

Château Beychevelle 2018

CSPC# 886856

6x750ml

13.45% alc./vol.

Grape Variety	50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 41% Merlot, 6% Cabernet Franc, 3% Petit Verdot.
Appellation	Saint Julien
Classification	Fourth Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
Website	https://beychevelle.com/?lang=en
Sustainability	Sustainable practices - not certified. IS14001 certified. Starting in 2008, Chateau Beychevelle began moving closer to organic farming techniques. Today more than 35% of the vineyard is farmed organically. Progress is always slow and steady in Bordeaux, especially in the Medoc.
General Info	Château Beychevelle 2016, 4th cru classé is a red wine from Château Beychevelle in Saint-Julien, which is located at the extreme south-east of the appellation in Gironde. In 1970, Aymar Achille-Fould took over Chateau Beychevelle. In 1984, Achille-Fould took on a partner for the first time, the GMF group. In 1988 the GMF group partnered with the Japanese Suntory company, who were already familiar with Bordeaux, as they owned the neighboring estate, Chateau Lagrange. Philippe Blanc was brought as the managing director in 1995. In February 2011, Chateau Beychevelle took on new owners when Suntory along with Pierre Castel, the head of the massive company Castel Freres, purchased the estate. Aside from Chateau Beychevelle, the partnership counts the well-known Bordeaux negociant companies Barriere Freres and Oenoalliance, numerous branded wines and Chateau Beaumont in the Haut Medoc appellation as part of their holdings. They also maintain investments in Burgundy, Africa and in China with Changyu-Castel. The 2016 vintage had the honour of inaugurating Château Beychevelle's new winery facilities. The results exceeded our expectations! Thanks to this cutting-edge equipment, the vintage reveals the full potential of Château Beychevelle's exceptional terroir. The new winery has been customized to the vineyard, with every vine having a place in a plot-by-plot vinification process that enables each terroir to express all of its complexity and depth. More spacious, and with an improved layout, our new technical facilities also enable a gentle transfer of the grapes by gravity, very precise temperature control, and extractions adjusted to the characteristics of each vat. Combining innovation and tradition, Château Beychevelle demonstrates its "haute-couture" expertise.
Winemaker	Romain Ducolomb.
Vintage	The cold and particularly rainy winter of 2018 allowed precious groundwater reserves to be replenished for the rest of the season. The mild, wet spring was good for the vines' growth but also...for mildew. The vines had to be monitored particularly carefully to avoid substantial losses. Exceptionally, there were four dry, sunny months until the harvests. Not suffering from the dry weather, due to the rain accumulated during the first part of the season, and with cool nights and warm days, the vines benefited from optimal conditions for the production of fresh, concentrated grapes.
Vineyards	The 90-hectare Left Bank vineyard of Chateau Beychevelle is planted to 54% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot, 4% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. However, it is the goal of the estate to slowly replace a portion of their old Merlot vines over time with more Cabernet Sauvignon. The vines are planted to a density that ranges from 8,300 to 10,000 vines per hectare. Newer plantings are at the higher levels of vine density. On average, the vines are over 30 years of age.
Harvest	Weather conditions during the harvests were ideal. Each plot was picked at optimal ripeness and vinified individually in our new vat room that is perfectly suited to plot-by-plot vinification. The blend embraces the four classic grape varieties of the Bordeaux region, in proportions that uphold Château Beychevelle's elegant style. From 21 September to 16 October. Yield 55 hl/ha.
Maturation	The wine was aged for 18 months in French oak barrels (60% new), producing an unctuous profile with silky tannins and intense dark fruit notes.



Tasting Notes	Beychevelle 2018 can be characterized by two words: Harmony and Concentration. This vintage presents a balance rarely achieved at this stage. A bouquet of well-ripened red and black fruit invites us to sample the intense, harmonious palate. Very silky tannins accompanied by fruit bursting with freshness and concentration. 2018 will join the list of Château Beychevelle's truly exceptional vintages.
Winemaker's Notes	This wine is defined by its balance and concentration, with a nose combining perfectly ripe red and black fruits. On the palate, the very silky tannins support a radiantly fresh and dense fruitiness. Château Beychevelle 2018 joins the ranks of the estate's greatest vintages.
Serve with	Chateau Beychevelle is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, stewed, and grilled dishes.
Production	10,000 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink now-2038
Scores/Awards	95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2021 94-97 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2019 95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2021 94-96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019 94-96 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent - July 2022 94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - January 2021 93-94 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019 94 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2021 94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 2019 16 points - James Lawther, JancisRobinson.com - February 2022 16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019 93 points - Decanter.com - May 2021 94 points - Jane Anson, janeanson.com - May 2024 96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2021 96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2019 91+ points - Thomas Parker, Farr Vintners - April 2019 18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes - April 2019 94 points - Jean Marc Quarin - February 2021 95 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - February 2021 16 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - September 2021
