

# Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2010

CSPC# 744969

750mlx12

13.95% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**  
**Appellation**  
**General Info**

90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot  
Saint Julien

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.

**Vintage**

A rather rigorous winter resulting into a relatively late flowering. Ideal conditions in spring that favoured the development of superb grape bunches. The rather chilly and rainy months of May and June, which inhibited the flowering (with shatter and millerandage, especially on the merlots). The harvest was smaller and later than in 2009; pink harvests to eliminate green bunches were mandatory in August; the mixed berry size bunches were entirely sacrificed during the picking process...

A very fine summer (especially in August): record sunshine (38 hours more than the average for the last 30 years), without excess of heat, but with a severe drought (the most important in the last 10 years). The strong constraint imposed upon the plant by the water situation at an ideal time in the cycle (the time of the "véraison", when the grape berries start changing colour) resulted in privileged fructification to the detriment of growth: these were the perfect conditions for the production of super grapes. The severe drought was also responsible for very small, very rich, very concentrated berries, weighing well below the average and sometimes even beating the historical record of 2005

After a few life saving rains towards mid-September (25% only of the average for the past 20 years), the late season was very favourable (60 hours of sunshine more than the average – 180 hours – for the past 20 years). It helped bring about a perfect maturity and allowed harvesting in a pleasant mood: the record level of anthocyanins and sugar were promising, and the good acidity guaranteed freshness in the wines.

**Vineyards**

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:

**Harvest**

The harvest started with the picking of the Merlots on the 29th of September and ended on the 14th of October with that of the last Cabernet Sauvignons. After all the mixed berry-sized clusters (especially the Merlots due to poor flowering) were eliminated in the vineyard, only perfect fruit as brought into the cellars. The berries, ideally matured and perfectly wholesome, were famously small, sweet to the extreme, and tasty at will. The skins were firm and very ripe, and the relatively small pips reached a fair level of maturity.

**Maturation**

Aged for 18 months in 95% new French oak barrels, other 5% of barrels are one year old. Lower yields (down by about 20%) have led to increased concentration compared to previous vintages. The barrels are all made from oak of French origin that is dried naturally outdoors. Regular topping-ups are carried out during the first six months of ageing. The wines, which are racked every 2 to 3 months,



**Maturation** undergo a total of seven rackings during their élevage. They are fined in barrel by the traditional method. Bottling takes place under sterile conditions using inert gas. Only carefully selected first quality 54 mm-long natural corks are used. Our bottles, engraved Ducru-Beaucaillou, are laser marked and bear a label protected by a hologram.

**Tasting Notes** Aromas of black fruit burst from the glass, complemented by notes of wild herbs and a touch of spice. Extremely captivating on the nose, I kept swirling the wine while marveling at the complexity of aromas. On the palate, the wine is lush, complex and incredibly well structured even at this youthful stage. The bright acidity brought on by a cooler but sunny growing season is evident on the palate, keeping the wine lively on the palate even while dark purple fruits dominate. The tannins are amazing, lush and well-integrated, providing the wine with tremendous length and grip. Lingers on the palate. This is a muscular, impressive release from Ducru.

**Cellaring** Drink 2013-2023

**Scores/Awards** **97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2013

**98+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #205 - February 2013

**96-98+ points** - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #194- May 2011

**Scores/Awards** **95-97 points** - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2011

**100 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2013

**99-100 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2011

**94-96 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - June 25, 2011

**93-97 points** - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2011

**18 points** - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2011

**19 points/5 stars** - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2010

**96 points** - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2011 (score only)

**98 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - July 12, 2011

**97 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 20, 2011

**98 points** - Jane Anson, The New Bordeaux - April 2011

**18.5 points** - Simon Staples, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirits Merchants

**92-96 points** - Derek Smedley MW - April 2011

**18.5 points** - Farr Vintners - April 2011

**Reviews** *"Not shy at all, with a flamboyant, aromatic profile of roasted apple wood and warm ganache, featuring more than enough stuffing in the form of thickly layered blackberry paste, steeped fig and pastis-soaked plum flavors. The structure is massive but incredibly polished, and the fruit displays terrific purity through the graphite-supported finish. Large-scale and extremely well-rendered. Best from 2020 through 2040."*  
- JM, Wine Spectator

*"With loads of minerality, a terrific opaque purple color, and slightly more structure and tannin than either Poyferre or St.-Pierre (and that's saying something), this is a blockbuster, fabulous Ducru Beaucaillou that should be at its best a good decade from now and last 40-50 years. The proprietor is not alone in thinking this is the finest Ducru Beaucaillou since the 1961. The classic wet rock, creme de cassis, subtle oak and gravelly stoniness of the vineyard come through in this spectacular, full-bodied, gorgeously pure and intense effort. This is wine for the ages that should be forgotten for at least a decade.*

*Proprietor Bruno Borie thinks this wine is as superb as their 2009. Slightly more structured and less flamboyant than its older sibling, it is a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot from the very best parcels of the vineyard. This wine tips the scales at 14% natural alcohol but has a normal pH of 3.6, which is one of the characteristics of this vintage (high alcohol, normal pH), which thus accounts for the freshness and precision found in most 2010s.*

- RP, Wine Advocate

*"Representing 45% of their total production, the 2010 Ducru will certainly compete with the efforts produced in 2009, 2008, and 2005. It hit 14% natural alcohol, compared to 13.5% in 2009 and 2008. A blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot, the wine has a surprisingly lower pH (3.62) than the 2009, or the 2005 for that matter. A truly remarkable wine, with a dense purple color and a beautiful nose of creme de cassis, spring flowers and crushed rock, this full-bodied, sensationally concentrated wine has massive richness, high but very sweet tannin, and stunning purity and depth. Proprietor Bruno Borie seems to have pulled out all the stops in turning out an absolutely compelling effort that is the essence of Ducru Beaucaillou. It should drink well for 30-40*

**Reviews** years.”

- RP, Wine Advocate

*“Cropped between 29th September until 14th October, a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot, the nose takes some coaxing from the glass. Very pure blackberry, cassis, a touch of mint and cedar, the new oak lending a touch of vanilla, this is very opulent, yet controlled bouquet. The palate is medium-bodied with saturated, velvety tannins, a real caressing mouthfeel, very good acidity to maintain freshness with an exceptionally focused, almost Pauillac-like finish. Very long in the mouth with a citric edge lingering long after the wine is ejected. Tasted March 2011.”*

- NM, Wine Journal

*“The nose is phenomenal with perfect aromas of Cabernet Sauvignon with currant bush, blackberries and minerals. A pure expression of Cab. The palate is perfect with a full body but has perfectly integrated tannins with a texture like the finest cashmere. It's strong but noble with perfect form and beauty. All in harmony. A fabulous wine that everyone who loves Bordeaux should have a bottle or case of. Better in 2020.”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“I can't believe the precision and complexity in this wine. This is really amazing with minerals, berries, currants and blackberries. Full and extraordinary. It goes on and on and on. Tasted twice. Best ever from Ducru”*

- JS, JamesSuckling.com

*“94-96 Wonderfully perfumed wine, with great tannins and a very opulent character. It has structure that is built into the richness. Powerful and generous, touched with vanilla at the end.”*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*“(90% cabernet sauvignon with 10% merlot; 3.62 pH; 95% new oak; 14% alcohol) Deep ruby-red. Lovely perfume of raspberry, blackcurrant and gunflint, made more complex by vanilla and sexy spices. Dense, sweet and rich, with a fine-grained texture to the flavors of cassis and exotic dried herbs. Huge, powerful, solidly structured wine with a firm but harmonious acid spine, impeccable balance and great depth of flavor; as massive as it is, it comes across as precise and light on its feet. Finishes with peppery tannins, excellent length and outstanding freshness. Less than 10,000 cases were made due to the strict selection for the grand vin, and it shows in the high quality of the second and third wines made here. Drink from 2020 to 2050.”*

- ID, International Wine Cellar

*“90% Cabernet Sauvignon. Same analysis as last year but very different from the 2009 – indeed very different from all recent vintages of Ducru – a return to something drier and more classical. It's all about the quality of tannins, according to Bruno Borie. Very firm and solid and confident – all from terroir. You could stick a spoon up in it, but in a good way. Drier and more grown-up than in some previous years. Very long term. Perfect for those who seek something really serious.”*

- JR, JancisRobinson.com

*“Superb colour, an explosion of fruit above great depth and much more polished, deeper and fresher than the 2009, hard to imagine a better Ducru.”*

- SS, Decanter.com

## Reviews

*"Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone..." Auden may not have been writing about tasting amazing Claret but the sentiment I could not agree with more. This is a clock-stopping, monumental wine, the likes of which none of us can recall ever having at Ducru before; the way it is balanced is breathtaking. The massive concentration is held together with such fine tannins, beautifully coating ripe and zingy black fruit, making it feel and taste ethereal. It also has a sensational finish which highlights this wine's incredible potential to be a modern legend and a true contender for 'wine of the vintage'; it could also be the greatest Ducru ever made. Well played Bruno and the team but please, please try and keep the price where we mere mortals can buy it."*

- SS, Berry & Rudd Wine & Spirit Merchants

*"The nose is packed out with rich fruit black cherry vying with blackcurrant both underpinned by liquorice and coffee beans. The tannins give structure, but the power and sweetness of the fruit is not held back just supported."*

- Derek Smedley

*"Ducru is on top form these days. Bruno Borie has made some very serious wines at Ducru in recent vintages with many vats previously destined for the grand vin now being used for the second label. From 2003 onwards production of the first wine has been reduced from 15,000-20,000 cs to 9,000-11,000 cs. There is now more second wine - La Croix de Beaucaillou than there is Grand Vin. Bruno's policy is now to only select fruit from the heart of the Ducru vineyard, overlooking the estuary for the Grand Vin. Ducru is clearly back where it belongs at the top of the super-second league. A deep, dark purple colour. A fabulous nose of charcoal, roasted meat, black truffles and Asian spices. Rich and fleshy on the palate with tobacco and cassis notes. Great complexity and good acidic lift. Massive, yet precise and very long. The best wine that we tasted in St Julien in 2010 and a truly great Ducru that should surpass even the 1982 in time."*

- Farr Vintners

*"2010 Ducru Beaucaillou Inky deep purple in color, this stunning St. Julien Bordeaux wine is filled with scents of tobacco, vanilla, crème de cassis, blueberry, licorice, chocolate and truffle. Thick, rich and stuffed with pure, ripe, sweet, dark berries, the wine coats your mouth and palate. The long, intense finish ends with black cherry, fennel and blackberries. This truly builds in your mouth. There are no hard edges to be found in this sublime wine that ends with more than sixty seconds of flavor sensations. This is a more complete and interesting wine than when tasted in April. Borie reduced prices for his 2010 release which was priced at 16% less than the 2009 at 150 Euros. While still expensive, that level of discount helped spark sales for the wine. 97-98 Pts"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Ducru Beaucaillou Produced from a blend of 90% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot, the wine reached 13.95% alcohol. Inky purple in color, cassis, truffle, cedar, spice, oak, mocha and fennel aromas are found with little coaxing. Polished, powerful, long, fresh, pure and clean, the layers of chocolate covered black cherries resonate in the finish. This regal wine remains on your palate for close to 50 seconds. The wine will be aged in 95% new oak for 18 months. 97-98 Pts"*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"90% new oak approx. The first wine here just blew me away. Fabulous classical Ducru. 90% cabernet sauvignon, 10% merlot. This is utterly gorgeous cabernet sauvignon, the tannins and acidity make your mouth pucker, but it is worth the ride as you are shot right through to the fruit, which is so pure. Easily better than the 2009. Such a long life ahead. 98/100. Drink 2020-2045."*

- JA, The New Bordeaux

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