

# CHÂTEAU BÉLAIR-MONANGE 2019

## SAINT-ÉMILION PREMIER GRAND CRU CLASSÉ

*Château BÉLAIR-Monange has always been ranked at the top of the Premiers Grands Crus Classés of Saint-Émilion and its origins are very old (apparently back to the ancient Gaul).*



### 2019 Vintage Blend:

### Appellation:

### Vineyard size:

### Soil Types:

### Vineyard grape varietals:

### Average vine age:

### Viticulture:

### Harvest:

### Winemaking:

### Aging:

96% Merlot - 4% Cabernet Franc

Saint-Émilion Grand Cru **Classification:** 1<sup>er</sup> Grand Cru Classé

23.5 hectares (58 acres)

Limestone on the plateau Blue clay on limestone in the slopes

90% Merlot - 10% Cabernet Franc

25 years

Certified HVE3, Soil tilling (4 ways), Vine growth management adapted to the climatic conditions

Manual harvest. Double sorting: manual and optical

In thermo-regulated concrete and stainless-steel vats Gentle & controlled maceration & extraction

16-18 months in French oak barrels (50% new)

**History:** Château Bélaïr-Monange traces its origins back to Roman times. Situated at the highest point of Saint-Émilion's famed limestone plateau, it has long been considered one of the region's very best crus. By 1850 it was ranked by Cocks & Feret as the leading wine of Saint-Émilion, a position it held well into the twentieth century.

Établissements Jean-Pierre Moueix purchased the iconic Château in 2008 and immediately undertook extensive renovations of the vineyard, winery, underground quarries, and château in order to restore the cru to its rightful historic status. The estate was renamed « Bélaïr-Monange » in honor of Jean-Pierre Moueix's mother, Anne-Adèle Monange, the first Moueix woman to call Saint-Émilion her home.

Château Bélaïr-Monange combines the terroirs of the most privileged sites of Saint-Émilion. The limestone from the central plateau parcels offers freshness, minerality, and delicate, lingering aromatics, while the dense, blue clay of the south slopes provides intensity, length, and a unique elegance to the wine.

**2019 Vintage:** After a mild winter, spring alternated between sun and rain. Narrowly escaping a frost on April 13th, it was the rain in early June that first influenced the vintage. Indeed, the flowering suffered as a result and Merlot grapes counted an average of just 120 berries (instead of 200 usually). Confirming global warming trends, the summer was exceptionally sunny and warm, just missing the historic record for hours of sunshine set in 2018. Saint-Émilion was spared from the hydric stress that set in as early as mid-July in some areas thanks to its limestone soils. Happily, we received gentle, favorable rain on July 26th (1.3 inches) that set off a quick and even veraison. This moment marked the qualitative turn of the vintage. At the end of August, Merlot grapes weighed 1.2 grams on average (instead of 1.5 grams in a normal vintage), heralding exceptional concentration but low yields: -10% in Saint-Émilion. Graced by fine weather, we harvested optimally ripe grapes at Château Bélaïr-Monange from September 19th until October 3rd.

## James Suckling - 99 Points

#49 in the TOP 100 WINES OF THE WORLD 2022

*Wonderful aromas of fresh flowers, blackberries and cherries. Licorice and lilacs, too. Full-bodied, yet so tight and refined, translucent and weightless. Incredible purity and excellence. This is the heart and soul of the property in a glass. Really pinpointed at the end. Enchanting and thought-provoking.*

*Needs time to open and soften. Try after 2028.*

**Also: Decanter-99 Pts, Jeb Dunnuck-98 Pts, Vinous-97 Pts, Wine Enthusiast-96 Pts, Wine Spectator-95 Pts, Wine Advocate-95 Pts, Wine Cellar Insider-96-98 Pts.**