# ANNONCE DE BÉLAIR-MONANGE 2019

## Saint-Émilion Grand Cru

### 2019 Vintage Blend: 90% Merlot - 10% Cabernet Franc

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Appellation:** | Saint-Émilion Grand Cru |
| **Classification:** | 1° Grand Cru Classé |
| **Vineyard size:** | 23.5 hectares (58 acres) |
| **Average vine age:** | 25 years |
| **Soil Types:** | Limestone on the plateau Blue clay on limestone in the slopes |
| **Viticulture**: | Certified HVE3, Soil tilling (4 ways), Vine growth management adapted to the climatic conditions |
| **Harvest**: | Manual harvest. Double sorting: manual and optical |
| **Winemaking:** | In thermo-regulated concrete and stainless-steel vats Gentle & controlled maceration & extraction |
| **Aging**: | 16 months in French oak barrels (30% new) |

**History:** Château Bélair-Monange was born from the fusion of the vineyards of Châteaux Bélair and Magdelaine, both historic First Classified Growths of Saint-Émilion. Tracing its origins back to Roman times, the vineyard of Château Bélair is situated at the highest point of Saint-Émilion's famed limestone plateau. Château Magdelaine, a contiguous cru acquired in 1952, has always been renowned for the remarkable elegance of its wines. Château Bélair-Monange expresses the unique style of the greatest parcels of these two complementary terroirs.
An important restructuring of the vineyard was initiated in 2008 immediately following the acquisition of the estate by Ets. Jean-Pierre Moueix. Another wine embodying the inherent qualities of the vineyard – minerality, concentration of red berries, balance and length – emerged in 2014: ANNONCE DE BÉLAIR-MONANGE

Produced in very limited quantities, ANNONCE enjoys the same attention as the Grand Vin: meticulous vineyard work undertaken with respect for the environment followed by a manual harvest once the grapes have reached optimal maturity. Vinification takes place in concrete and stainless-steel vats, where maceration and extraction are gentle and measured in order to allow the fruit its highest expression. The wine is then aged in French oak barrels. Although ANNONCE exhibits great charm in its youth, a few years of cellaring or a few hours of decanting will be largely rewarded.

**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 Bélair-Monange from September 19th until October 3rd.

0 12086 00964 8

## James Suckling - 95 Points

*A firm, very polished and refined red with dark-berry, chocolate and vine-bark character. Hints of bitter burnt lemon, too. Full-bodied with redcurrant, mineral and salty undertones. Lightly dusty tannins and a flavorful finish. Reserved still, with good reason. Second wine of Belair-Monange. Try after 2026.*

***Also: Jeb Dunnuck-92 Pts, Vinous-90 Pts,***