

# Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2006

CSPC# 847782

750mlx6

13.0% alc./vol.

<b>Grape Variety</b>	75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot
<b>Appellation</b>	Saint Julien
<b>Classification</b>	Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.chateau-ducru-beaucaillou.com/site2006-va/index.html">http://www.chateau-ducru-beaucaillou.com/site2006-va/index.html</a>
<b>General Info</b>	<p><b>#96 Wine Spectator Top 100 of 2009</b></p> <p>Classified 2nd growth in 1855. Château Ducru-Beaucaillou is named after the beautiful, large stones found in its unique wine-growing terroir. The exceptional ecosystem produces fine, elegant, tasty wines, with a long finish - in short, archetypal Saint-Julien wines. Perched on an exceptional site with incomparable views over the Gironde estuary, in the centre of a hundred-year-old park, Ducru Beaucaillou is a majestic Victorian-style castle which has, over time, become one of the great symbols of the Medoc. Unusually for Bordeaux, it is built directly above the barrel cellars, enveloping its owners, who have lived here for over sixty years, in the sumptuous aromas of their wine. Today, the estate is managed by the company Jean Eugène Borie SA, which is owned by Mrs Borie, her daughter Sabine Coiffe and her son Bruno-Eugène, CEO since 2003, the third generation of the Borie family to head the estate.</p>
<b>Winemaker</b>	Rene Lusseau
<b>Vintage</b>	The spring of 2006 was very cool, but the nice weather in May gave an even blossoming. July was marked by ten very hot days whereas August was rather cool and dry. The first ten days of September were also dry and hot and then there was a rainy period before picking. When it came to harvest-time the dry weather had however returned and allowed the crop to be picked in good conditions.
<b>Vineyards</b>	Soil: Günz gravel dating from the early quaternary period; Area: 75 hectares Average age of the vines: 35 years; Density of the vines: 10000 feet per hectare:
<b>Harvest</b>	These advantages were all the more marked given the extremely low yields. Thanks to the green harvest in July, we had maximum yields of 4-8 bunches per vine at Ducru Beaucaillou. However, the harvest was not early, the long span of the cycle is another asset for this harvest. The Merlot are harvested on September 21st and the Cabernet Sauvignon on September 29th. Harvesting was completed on October 6th.
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	The grapes are all harvested manually. They are sorted in the vines on mobile tables to avoid contact between unhealthy and healthy grapes during transport to the vat room. The vinification of each plot is done individually to optimise the choice of blends. Moreover, the fermentations are carried out separately and customized to take account of terroir, grape variety, and vintage characteristics. We generally operate gentle extraction and keep the must at traditional temperatures with moderate lengths and frequencies of pumping-over. The press drains off continuously
<b>Vinification/ Maturation</b>	into barrels to facilitate the selection of the press-wine batches. Malolactic fermentation is managed in vats for optimal control. The wine is barrelled in duly identified individual batches immediately after malolactic fermentation. Blending takes place during the first racking operation; for Ducru Beaucaillou, between 50 and 80% of new barrels are used according to the richness of the vintage. The barrels (225L Bordeaux barrels, French oak) are supplied by 5 carefully selected cooperages giving every guarantee. The wine is matured for 18 months in accordance with Medoc traditions for classified growths. Bottling is performed with special care in regard to both oenological controls and homogenisation of the overall batch. The 5 cork makers supplying the estate have signed a detailed and stringent quality charter.
<b>Tasting Notes</b>	The 2006 of Ducru-Beaucaillou exhibits the same analytical richness as its 2005 or 2003 counterpart. While on a par with those top-quality vintages, it boasts a special personality: endowed with a generous fruit and a superb freshness, presenting an elegant albeit solid structure.



**Production** 10,500 cases made  
**Cellaring** Drink 2020-2035  
**Scores/Awards** **95 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 2009  
**92-95 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - June 2007  
**94 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - August 2020  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate - May 2016  
**94 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #181 - February 2009  
**94-96 points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #170 - April 2007  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2011  
**93 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - October 2010  
**94 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - January 2010  
**91-93 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - April 2007  
**95 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - July 2013  
**92-94 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2007  
**94 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2009  
**93+ points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - June 2009  
**17+ points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2007  
**95 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - September 2019  
**94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2017  
**94 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2016  
**95 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2013  
**93 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - October 2011  
**90-93 points** - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2007  
**93 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2020  
**94 points** - John Gilman, Viewfromthecellar.com - September 2020  
**91 points** - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - December 2016  
**93 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - March 2015  
**92 points** - Falstaff Magazine - January 2010  
**18 points** - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - January 2008  
**18.5 points** - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - January 2008  
**16.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2007

**Reviews** *"Very perfumed and beautiful, showing blackberry and raspberry aromas, with hints of vanilla. Deep and complex. Full-bodied, with chewy tannins and a long, powerful finish. Excellent for the vintage. 10,500 cases."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Layered and rich, with lots of licorice and berry character. Turns to currants. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long finish. Very serious. Like it a lot. 1996 again. This is almost 95-100. Score Range: 92-95."*  
- JS, Wine Spectator

*"Deep garnet in color, the 2006 Ducru-Beaucaillou delivers expressive Black Forest cake, blackcurrant cordial and chocolate box scents with touches of fertile loam, espresso, Marmite toast and black olives. Medium-bodied, the palate is elegantly played with vibrant fruit expression and a firm, grainy texture, finishing with a lively lift."*  
- LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Tasted at the château, the 2006 Ducru Beaucaillou has a precocious bouquet for the vintage: opulent ripe dark cherry, red plum and cassis fruit, mint and hints of vanilla pod. It is very well defined and very sensual. The palate is medium-bodied with a sweet opening, plenty of dark cherry and blackberry, Hoisin, a touch of cedar and again mint. There is fine depth here, surprisingly young with a dense, slightly tarry finish that suggests another 2-3 years will be appropriate."*  
- NM, Wine Advocate

*"This classic, backward, tannic St.-Julien is made in the style of the 1996 and 1986. The 2006 Ducru Beaucaillou possesses a dense purple color along with a sweet perfume of graphite, black raspberries, cassis, licorice, and subtle toasty oak. Despite their prominent place in the wine's structure, the sweetness of the tannins and the full-bodied, muscular style suggest exceptional patience will be required. This is a big, substantial, meaty, masculine wine built for considerable longevity. Anticipated maturity: 2016-2035."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

**Reviews** *"Similar in style to the 1996, proprietor Bruno Borie continues to curtail yields, now producing just under 10,000 cases of the grand vin, and the rest of the production going into the increasingly high quality second wine, La Croix de Ducru Beaucaillou. The backward, tannic, dense purple-colored 2006 Ducru Beaucaillou offers sweet mineral-infused black cherry and cassis fruit interwoven with notions of graphite and truffles. Powerful, pure, rich, and intense, it should be at its peak between 2017-2035."*  
- RP, Wine Advocate

*"In a mini-vertical poured by Bruno Borie ('76, '86, '96 and '06) it is the youngest that I found to be the best wine. It simply has a heightened level of precision and clarity on the nose, that sense of crushed stone behind those layers of pure blackcurrant, cedar, and graphite (almost like a Pauillac!) The palate is medium-bodied with great precision, a tensile Ducru Beaucaillou that shimmers all the way to the finish. Tasted November 2011."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted at Farr's Ducru-Beaucaillou dinner at the Ledbury. The 2006 will surely be over-shadowed by the 2005, but to be honest it is almost as fine. The bouquet is relatively backward and conservative, but beautifully defined with leafy black fruits, a touch of tobacco, crushed stone, and pine. The palate is medium-bodied and does not possess the substance of the 2005, but it is beautifully defined with tensile tannins and a lovely, graceful finish that lingers in the mouth. Superb. Tasted October 2010."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted blind at Southwold '06 Bordeaux tasting. The bouquet is comparatively traditional and austere on the nose compared to its peers, but with impressive definition. Aromas of leafy black fruits laced with cedar and tobacco, some stony/granite aromas coming through with aeration. The palate is medium-bodied, well balanced with fresh vibrant blackberry, cassis, and plum, good acidity with excellent weight on the rounded, primal finish. Wonderful poise and sophistication here. Superb. Tasted January 2010."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Tasted at the chateau. A deep garnet/purple core. This has a very fine, sensuous, almost exotic ripe nose with great purity: blackberry, vanilla, crushed violets, lots of cedar. The palate is full-bodied and quite decadent: good concentration, very pure and plump though without the poise and tension one finds on Leoville Las-Cases. Very rounded on the finish that could do with a little more weight and penetration. Very attractive Ducru-Beaucaillou that I feel may surpass the 2005 after bottling. Tasted April 2007."*  
- NM, Wine Journal

*"Subtle aromas of currants, blueberries and minerals. Full body with super-integrated tannins and a fine, fine finish. I love the texture to this wine, and it's just starting to show you the true quality it has. One of the top wines of this vintage"*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"Layered and rich, with lots of licorice and berry character. Turns to currants. Full-bodied, with velvety tannins and a long finish. Very serious. Like it a lot. 1996 again. This is almost 95-100."*  
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is that rare Bordeaux Cabernet that comes close in style to a Napa Cabernet. The character comes from the mint aromas and medicinal edge, formed from new wood aging. At this stage in its development, the wine is powerful, but closed and tight. However, it is possible to taste the ripe perfumes and the black cherry juice flavors that come through the vanilla."*  
- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Bright red-ruby. Deep, vibrant aromas of currant, sour cherry, graphite, cedar, and licorice. Sappy, suave, and energetic, with terrific verve and framing acidity to the tightly wound flavors of dark cherry, currant, spices, and minerals. Wonderfully primary and penetrating Saint-Julien, almost painfully intense yet weightless. Finishes very long and fine, with terrific definition. An infant today, with a long life ahead of it."*  
- ST, International Wine Cellar

## Reviews

*"The grapes for this wine come from about half of the 75-ha estate - the half closest to the Gironde, where at dawn it can be 5 degrees warmer than Listrac. Deep crimson. Spicy, finely polished nose. Very glossy, only very slightly inky. Glossy, polished ink. Gentle - tastes as though it has been ripened gently. The tannins are very fine, pretty sandpapery. Very delicate though a little dry on the finish. Not much real fruit weight in the middle. Inky finish. Gouleyant, very fine, very classic indeed. In the true sense of classic rather than '= off vintage'. Will surely appeal mainly to classicists. [See 2005] Rather in the mould of Ch Margaux."*  
- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*"This is not quite as silky smooth and rich as the 2005 and yet it's full of promise. It feels young, with tannins that are still pulsating around the dark berry fruits, joined by eucalyptus and cigar box notes through the finish. With clear depth of flavor, it's a classically framed St Julien, full of dark cheer, a winter wine for nights by the fire with good food and good friends."*  
- JA, Decanter.com

*"Still young, this is a strict style of Ducru Beaucaillou that is going to take perhaps another decade before the tannins subside. The fruit is ripe, there is concentration, length, and intensity, but the tannins are quite firm. This can be seen as a modern version of an old, classic vintage."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Showing little signs of maturity in the color, the wine has started to soften and fill out. On the structured side of the style range, there is freshness, energy, and length, but there are firm tannins that remain needing to be resolved. This could take a decade or more to get where it needs to be."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Dark in color, with notes of coffee bean, incense, smoke, licorice, earth and ripe blackberries, the wine is concentrated, masculine and refined. With flavor and power matched with tannins and intensity, give it 5 to 10 years to develop, soften and come together."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Deep in color, with some purple accents remaining, the wine pops with licorice, truffle, blackberry, boysenberry, cassis, spice, tobacco and smoky aromatics. On the palate, this powerful, tannic, firm, and masculine styled Ducru Beaucaillou is not close to being fun to drink, Give it another decade."*  
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"The nose is tight at the moment, the firmness of the tannins hiding the fruit potential. It opens up on palate, flowery bilberry then rich cassis and dark chocolate. Freshness towards the back gives an added raciness"*  
- Derek Smedley MW

*"The 2006 Château Ducru-Beaucaillou is a rich, masculine styled effort that's just now at the early stages of its drink window. Classic Cabernet notes of blackcurrants, toasty oak, graphite, truffle, and a touch of cedarwood all emerge from the glass, and it's rich, medium to full-bodied, concentrated, and structured. It takes a solid hour in a decanter to open up, has lots of sweet tannins, beautiful balance, and a great finish."*  
- Jeb Dunnuck

*"The 2006 vintage in Bordeaux will ever have to live in the long shadow of the superb 2005s, but I like this vintage very much and feel it has a long and promising future ahead of it. The 2006 is a superb example of just how good this year is on the Gironde, as it offers up a youthful and beautifully precise bouquet of sweet dark berries, cassis, cigar smoke, that signature base of gravel, a touch of tobacco leaf and a suave foundation of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and impeccably balanced, with a superb core of black fruit, lovely soil signature and a long, ripely tannic & focused finish that will be superbly complex in due course."*  
- JG, Viewfromthecellar.com

*"Dark ruby garnet, youthful reflections, purple edge, delicate water edge. Fine spicy nuances on the nose, inviting dark berries, blackberries. Juicy on the palate, appears almost light-footed, the wood is perfectly integrated, almost imperceptible, a very elegant and round wine, freshly structured, will develop a very good shelf life, but is already very drinkable and accessible, chocolate finish, fine caramel nuances. Drink / store +20"*  
- Falstaff Magazine

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