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## Château Dassault 2000

CSPC# 721263

750mlx12

13.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	65% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Emilion
<b>Classification</b>	Grand Cru Classe
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.dassaultwineestates.com/">http://www.dassaultwineestates.com/</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p>Created in 1862 by Victor Beylot, Château Couperie was purchased in 1955 by Marcel Dassault (an aviator), who renovated the estate as well as gave his name to it. Château Dassault has been a Grand Cru Classé since 1969. Laurent Dassault currently manages the estate with the same passion and pride as his grandfather. Since 1995, he and Director Laurence Brun Vergriette have been striving for maximum quality: draining the vineyard, reducing yields, applying pesticide management and trimming the leaves on both sides of the vine. All of this contributes to growing perfectly ripe, healthy grapes. The vat room was fully renovated, and grapes are carefully inspected twice on vibrating sorting tables. The grapes from each vineyard are fermented separately, making it possible to fine-tune the final blend.</p>
<b>Vintage</b>	<p>Precisely as in other parts of Bordeaux, the weather conditions in Saint-Émilion were extremely advantageous in August and September, and it resulted in wonderfully ripe Merlot and as so equally ripe Cabernet Franc. But unlike 1998, when August was tropically hot and had high desert-like humidity, August in 2000 was very dry and with comfortably low humidity. September 1998 began with some rain but ended with warm and sunny weather, while September 2000 enjoyed pleasant and hot weather and almost with no rain in first three weeks.</p>
<b>Soil</b>	<p>The vineyards amount to a little under 29 hectares which surround the <i>château</i> in a single block, planted on a <i>terroir</i> of ancient siliceous and siliceous limestone sand.</p>
<b>Vineyards</b>	<p>Merlot dominates around 70% of the vineyard, with 23% Cabernet Franc and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon. Average vine age 35yrs</p>
<b>Harvest</b>	<p>Come harvest time the fruit is assessed by tasting, before hand-picking and transport in small crates to the <i>cuvée</i>, where optical sorting technology assists the Dassault team in fruit selection. Oct 6-20, 2009.</p>
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	<p>Thereafter the fruit is pressed and vinified in concrete vats on a plot-by-plot basis. Most of the vats are about 60 hectoliters to facilitate this granular approach. Aged in small concrete vats with internal temperature controls. Malolactic fermentation in new barrels. Aged 80% in new barrels and 20% in 1yr old barrels for 14-18 months.</p>
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	<p>Showing some maturity on inspection, but still with plenty of firm red pigment underneath. Aromatically, this is a wine in a very good place, with warm, smoky and gentle maturity, a mix of tea leaves, rust, smoke, game and more. That gentle sweetness that comes with maturity is also suggested. The palate does not have great weight, but it reflects the aromatics found on the nose admirably, and the gentle texture is still supported by a seam of ripe tannins and acidity that will keep the wine going for years yet, into deeper complexity. Very good indeed.</p>
<b>Production</b>	5,830 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	2014-2027



**Scores/Awards** **90 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003  
**89-91 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001  
**88 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 22, 2003  
**87-88 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 27, 2002  
**85-87 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 22, 2001  
**82-84 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - December 31, 1999  
**86 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only)  
**15.5 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only)  
**1 star** - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2004

**Reviews** *"Not big, but it's got length. Attractive aromas of crushed berries and vanilla follow through to a medium-bodied palate, with superfine tannins and a long, bright and fruity aftertaste. Best after 2006. 5,830 cases made."*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Very perfumed, with lovely aromas and floral character, as well as ripe fruit. Medium-bodied, with fine tannins and a medium finish. Score range: 89-91"*

- JS, Wine Spectator

*"This is a fruity, consumer-friendly St.-Emilion meant to be drunk during its first decade of life. The sexy, low acid 2000 reveals ripe black cherry fruit intermixed with notes of Provencal herbs, spice box, and new oak. It is round, expansive, fleshy, and cleanly made, with more tannin and persistence on the palate than previous vintages. Anticipated maturity: 2004-2014."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

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- RP, Wine Advocate

*"While superficial and one-dimensional, Dassault's 2000 is appealing for its direct, candid display of uncomplicated black currant and cherry fruit mixed with oak, earth, and spice. Round, fleshy, and delicious, but neither complex nor long-lived, it will be drinkable between now and 2010."*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Very ripe nose: chocolate, herbs with green pepper and cigar box notes. Supple palate but a little "Ribena"-like. Quite coarse now with a little dryness on the finish. Not sure how this will evolve. Tasted May 2001."*

- NM, Wine Journal

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