

■ Château Bélair-Monange 2023 - Press Review

*Premier Grand Cru Classé
Saint-Émilion Grand Cru*

tastingbook
Your Personal Wine Professional

98-100 pts - *Christer Byklum*

« Blackberries, anise, dark fruits, spices, liquorice, fruit forward nose, detailed, scented and lifted. Fresh acidity, ripe tannins, detailed liquorice, detailed minerals, nuanced, redined, stunning fruit and energy, logn finish. Such precision. »

tastingbook
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97 pts - *Markus Del Monego*

« Dark purple colour with violet hue and almost black core. Aromatic nose with ripe fruit, blackberries, red cherries, raspberries and hints of mulberries, refined spices quoting nutmeg, cardamom and vanilla, fine toasting and subtle oak. On the palate elegant with great persistence, excellent length, multi-layered finish, showing a very promising potential.»

tastingbook
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97 pts - *Peter Moiser*

« Dark garnet, pruple reflections. Delicate herbal savouriness, ripe cherries, hint of liquorice, a touch of vanilla and orange zest, inviting bouquet. Complex, juicy, highly elegant, fine fruit expression, very finely structured with ripe, supporting tannins, long -lasting, a balanced wine full of freshness and length, certain ageing potential; an unobtrusive wine for the table. »

Decanter

98 pts - *Georgina Hindle*

« A fabulous showing for Bélair this year. Great aromatics, subtle not shouting, not too ripe, definitely more cool and fresh. Smooth and supple, a gorgeous weight and balance in the mouth. Crisp and fresh but creamy and fleshy too. Delicious, minty, racy and chiselled, lots of power but so well balanced, charming and sophisticated. Still lots of mint and tension on the finish with orange, bitter grapefruit, slate and graphite but wow this is amazing. The tannins are perfection, the juicy strawberry, cherry core together with a filling overall weight and texture and long length is excellent. Great stuff and really focussed on drinkability. You could drink this today but equally it will age very well. Fun and friendly, controlled and stylish. Lots of oak but this will settle after ageing »

JAMES SUCKLING

97 - 98 pts - *James Suckling*

« There's finesse and beauty to this, with blackberry, dark-chocolate, bark, mushroom and forest-floor character. But it's all class. Caresses your palate. Medium- to full-bodied and very long. Persistent and sophisticated. This shows the true character of the diverse vineyards of this estate. »

Terre de Vins

97 - 98 pts - *Terre de Vins*

« Une énergie fuselée se profile, un fruit propulsé par une indéniable minéralité. Touche de pierre chaude, de pin maritime, de pivoine, densité nappante mais tonique. La bouche est élancée, la chair s'avère à la fois suave, tendue, digeste, irisée de tanins crayeux. L'arête acide est d'une grande distinction, elle allonge le vin et l'ancre dans son terroir majuscule, entre plateau et coteaux. Beaucoup d'éclat, une grande élégance, du caractère, le tout signé par une finale sanguine, très calcaire : c'est un grand 2023, aidé par son nouveau chai qui trône tel une cathédrale au sommet de Saint-Emilion. »

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JANE ANSON
INSIDE BORDEAUX



JEAN-MARC  QUARIN

96 - 98+ pts - Colin Hay

« Brilliant. After tasting Annonce, with a very similar fruit signature, one is especially struck by the florality of the grand vin and grand it is. Radiant peonies, crushed pink rose petals, a little violet just lovely. So fine, so pure, so measured, so elegant and poised. Silk interwoven with cashmere and with such fine pixilation. Dark cherries and plump loganberries and mulberries. Graphite and an early trace of the cedar that will coarse through this as it ages in bottle. Crushed petals and assorted parfumeurs' essences are picked up, again, on the palate. Such a subtle and elegant wine, full of refinement rare in the vintage. A wonderful natural balance and harmony. The best of the Moueix wines and very much now at the pinnacle of the appellation. A sublime combination of salinity and sapidity on the finish. What grace in depth. »

96 - 98 pts - Lisa Perrotti-Brown

« The 2023 Belair-Monange, 100% Merlot, is medium to deep garnet-purple in color. It needs a few moments of patient swirling to allow delicate notes of warm black cherries, plum preserves, and raspberry coulis to emerge, followed by alluring hints of iris, cinnamon stick, and mossy tree bark. The medium to full-bodied palate is taut with tightly wound red and black berry layers, framed by fine-grained tannins and seamless freshness, finishing on a lingering fragrant earth note. This is breathtakingly gorgeous! »

97 pts - Jane Anson

« Makes you sit up and pay attention from the first moment, full of depth and power but delivered with a caress. The slate and pumice stone texture of a vineyard on the limestone plateau is in full effect, with a saline juiciness to the bilberry and black cherry fruit, shot through with white truffle and mandarin peel. Has zip and crunch, and a ton of pleasure. 50% new oak, 55% of overall production. First vintage made with the stunning new cellars designed by Herzog and de Meuron fully open and functional, although 2nd one vinified in them. »

96 - 97 pts - Alexandre Ma

« Compared to warmer vintages, I have a particular fondness for the 2023 Château Belair-Monange. Its lower alcohol content allows its crisp sweetness and elegant character to shine through, reflecting the distinct traits of its limestone plateau as a polished mirror. The 2023 vintage delicately unfolds its fruitiness—raspberry, strawberry, and Yumberry aromas whisper like angels, subtly tinged with sweetness. Rose petals garnish the silky body, enveloping it in a sheer, blush-toned veil. The slight saltiness of the limestone tannin powder epitomizes refinement, making me eagerly anticipate its poised and stable maturity over time. »

97 pts - Jean-Marc Quarin

« Couleur noire et intense. Nez très aromatique, fin, pur, au fruité mûr. Fond de truffe, de fruits noirs et de crème. Complexe. Immédiatement gras en entrée de bouche et de suite très savoureux, le vin évolue juteux, sur un corps fondant avec beaucoup de profondeur dans la saveur. Energique, il se développe droit, sans jamais perdre son gras. Ensemble délicat, puissant et noble. C'est difficile à cracher. »

vinous

Antonio Galloni
vinous



bettane+desseauve

JEB DUNNUCK

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

95-97 pts - Neal Martin

« The 2023 Bélair-Monange was picked September 11 to 29 at around 45hL/ha. It has a very intense, very well-defined bouquet: black cherries, mulberry and light iodine mixed with estuarine scents-scintillas as kelp and oyster shell in the background. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins, very fresh and animated. Focused and mineral-driven, the 2023 has one of the most refined finishes that you'll find on the Right Bank this year. This is a very strong follow-up to the 2022 and it may even surpass it, though this is cut from a very different cloth insofar that it is unapologetically more classic in style. »

94-96 pts - Antonio Galloni

« The 2023 Bélair-Monange is terrific. I find it much more reserved than in most recent years, in a very good way. Bright acids and beams of tannin shape this super-classic Saint-Emilion. It's a style I like very much. Hints of dark-toned fruit, leather, dried herbs and spice build into the potent, layered finish. This is impeccably done. It will be interesting to see what Edouard Moueix coaxes from Bélair-Monange now that he has a brand-new cellar. Will the wines be extroverted, as they were in the early going, or more reserved, like the 2023. »

95-97 pts - Figaro Vins

« Profonds et scintillants sous les narines, les parfums de pétales de fleurs et de chocolat noir titillent le nez. La bouche est d'une générosité infinie, superposant les arômes de fruits, de fleurs (pivoines, tubéreuses), et de fève de cacao. Des tanins doux comme une langue de chaton caressent le palais. »

95-96 pts - Bettane et Desseauve

« Nez complexe et profond d'iris, de fruits noirs, avec une nuance crayeuse. Le toucher de tannin est crémeux, juteux et fin, avec de l'intensité sans perdre en finesse ni en fraîcheur. Finale magnifique et pleine d'éclat. »

94-97 pts - Jeb Dunnuck

« The Grand Vin 2023 Château Belair-Monange checks in as mostly Merlot sourced from a mix of both the upper limestone plateau and hillside parcels. It's a richer, more powerful Saint-Emilion offering ample red and black fruits as well as some spicy herbs, tobacco, and chocolatey nuances, with ample background minerality. Rich and medium to full-bodied, it has a plush, layered mouthfeel and ripe tannins. It's one of the more concentrated 2023s in the vintage. »

94-96 pts - William Kelley

« The 2023 Belair Monange is the first vintage from this newly created property that incorporates a balance of fruit from the plateau and fruit from the hillsides, as restructured and replanted parcels are returning to production. Wafting from the glass with attractive aromas of raspberries, violets and kirsch mingled with hints of incense, licorice and rose petals, it's medium to full-bodied, fleshy and layered, with a deep and textural core of fruit, lively acids and powdery tannins, retaining a cool, ethereal profile that foregrounds its limestone origins. »