

# Chateau HAUT-BALLET

St.-Michel de Fronsac

France

BORDEAUX  
Fronsac



Olivier Decelle



## OVERVIEW

Olivier Decelle, former business mogul of the French frozen foods company Picard Surgeles, began his wine journey when he purchased a tiny Roussillon estate called Mas Amiel in 1999 and has since returned it to its legendary status. Decelle has taken the same commitment and philosophy to his Right Bank Bordeaux estates: Château Bellevue, Château Haut Ballet and Château Jean Faure; to make 100% world class Bordeaux. The Bordeaux story begins with the purchase of Château Haut-Ballet in 2000, which included the Château Bellevue property. Then in 2004, Decelle purchased Chateau Jean Faure Saint-Emilion, upon recommendation by Jacques Boissenot, (famous Bordeaux winemaker) speaking to Decelle of its great, unrealized potential. Decelle's acquisition of Jean Faure basically saved the property from total obscurity and has totally transformed the estate in a few short years. The estate shares the same terroir as its prestigious neighbors; Cheval Blanc, La Conseillante and Château Figeac, to name just a few.

Decelle's philosophy is "to preserve the living organisms in the soil and ensure careful vine-growing to make wines that we can relate to and which reflect our appellations." He believes in revitalization of the vines and vineyards through organic and biodynamic viticulture, which is nearly unheard of in Bordeaux. He has also taken an unorthodox approach to marketing and selling his Bordeaux. He doesn't work through the typical channels in which Bordeaux is sold throughout the world; i.e. via brokers, negociants etc, but instead has chosen to forge relationships and work directly with small importers around the world.

**Varieties:** 100% Merlot,

**Total Acreage:**  
unknown

**Average Production:**  
unknown

## VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES

- Practices biodynamic agriculture.
- Famed oenologist Michel Rolland is a consultant.

## WINES

### Chateau Haut-Ballet-Fronsac

This Chateau was purchased by M. Decelle along with Chateau Bellevue. This wine is most always 100% Merlot. This wine differentiates from Chateau Bellevue by being firmer, more compact in structure while still possessing a suppleness of texture much like it's sibling.

### OTHER CHATEAUS OWNED BY OLIVIER DECELLE:

#### Chateau Bellevue-Fronsac

Usually 100% Merlot but in some years tiny amounts of Cabernet Franc and Malbec may be included. This wine is pure and lush in the mouth with classic Bordeaux flavors of blueberry, wet stones, pencil lead and a very pleasant ripe herbaceousness that makes this wine very food friendly. The Chateau's ownership is shared equally with Hubert de Bouard.

#### Chateau Jean Faure-Saint-Emilion Grand Cru Classe

In a few short years, Decelle, who purchased the property in 2004, has managed to bring back this 40 acre estate to a level expected of a top tier Saint Emilion property. The wine is a blend of Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Malbec. Decelle maintains a regimen of crop thinning, hand harvesting and sorting not only once, but twice on the triage table. Rated a Grand Cru Classe in the original Saint-Emilion Classification of 1958, Jean-Faure was dropped in the revised classification of 1986, but with the Decelle at the helm, there should be time to celebrate in 2016 when the Saint Emilion property classification is up for revision.



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