

Château Joanin Bécot 2019

CSPC# 866102

750mlx12

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

75% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux

Website

<http://www.beausejour-becot.com/>

General Info

With a great location in the town of Saint-Philippe d'Aiguilhe, Chateau Joanin Bécot is one of the most beautiful references of the Castillon Cotes de Bordeaux appellation, on the right bank of Bordeaux.

After the 2000 vintage, Juliette Bécot and her father Gérard Bécot wanted to join forces to acquire a new family property. A new challenge for Gérard, and for his daughter Juliette, who is taking her first steps in this magical and fascinating profession. Days and seasons follow each other but are never alike. It was while looking in the neighboring Appellations of Saint-Emilion, a property offering great potential for the quality of its wines and its terroirs, that they discovered Château Joanin in Saint-Philippe-d'Aiguilhe. With the desire to personalize this vineyard, they wanted to add their family name to it. Thus, they gave life to this vintage, giving it a first name and a family name: "Joanin Bécot".

Chateau Joanin Bécot was purchased by the Bécot family in February 2001, who was already well-known for owning Chateau Beau-Sejour Bécot in St Emilion. According to Juliette Bécot, they chose this Bordeaux wine property because of the unique terroir. Joanin Bécot is located at some of the highest elevations along the Gironde in the Cotes de Castillon.

Shortly after purchasing the estate, the family added their name to the property as well. In 2001 at the time of the purchase, Joanin Bécot was 5.4 hectares. With additional purchases, they increased the size of their vineyards to 12 hectares. Juliette Bécot, the owner and winemaker of Joanin Bécot says, her philosophy is to consider her vineyard like a beautiful garden that takes work during the summer. She treats her grapes carefully, just like refined roses.

Starting with the 2010 Bordeaux vintage, Joanin Bécot sported a new label to accompany the famous pink capsule.

Winemakers

Jean-Philippe Fort is the consulting winemaker

Vintage

In 2019, early budding was followed by a sporadically wet and cool April, May and June. This meant uneven flowering in early June, but from mid-June onwards the weather turned dry and hot, leading to successful fruit set.

July was mainly dry but with some storms. This meant the gravel terraces of the Médoc and limestone soils in general had no problems getting the right kind of hydric stress, but more water-logged soils found it tougher.

August and September were hot and dry, so ripening and harvest were successful, except for certain cases of extreme water stress on the driest soils, which saw some bunches shrivel in early September.

June right through to October saw higher temperatures than average.

Rain from 20 September onwards allowed the Merlots to ripen, often with high alcohol, and Cabernet did particularly well because the rains meant their ripening could go on for longer, lowering alcohols and allowing for more 'normal' development after the hot weather.

Vineyards

The 15-hectare Cotes de Bordeaux vineyard of Joanin Bécot is planted to 80% Merlot and 20% Cabernet Franc. This shows a change in the vineyard with more Cabernet Franc plantings. The vineyard has also increased in size after the purchase of 2 additional hectares of vines, which include a parcel of old vine Cabernet Franc that dates back to 1870. Chateau Joanin Bécot has a terroir of clay and limestone soils.

The vineyard is planted to a vine density that ranges from 5,200 vines per hectare to 6,250 plants per hectare. The higher levels of vine density are found with all the newer plantings.

Harvest

Harvest from September 24 to October 7



Vinification/ Maturation	<p>In 2002 at Joanin Bécot they installed new cellars for the vinification. The fermentation takes place in the upstairs portion of their cellar. The cellars for the barrel aging are on the lower level, which allows the wine to move by gravity.</p> <p>The family ordered custom-made tanks for their Right Bank estate. These appear to resemble large pans, with a conical shape. This allows for extensive manual cap punching here.</p> <p>Malolactic fermentation takes place in vat. When the alcoholic fermentation is finished, the wine is run off by gravity into a combination of 45% new, French oak barrels, foudres and the remaining portion is aged in amphora.</p> <p>This is obviously a very labor-intensive project for any winery and more labor-intensive than many other wines in Cotes de Castillon. But the quality of the wine found in Joanin Bécot is where those efforts pay off.</p> <p>Vinification in tanks. 35 days fermentation. Malolactic fermentation in tanks. Blended in January 2020. Aging in new French oak barrels (50%), barrels of one previous wine (10%), in vats (25%) and in amphoras (15%).</p>
Tasting Notes	<p>Smooth and velvety with sultry aromas of dark chocolate and baked plums. Elegant style with dried herbs and balance in the long finish.</p>
Serve with	<p>Best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Chateau Joanin Bécot is best paired with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Joanin Bécot is also good with grilled red meats. Hard cheeses such as Old Comté. Dark chocolate-based desserts.</p>
Production	<p>Approximately 49,000 bottles made</p>
Cellaring	<p>Drink now - 2029</p>
Scores/Awards	<p>91 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2022</p> <p>91 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2022</p> <p>92 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - June 2020</p> <p>92 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2022</p> <p>94 points - Vert de Vin - April 2020</p> <p>90-92 points - Yves Beck (score only) - June 2020</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"Juicy and direct, featuring a mix of black cherry and red currant fruit that stretches out nicely, with singed alder and tobacco notes and a subtle chalky thread that guides the flavors through the finish. Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Drink now through 2029."</i> - JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"A perfumed nose of cherries, currants, plums, violets, clay, and baking spices. Medium-bodied with fine tannins. Fruity and balanced with a fresh, supple finish. 75% merlot and 25% cabernet franc. Drink from 2023."</i> - JS, JamesSuckling.com</p> <p><i>"Evident freshness from the first moment, plenty of body to the savoury red fruits. Everything is in balance, and you get both juice, deepening gourmet touches of chocolate shavings and salinity as it builds to the finish. Great stuff, and low SO2 additions."</i> - JA, Decanter.com</p> <p><i>"The nose opens with flowers, espresso, cocoa, licorice, and plums. The wine is soft, silky, fresh, and polished on the palate allowing all of its sweet, ripe, black raspberries, plums, cherries coffee and licorice to shine through. The wine was made from a blend of 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Franc. Drink from 2023-2034."</i> - JL, thewinecellarinsider.com</p> <p><i>"The nose is fine, elegant and offers racy power, intensity, small power as well as a feeling of tension. It reveals notes of bright cassis, small black berries and small notes of cornflowers associated with touches of bright blue plum, bright cherry / morello cherry as well as fine hints of violet, camphor, zan and a very discreet hint of sweet spices. The palate is elegant, gourmand, beautifully defined, elegant and offers precision, a beautiful finesse of the suavity, a beautiful finesse of the grain, a fine tension as well as delicacy. On the palate this wine expresses notes of bright blackberry, bright cassis and small notes of small blue berries associated with very discreet hints of blond tobacco and sweet / toasted spices. Tannins are elegant, racy, and structuring. Good length"</i> - Vert de Vin</p>
