retrospective (2009). Drink now. 25,000 cases made.*
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Slightly rustic but featuring loads of chocolate and berry and hints of flowers. Full-bodied, with minty, floral and cherry flavors and a velvety texture. Loads of mouth puckering tannins. Needs time. Blockbuster for Beychevelle. --1989 Bordeaux horizontal. Best after 2008."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"One of the best ever produced from this estate. Intense ripe cherry aromas and flavors come through in this St.-Julien that's big and alcoholic, with full silky tannins. Built more like Port than wine. Best after 1998. 25,000 cases made."
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Both the 1989 and 1990 wines scored slightly lower than in previous tastings. In contrast to the 1990, the 1989 Beychevelle, which usually performs better than it did in the recent tasting, is an elegant, medium-bodied wine with soft tannin, copious quantities of ripe, herb-tinged, blackcurrant fruit, some evidence of toasty oak, and a generous, velvety-textured finish. It appears to be evolving quickly and can be drunk now as well as over the next 15 years."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"In 1989 Beychevelle produced a compellingly elegant wine that rivals their 1986 and 1982, the two other superstars made at this beautiful estate during the decade of the eighties. An exquisite bouquet of super-ripe fruit, vanillin, flowers, and licorice is followed by a delicious array of flavors that swell and expand on the palate. Rich and concentrated, yet also suave and graceful, the 1989 Beychevelle is extremely long, with a hefty dosage of high but soft tannins. Anticipated maturity: Now- 2008."
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"In 1989, Beychevelle produced a compellingly elegant wine that rivals their 1986 and 1982, the two other superstars made at this beautiful estate during the decade of the eighties. An exquisite bouquet of super-ripe fruit, vanillin, flowers, and licorice is followed by a delicious array of flavors that swell and expand on the palate. Rich and concentrated, yet also suave and graceful, the 1989 Beychevelle is extremely long, with a hefty dosage of high but soft tannins. This wine takes the prize as the most hedonistic 1989 St.-Julien. Anticipated maturity: 1993-2008. Tasted seven times. Consistent notes"
- NM, Wine Journal

"This has a strange nose, one that I thought was corked at first with an evolved nose of mulberry, mushroom, burnt match that has a touch of volatility. The palate is medium-bodied, earthy, cigar box, dried herbs with a touch of spice on the finish. Lacking a little length – rather funky. Perhaps not a representative bottle. Tasted May 2008."
- NM, Wine Journal

"Quite farm yardy on the nose which lacks a little intensity. Good balance on the palate - this is maturing quickly. Good acidity but "soft" tannins with herbaceous, black fruits. Lacks the richness I associate with 1989's. Drink soon(ish). Definitely one of the better wines from this estate though not a great 1989. Tasted November 2000."
- NM, Wine Journal

Reviews *"This has a classic nose, full and rich, still with plenty of fruit. An elegant structure is evident on the palate, which has fine tannins and well-balanced acidity. Impressive amount of fruit keeping this wine going. Absolutely lovely. From a Bordeaux 1989 horizontal tasting. 18/20 (January 2002)"*
- CK, *The Wine Doctor*

"Lovely black cherry red colour with some ageing visible. Outstanding nose of ripe fruit and new wood, though still very young. Good, chewy, and well-balanced on the palate, with lots of fruit. Great length and an excellent aftertaste."
- *Decanter.com*

"Dirty cherries, earth and wood. This was a one-dimensional, boring wine"
- JL, *thewinecellarinsider.com*
