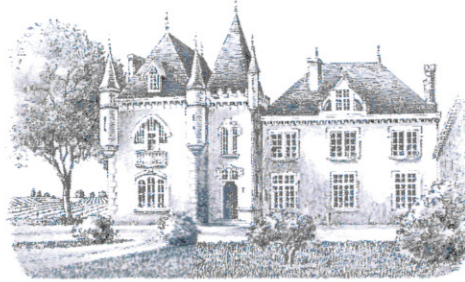


Château Côte de Baleau

- **Surface area:** 14.9 hectares (36.8 acres)
- **Grape composition:** 80% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
- **Soil type:** clay-limestone and sand over clay
- **Average age of the vines:** 32 years



*Château
Côte de Baleau
Saint-Emilion Grand Cru*

GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

2016

Philippe CUVELIER
PROPRIÉTAIRE

- **Bud-break:** 22nd March 2016
- **Mid-flowering point:** 6th June 2016
- **Veraison:** 10th August 2016
- **Dates of harvest:** From 4 to 20th October 2016
- **Blend:** 90% Merlot, 5% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
- **Yield in 2016:** 46 hl/ha
- **Production (estimated):** 60,000 bottles
- **pH:** 3.60 **TA:** 3.80 **Alcoholic degree:** 14.2
- **Ageing:** 12 to 14 months (1/3 new oak barrels, 1/3 second-fill barrels, 1/3 in vat)

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Château Côte de Baleau



2016 vintage

Weather conditions:

The “miracle” vintage...

After a quite mild and dry start to the 2016 winter, it rained at the beginning of January almost every day.

Temperatures remained mild until March (**bud-break on 22nd March**), vine vegetation grew steadily, and the harvest was set to be late and the vine cycle long.

Rain was ever-present, while temperatures remained mild right up to the end of June.

Yet the **flowering process** (which took place **around the 6th June** and over one single “miraculously” sunny week) built up our hopes for a bumper crop.

Vine disease risk (downy mildew) was very high, especially as we had converted to organic growing this year. Then the weather changed radically during the first week of July so that we didn't get a drop of rain until the end of August. Temperatures were high during the day and cool at night. The **veraison was late, only arriving around the 10th August** and was long, drawn-out.

A good downpour helped complete the veraison at the beginning of September (just as the vines were starting to suffer from the conditions), and this was followed by very fine, sunny weather up till the end of the harvest (see the technical data sheet for each growth for the harvest dates)

The Miracle happened, and the result was a **Superb Vintage...**

Tasting comments:

The nose is very expressive, revealing intense, harmonious aromas of morello cherries and blackberries, together with floral and slightly spicy notes. On the palate, the tannic texture is very elegant and well underpinned by excellent freshness which provides the blend with great energy.

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