

Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2015

CSPC# 756595

750mlx6

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot

Appellation

Saint Julien

Classification

Second Growth. Deuxieme Grand Cru Classe in 1855.

Website

<http://www.chateau-ducru-beaucaillou.com/site2006-va/index.html>

General Info

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

2015 St. Julien is the product of its being sandwiched between Pauillac to the north and Margaux to the south. Because of its location, the quirks of the geography and rain patterns in Bordeaux, the appellation received a little less rain than in other regions in the Medoc located to the north, but more moisture than the estates located in the Margaux appellation to the south. But the amount of moisture in the soil does not paint the full picture. You also need to understand that the summer was quite warm and dry. The vines experienced drought conditions for much of June continuing until late July. To illustrate that point, July 2015 was the 4th hottest July recorded in Bordeaux over the past 100 years! This produced small grapes with thick skins and a lot of tannin.

Because St. Julien is the smallest of the major Left Bank appellations, with just about 910 hectares of vines, harvest dates were relatively consistent for most vineyards. Growers began picking Merlot by September 21, finishing with their Cabernet Sauvignon between October 7 and October 9. You can read about the 2015 harvest and vintage in detail to give you a good idea on what took place during the growing season: [2015 Bordeaux Harvest Report](#)

2015 St. Julien wines are consistent. While many estates in Saint Julien produced good wine in 2015, as you will see, two estates made much better wine than their neighbors. Some of that is due to terroir, and of course part of their success is due to the work done in their cellars and vineyards. Still, that means that overall, there is a good sense of homogeneous quality found in 2015 Saint Julien wine.

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:
picked from around 28 September to 6 October

Harvest

Vinification/ Maturation

Already reduced by shot berries, millerandage and a difficult flowering, the net yields (after green pruning and thinning as well as different degrees of manual, mechanical and optical sorting) were extremely low: 30 hectolitres/hectare. Together with the 2011 vintage this is the smallest crop at Ducru Beaucaillou during the last 25 years.

Cellaring

Drink 2017-2037



Scores/Awards **97 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2018
97 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate Interim Issue - February 2018
94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Advocate #224 - April 2016
95 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - March 2018
97 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - February 2018
95-96 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2016
97 points / Cellar Selection - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - February 2018
17.5 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2016
96 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2016
97 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2017
98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - May 2018
96-98 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2016
95-97 points - Jeremy Williams, winewordsandvideotape.com - March 2016
96 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com - April 2016
17.5 points - Farr Vintner - March 2016
93-96 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2016
96 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - May 2016
98 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - February 2018
94-96 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - April 2016
96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - February 2018
18.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2016
96-98 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2016
18.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only) - June 2016
18 points - Bettane & Desseauve (score only) - April 2016
19 points - Gault & Millau (score only) - June 2016

Reviews

“Showy, with layers of warmed fig, roasted mesquite, black tea, incense and Turkish coffee notes, followed by waves of lush cassis, blackberry and raspberry confiture flavors. This has a graphite grounding rod, a tarry spine and riveting licorice snap details to keep it driving along. A head-turner for sure. Best from 2025 through 2045”
- JM, Wine Spectator

“Composed of 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot. Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2015 Ducru-Beaucaillou is provocatively and profoundly scented of chocolate-covered cherries, fresh black currants, crushed blueberries and licorice with touches of cigar box, roses and violets plus hints of black pepper and tapenade. Medium to full-bodied, rich and sultry with tons of seductive layers and firm, wonderfully velvety tannins, it has a very long, multilayered finish.”
- LPB, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 Ducru Beaucaillou is a blend of 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot, picked from around 28 September to 6 October. Matured in 100% new oak for what will be 18 months, delivering 13.5% alcohol, it has a relatively opulent bouquet for Saint Julien, with ripe black plum mixed with blackberry and cranberry, very well defined and neatly interwoven with the new oak. The palate is medium bodied with a slightly savory opening, gently but insistently gripping the mouth. It feels dense and structured with a subtle marine-like note towards the linear, black olive-tinged finish. Bruno Borie has a 2015 with backbone, with longevity in mind. I suspect this will require a decade for the tannins to soften and continue the purple patch for this grand estate.”
- NM, Wine Advocate

“The 2015 Ducru-Beaucaillou, a blend of 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot, has a very refined bouquet with precise blackberry, cedar, crushed flowers and incense that blossom in the glass. This is immediately seductive. The palate is medium-bodied with fine-grain tannin. This is very refined and sensual, the acidity extremely well judged and lending tension from start to finish. Notes of black fruit, allspice, a touch of graphite and subtle mineral tones surface toward the finish. This is a stunning Ducru Beaucaillou that deserves several years in bottle.”
- NM, Wine Journal

“Aromas of oyster shell, iron and currants. Hints of iodine. Full-bodied, very tight and focused. Love the finish of sandalwood, cinnamon, violets and lavender. Wonderful tannin texture. Linear and driven. Drink in 2022”
- JS, JamesSuckling.com

- Reviews** *"A dense and compressed red with loads of blackberry and blueberry character. Fresh wet vineyard soil. Some mushroom too. Full and very tannic yet polished and very refined. Super balance and depth."*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- "With its 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine has super-ripe black-currant flavors encased in firm, smoky tannins and hints of wood. Showing the opulence of the vintage and the style of Saint Julien, it will age for many years. The wine will certainly not be ready before 2026. *Cellar Selection* (RV)"*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot. IPT 75, pH 3.89, 35 hl/ha. Highest proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon ever. 100% new oak. From 2003 the wine has been aged for 18 months in barrel. Very deep. Lifted and fresh. Very correct and unforced. Very sweet. Only just not too sweet... Transparent. Very expressive. Lively and fresh but a bit sinewy. "*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Extraordinary blend of finesse and depth from 95% Cabernet. A wine with a taffeta texture that enhances the extreme purity and depth of fruit. Hard to imagine a better balanced, more vineyard-expressive wine. Barrel Sample."*
- SS, Decanter.com
- "Here, black fruits, bitter dark chocolate and inky liquorice abound. The texture is extremely impressive, really punching above the average St-Julien in this vintage. It is gorgeously withheld at the moment, but with so much promise of what lies ahead. It is subtle but hugely persistent on the palate. 100% new oak for 18 months. (JA)"*
- JA, Decanter.com
- "The complex array of aromatics offers cigar wrapper, wet earth, cedar wood, forest floor and dark red fruits. Full bodied, rich and concentrated, with sensuous, plush textures, density and complexity. The finish holds on for 50 seconds or so, building in intensity. This is rich, opulent and deep, with the structure to age for at least 3 decades with little effort."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Dark in color, with a bit of purple around the rim, the wine feels silky, plush and rich on the palate, the sweet fruits have freshness and definition. The tannins are polished like velvet, leaving you with a long sensation of ripe boysenberries, dark chocolate, espresso, licorice and smoke. The finish really lingers on the palate. This is a tremendous wine for the vintage, equal to any of the First Growths. Produced from 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot, the wine reached 13.42% alcohol with a pH of 3.89 and is aging in 100% new, French oak barrels."*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com
- "Deep and attractive looking in the glass; purple at edge; lovely pure Cabernet aromatics – simply adorable; perfumed and virtually perfect aromatically; creamy palate; full and voluptuously styled yet again; lovely ripe Cabernet here; beautiful wine; caressing and yet fresh; great length too. Considerable power and ripe tannin. Wonderful. One of the wines of the vintage on the left bank for me. [95% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, 13.4% alc, TA 3.07, pH 3.89, IPT 75, 100% new oak]. Drink 2023-2045. 95-97"*
- JW, winewordsandvideotape.com
- "Containing the highest ever percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon at Ducru, this is a wine of structure and impressive energy that was aged in 100% new oak. Rich, dense and complex, it's gutsy and profound, with polished tannins, blackberry and blackcurrant sweetness and a long, tapering finish. Drink: 2025-40"*
- TA, timatkin.com

Reviews

"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. The 2015 - which is being matured in 100% new oak barrels - was made from 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot and has 13.4 degrees of alcohol. Deep purple in colour but lifted in its aromatics with perfumed purple and blue fruit that is superbly defined, ripe and enticing. This is layered by notes of fennel, coriander and nutmeg. The palate is immediately supple, elegant, rounded and silky with a plush black fruit core that provides effortless power to this outstanding Ducru Beaucaillou. The finish is creamy with sweet vanilla and smoky with tobacco yet lifted by cherry blossom at the same time. Very well done!"

- Farr Vintners

"The black fruits on the nose are ripe the palate sweet with rich black cherry backed by chocolate and coffee. Fine well-handled tannins support the back palate is supple and fleshy but there is underlying freshness bright at the back-bilberry freshness under the ripe black cherry. The fruit lingers on the finish stylish with an elegant charm."

- Derek Smedley

"Wonderfully aromatic with lovely layers of violets, delicate red flowers and vibrant red berries. The wine is lifted and fresh without any heaviness but at the same time in this vintage, there is great concentration and depth. An amazing wine with long length. Lovely fresh fruit, linear focus and great energy in this wine. Bravo to Bruno Borie! 95% Cabernet and 5% Merlot."

- JCL, asianpalate.com

"The 2015 Ducru-Beaucaillou is phenomenally great. Inky, powerful and explosive, the 2015 pulses with energy in all of its dimensions. Creme de cassis, blackberry jam, graphite, smoke, leather and incense, along with the wine's muscular tannins, convey an impression of brooding intensity. The 2015 has been nothing short of sensational on the two occasions I have tasted it so far. Readers should be prepared to be patient. Don't miss it! (AG)"

- AG, Vinous

"The 2015 Ducru-Beaucaillou offers notable depth, power and richness. There is plenty of tannin lurking beneath, but it is nearly buried by the sheer intensity of the fruit. Smoke, tobacco, charcoal, leather and dark stone fruits give the 2015 much of its brooding, tightly wound personality. A wine of pedigree and exceptional class, the 2015 Ducru is structured yet also spherical in texture, with terrific balance and tons of style. The 2015 is 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot."

- AG, Vinous

"There is considerable power and weight here with some seriously lush black fruit and lots of green flashes and highlights among the massive oak intensity and relentless drive of flavour. There is no excess in any department, but the combination of the elements is integrated beautifully and with stylish touches of spice and detail this is a wine which will live for a very long time."

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

"The 2015 Ducru-Beaucaillou is a Cabernet Sauvignon dominated wine (there's 5% Merlot) that was brought up in 100% new barrels. It's a classic, elegant, classy 2015 revealing a deep, saturated purple color as well as terrific notes of crème de cassis, smoked earth, lead pencil, and violets. With full-bodied richness, ultra-fine tannin, and a stacked mid-palate, it should start to shine in 6-7 years and keep for three decades."

- Jeb Dunnuck
