

Château Beau-Séjour Bécot 2015

CSPC# 847776

750mlx12

15.0% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

80% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon

Appellation

Saint Emilion

Classification

Premier Grand Cru Classe B in 2006.

Website

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

General Info

Situated on the St Martin de Mazerat plateau, immediately to the west of the old town, Beau-Séjour Bécot lies in the very heart of Saint-Emilion.

This historic vineyards of Chateau Beau-Sejour Bécot have a long and interesting history. Beau-Sejour Bécot began life as an estate owned by the monks of St. Martin Abbey in St. Emilion. The monks managed the Bordeaux vineyards at what later become Chateau Canon. They also watched over the vines that were used to eventually create Beau-Sejour Bécot.

Beau-Sejour Bécot found its name in 1787 with the help and idea of a member from the Figeac family. General Jacques de Carles, who was part of the Figeac family said the estate should be called Beau-Sejour Bécot. The name stuck! Skipping ahead over 100 years, Pierre-Paulin Ducarpe split the Beau-Sejour Bécot vineyards between his two children, giving the chateau, plus other structures along with half his vineyards to his daughter. After she married, she took her husband's name, Duffau-Lagarosse. That marriage gave birth to what we now know of as Chateau Beausejour-Duffau-Lagarosse.

In 1924, Chateau Beau-Sejour became the property of Doctor Jean Fagouet. Michel Bécot, whose family lived in St. Emilion since 1760 owned Château La Carte since 1929. In 1969, the Bécot's purchased Beau-Sejour, renaming it Beau-Sejour Bécot.

In 1979, the Bécot family enlarged Beau-Sejour Bécot with the purchase of 11 acres of Bordeaux vineyards on the Trois Moulins plateau. Since 1985, the property has been managed by his sons, Gérard and Dominique. Gerard's daughter, Juliette Bécot is involved in running Beau-Sejour Bécot, as well as the family's other properties in St. Emilion and Cotes de Castillon.

Michel Bécot retired in 1985, turning over the management of the chateau to his two sons Gérard and Domonic. Juliette rejoined them in 2001.

Winemakers

Thomas Duclot consultant.

Vintage

2015 St. Emilion has it all going on. Frankly, I could sum this article up rather quickly by just saying, "2015 Saint Emilion Rocks!"

Across the board, 2015 St. Emilion was lucky. Vineyards in the cool clay soils that harvested late made stunning wines. But so did the estates on the limestone plateau, in the gravel soils and properties on the more sandy terroir were also quite successful. That does not mean buyers do not need to be choosy. Some estates pushed the pedal to the metal a bit too far. There are overly extracted wines, and wines that are aging in too much new oak. But generally speaking, the level of quality here is homogenous. 2015 St. Emilion is the product of a hot, dry summer, with drought conditions. April was hot. June was hotter. July was scorching, and the lack of water exacerbated those conditions. What made this unique was that this level of heat is usually experienced later in the growing season. That was not the case with 2015. Fortunately, the rains in August arrived in the nick of time, providing enough nourishment to allow the growth cycle to continue.

Vineyards

Situation: on the western plateau of Saint-Emilion, in the old parish of Saint-Martin de Mazerat. Surface area: 16,52 ha. Whole estate: 18,50 ha.

Soil: chalk with fossilised starfish. Grape varieties: 70% Merlot, 24% Cabernet franc, 6% Cabernet sauvignon.

Planting density: 6,600 vines per hectare.

Average age of vines: 40 years.

Harvest

Harvest: by hand. Yields: controlled to between 30 and 38 hl per hectare. Harvested between 5-17 October.



Vinification/ Maturation	To vinify the wine of Chateau Beau-Sejour Becot, the grapes are table sorted three times. A portion of the grapes are whole berry fermented. Vinification takes place in stainless steel tanks ranging in size from 80 to 100 hectoliters following a 4-day cold maceration. Microbullage is performed during fermentation. Malolactic fermentation takes place in barrel with the first four months spent on the post-malo lees. The wine of Chateau Beau-Sejour Bécot is aged in 85% new and 15% one-year-old French oak for 17 months.
Tasting Notes	Deep ruby red in colour. It has beautiful aromas of red fruits, oak, spices, leather, liquorice, and herbs. The palate is rich, full bodied, and concentrated with firm tannins and high acidity. It is a complex wine, with a structured long finish
Serve with	Chateau Beau-Sejour Bécot is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Beau-Sejour Bécot is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese.
Production	6,250 cases made.
Cellaring	Drink 2020-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 2018</p> <p>92-95 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2016</p> <p>#55 - Wine Spectator Top 100 of 2018</p> <p>95 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018</p> <p>93-95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018</p> <p>96 points/Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - January 2018</p> <p>16 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - October 2017</p> <p>16+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016</p> <p>16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - November 2017</p> <p>94 points - James Lawther, Decanter.com - April 2016</p> <p>96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2018</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016</p> <p>93 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016</p> <p>89-92 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016</p> <p>95 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018</p> <p>94 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - November 2017</p> <p>18+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016</p> <p>91 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - January 2018</p> <p>93 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - May 2016</p> <p>92-94 points - Peter Moser, Falstaff Magazine - May 2016</p> <p>18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2020</p> <p>17 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2017</p> <p>15.5 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2018</p>
Reviews	<p><i>"This brims with ripe, juicy plum, blackberry and açai berry flavors, studded with licorice and fruitcake notes and backed by a wonderfully integrated apple wood detail through the finish. Pumps a lot of fruit out but does so energetically. Best from 2020 through 2035."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"This offers the ripe, layered boysenberry and raspberry fruit and velvety tannins of the vintage, with an extra dimension thanks to a racy mineral edge. Judicious toast lets the finish shine."</i></p> <p>- JM, Wine Spectator</p> <p><i>"The 2015 Beau-Sejour Bécot is composed of 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon aged in 85% new and 15% one-year-old French oak for 17 months. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the nose opens with blackberries, black cherries and crushed black plums with touches of spice box, lavender, and cedar. Medium to full-bodied, it's rich, velvety, and decadent in the mouth with a firm backbone and long, spicy finish. Yum!"</i></p> <p>- LPB, Wine Advocate</p> <p><i>"It has a seductive and sensual bouquet with dark berries, blackberry, and a subtle marine influence - kelp, perhaps brine. The palate is very smooth, satin-like tannin accompanied by a fresh line of acidity. Harmonious, almost sultry in style and yet there is plenty of freshness on the caressing finish. What a gorgeous Beausejour Bécot. To quote 1980s chanteuse Sade - this is a 'smooth operator.'"</i></p> <p>- NM, Wine Advocate</p>

Reviews *“Very perfumed with crushed berries and blackberries. Wet earth and great intensity. Decadent. Full-bodied, layered and very velvety and intense. Extremely long and intense. A sexy and opulent wine yet poised and tight. One of best ever. Needs at least three to five years bottle age.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

“This family-owned property at one of the high points in Saint-Émilion has made a rich, opulent wine, full of perfumed Cabernet Franc and generous Merlot. Ripe blackberries and dark plums are permeated with some serious tannins for aging. Drink this powerful wine from 2025.”

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

“Mid crimson. Finely ripe dark fruit, damson and dark plum but not at all raisined. Milk chocolate softness in texture, just enough freshness. Not very long but very approachable if not yet revealing its character.”

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

“Very deep crimson. Edgy and charred. A bit too exaggerated. Hard work! Shades of the 1990s...Drink 2025-2038.”

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- JH, JancisRobinson.com

“Deep and reserved on the nose but a fragrant palate. Powerful but refined tannic base. Beautiful smooth texture with the freshness from the limestone terroir. Persistent finish.”

- JL, Decanter.com

“Clearly the best ever produced at Beau-Sejour Bécot. You know it from the moment you place your nose in the wealth of flowers, licorice, smoke, black and red plums, dark cherry, espresso, and forest aromatics. Once the wine hits your palate, the wine really takes off with its sensuous textures, silky tannins and long, concentrated layer of perfectly ripe, sweet, fresh fruits. As the wine remains on your palate, the flavors expand, and the sensation of crushed stone makes its presence known as well.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Spice, licorice, smoke, flowers, and fresh plums create the nose. On the palate, the wine is a long, deep, silky, sexy, and sensuous, French kiss. There is an alluring finesse in the tannins and a strong sense of purity in the fruit that is seldom seen. There is no sensation of heat in the wine, even though the alcohol is the highest ever recorded at the estate. This wine was made from a blend of 80% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, reaching 15% alcohol with a pH of 3.6 and aging in 70% new, French oak barrels. The harvest took place from October 2 to October 15. There might not be a second wine produced this year as the Bécot family is very happy with the harvest and the small amount of wine designated for the second wine is probably too small to bottle separately.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“This tastes less alcoholic than it is, partly because of the presence of Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, but also because of the talent of winemaker, Juliette Bécot and the high percentage of limestone in the vineyard. Rich, plush and textured, this has lovely tannins, plenty of dark, bramble fruit and scented, coffee bean oak. Drink: 2024-32.”

- TA, timatkin.com

“Sweet fruit the nose has depth the palate ripe fruit quite rich in the middle. There is a balancing freshness lighter at the back with sweet fruit coming through on the finish. 2022-35.”

- Derek Smedley MW

Reviews

“Just as impressive from bottle as it was from barrel, the Beau-Séjour-Bécot is superb. Expressive plum, grilled herb, lavender, and spice flesh out in the glass. Voluptuous and racy, with no hard edges, the 2015 has much to offer. This is in an especially dense, explosive style, and yet all the elements are wonderfully fused together. I would give the 2015 a few years in bottle to start showing at its best.”

- AG, Vinous

“The 2015 Beau- Séjour-Bécot is a sensational powerhouse of a Saint-Emilion that does everything right. Mostly Merlot, with 20% Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon, it’s a ripe, voluptuous effort loaded with notions of cassis, ripe plum, and black cherry fruit intermixed with incense, spring flowers, and damp earth. It has enough tannin to warrant short-term cellaring, but it’s still undeniably delicious today. It will drink nicely for two decades. This cuvee comes from 19.5-hectare vineyard sitting on the upper, limestone dominated plateau, from vines averaging 40 years in age, was harvest between October 5th to the 9th and was aged 17 months in 85% new French oak. 2018 – 2038.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The lovely nose, smothered in oak, still manages to look ravishing and this is very exciting. The fruit is dense and briary with dark chocolate and throughout the experience it never lapses into parody or becomes too theatrical. I am very confident that this will open out into a great wine one day and it will retain its detail and depth.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

“Deep dark ruby garnet, opaque core, violet reflections, delicate lightening of the edges, attractive black berry fruit, nuances of heart cherries, but cassis and liquorice, fine nuances of precious wood. Complex, powerful, black forest berry aromas, present tannins, chocolatey finish, good length, a spicy meal accompaniment.”

- PM, Falstaff
