

CHÂTEAU
**BÉLAIR
MONANGE**
PREMIER GRAND CRU CLASSÉ
SAINT-ÉMILION

PRESS REVIEW - 2020 VINTAGE

DECANTER
98-100 PTS

JAMES SUCKLING
97-98 PTS

THE DRINKS BUSINESS
98-100 PTS

JEB DUNNUCK
96-98+ PTS

TERRE DE VINS
97-98 PTS

RVF
96-98 PTS

VINOUS (Antonio Galloni)
95-97 PTS

VINOUS (Neal Martin)
95-97 PTS

WINE ADVOCATE
95-97 PTS



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Decanter

98-100 pts, Jane Anson

« The gunsmoke character is immediately evident on the nose, as is richly expressed damson and raspberry fruit. This is pared back and held back right now, elegant, showing a seductive edge without trying too hard. The texture is softly-brushed velvet, these tannins are front and centre but so fine and so precise that they don't get in the way of the fruit. Salinity from the limestone is evident on the finish, bringing a moreish juiciness and you can scrape your tongue against the pumice stone texture. Austere in all the right ways, with just the most incredible depth and layers. I love it. Harvest September 15 to 23. 98-100. »

JAMESSUCKLING.COM 

97-98 pts, James Suckling

« It's full-bodied, showing loads of violets, blackberries and blueberries with salt and white-pepper character. Minerally. It's very fine-grained with a fascinating finish. Intense and long. 98% merlot and 2% cabernet franc. »

the
drinks
business

98-100 pts, Colin Hay

« In 2020 there is only 2% of Cabernet Franc in the blend here, despite the vineyard being planted at 10%. Glossy, extremely limpid, impressively translucent at the core and with a profoundly glass-staining indigo-violet rim. Divine. This has such a composed, cool, refined, elegant and subtle nose. Cedar, graphite, brambles, mulberries, blueberries and sloes with a gorgeously fresh, bright acidity. Sumptuously soft and plunge-pool cool on the entry in a way that catches you slightly by surprise. The effect is to prime the senses and to make you concentrate – and that allows you appreciate in a kind of slow motion, highly pixilated, almost frame-by-frame way, the unfurling and unfolding of the fruit over the palate. It's as if the structuring mineral-acid-tannic backbone of the wine rations and moderates the release of the fruit, crafting and building the wine towards its glorious crescendo which takes the form of a succession of little ripples of juicy freshness right at the top of the palate. The structure – and the sense of structure – is extraordinary. Alongside Trotanoy, one of the wines of the vintage. In 2018 I preferred Trotanoy; in 2019 I preferred Bélaïr-Monange; in 2020 ... it's a tie! »

JEB DUNNUCK

Terre de Vins



vinous

vinous

Robert Parker
WINE ADVOCATE

96-98+ pts, Jeb Dunnuck

« A quintessential Saint-Emilion, the 2020 Château Belair-Monange reveals a dense purple/plum color as well as classic Saint-Emilion minerality that covers lots of ripe black fruits, graphite, tobacco, and violet aromas and flavors. Rich, medium to full-bodied, and concentrated, you could almost eat it with a fork and yet it still stays light on its feet, has building, polished tannins, and a great finish. It's a brilliant wine in the making. »

97-98 pts, Mathieu Doumenge

« Bélair-Monange a tiré, en 2020, le meilleur de son terroir du plateau de Saint-Emilion. Profil aiguisé, salin et salivant, bouche tonique et vibrante, c'est un précis de minéralité calcaire en majesté, propulsant une matière élégamment profilée. Un vin vertical et félin, dépositaire d'une grande puissance naturelle sans avoir besoin de l'exhiber. »

96-98 pts, Karine Valentin

« Le nez est d'une tension parfaite, le bouquet sur la fraîcheur fruitée (cassis, myrtille) et florale avec une touche de rose et de violette. Le soyeux du tanin revendique les calcaires du plateau et la finale se fond dans des notes réglissées, aux courbes avantageuses. »

95-97 pts, Antonio Galloni

« The 2020 Bélair-Monange is exceptional. A bold, dramatic wine, the 2020 hits all the senses with layers of intense dark fruit, chocolate, cake, spice, leather and espresso. In some vintages, I have felt Bélair-Monange to be perhaps just a bit pushed in terms of ripeness. The 2020 has plenty of richness, but also more than enough energy to provide balance. Clean, mineral underpinnings extend the persistent finish beautifully. I expect the 2020 will reward readers with several decades of thrilling drinking. »

95-97 pts, Neal Martin

« The 2020 Bélair-Monange continues its impressive run of form under the JP Moueix family, having rapidly ascended to the highest rank within the Saint-Émilion appellation. This latest release is another stunning articulation of its propitious terroir, which lies adjacent to Ausone. You could lose yourself in the kaleidoscope of aromas: black cherries, Dorset plum, crushed stone, violet and background pencil box, beautifully defined and growing in intensity. The palate is medium-bodied with ripe tannins and quite firm (maybe a tad more than I anticipated), displaying fine grip. This is a strict yet utterly compelling Bélair-Monange with wonderful salinity coming through toward the finish. There is a lot of substance to this wine and it is perhaps less immediate than other recent vintages, indicating that it may require long-term cellaring. Outstanding. »

95-97 pts, Lisa Perrotti-Brown

« The 2020 Belair Monange displays an opaque purple-black color, unfurling slowly to reveal a nose of blueberry preserves, stewed plums and Morello cherries, giving way to a fragrant undercurrent of Chinese five spice, incense and dried rose petals, plus hints of fallen leaves, Sichuan pepper and oolong tea. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers a fantastically plush texture with mouth-coating black and blue fruits and loads of exotic spice sparks, gently lifted by soft acidity, finishing long and fragrant. »