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## Château Dassault GC 2003

CSPC# 721263

750mlx12

14.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	65% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Franc, 5% Cabernet Sauvignon
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Emilion
<b>General Info</b>	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.
<b>Soil</b>	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.
<b>Vineyards</b>	Merlot dominates around 70% of the vineyard, with 23% Cabernet Franc and 7% Cabernet Sauvignon. Average vine age 35yrs
<b>Harvest</b>	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.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	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.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	A very nice presentation. Deep brick red robe with an amber-coloured meniscus. Superb bouquet of ripe fruit compote, vanilla barrel oak, truffle and black pepper. Very more-ish on the palate, packed with fruit and a creamy texture with tasty tannins. Long and generous on the finish. A very good wine to enjoy now or keep for 3-5 years more.
<b>Production</b>	5,000 cases made
<b>Cellaring</b>	Best after 2007
<b>Scores/Awards</b>	<b>90 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2006 <b>92-94 points</b> - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 30, 2004 <b>88 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #164 - April 2006 <b>87-89 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #158 - April 2005 <b>87-88 points</b> - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #152 - April 2004 <b>90-92 points</b> - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - October 2005 <b>16.5 points</b> - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - August 23, 2005 <b>88 points</b> - Jean Marc Quarin <b>Commended/2 stars</b> - Decanter World Wine Awards 2006
<b>Reviews</b>	<i>"Complex aromas of blackberry, smoke and meat follow through to a full-bodied palate, with soft and silky tannins and a long, flavorful finish. Delicious. Lots going on here. Best after 2007. 5,000 cases made."</i> - JS, Wine Spectator  <i>"Solid wine here with plenty of ripe fruit and firm tannins. Well-structured and rich. Medium to long finish. Almost 92-94. Score range: 89-91"</i> - JS, Wine Spectator

**Reviews** *"Sweet black cherry fruit is offered in an uncomplicated, spicy, earthy format. Exhibiting medium body, light tannin, and a fleshy mouthfeel, this is a corpulent offering to drink over the next 4-6 years."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate 2006

*"A deep ruby/plum color is accompanied by lovely aromas of black fruits, figs, and underbrush, an excellent texture, fine body, and well-integrated tannin as well as wood. This 2003 should be delicious upon release, and drink well for 7-8 years. Dassault has been making noticeable improvements over recent years, and readers seeking immediately drinkable, soft, savory clarets should take note."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate 2005

*Owned by a large aircraft conglomerate, the 2003 Dassault reveals good integration of wood (although it's still present) along with a deep ruby/purple color, more body and power than normal (it's usually a superficial, fruity, tasty offering), and a low acid, plump finish. Drink it over the next 7-10 years. Drink 2004-2014.*  
- RP, Wine Advocate 2004

*"This is a name to watch out for. An attractive nose of ripe strawberry and raspberry, with a touch of mocha and floral character developing in the glass. The palate has good concentration, harmonious with well-integrated new oak. A burly Saint Emilion: good grip and persistency with oak still dominating the finish. Good potential. Very fine. Tasted October 2005."*

*"Dark crimson. Rather appetising dark chocolate cocktail of flavours on the nose. Relatively impenetrable but good and swashbuckling and confident. A tea leaf perfume. Pretty good constitution with reasonably ripe tannins. A success! Though pretty sweet."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"Deep purple garment. Dense full and deep nose come and earthy black fruits plum and damsons. Solid rim full bodied big tannins ripe. Black plums and coffee."*  
- Decanter

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