

# Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2018

CSPC# 847782

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

**Grape Variety**

85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% 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.

**Winemaker**

Rene Lusseau

**Vintage**

2018 Saint Julien should win an award for the most consistent appellation of the 2018 Bordeaux vintage. From top to bottom, every wine was very good. The 2018 vintage was perfect for St. Julien, once the rains ceased by late June. The winter and spring drenched the region. But picture-perfect weather, warm sunny and dry hit the region in July and with a few minor showers, which helped promote maturity to the vines, beautiful conditions continued through to the harvest, allowing growers to pick, when they found their desired level of maturity. Being a small appellation, at only 910 hectares, much of the gravel terroir was able to work its magic, alleviating the excess water while retaining the right amount of moisture to nourish the vines when needed during the dry summer months.

The warm, sunny, days, dry conditions and cool nights were perfect for the region, allowing much of the harvest to reach the desired level of maturity that each estate wanted to achieve.

**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 took place September 28-October 10. The Grand Vin was made from only 35% of the harvest.

**Vinification/  
Maturation**

To produce the wine of Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou, the grapes are allowed to macerate for close to 7 days. Vinification takes place in stainless steel vats of various sizes allowing for a plot-by-plot vinification. The entire process takes about two weeks, with frequency of pumping over and exact temperature tailored to each individual vat. Malolactic fermentation takes place in concrete vats. Aged 18 months in 100% new barriques.

**Tasting Notes**

Deep, intense, brilliant purple-black color. Vivid and attractive. Aromas redolent of black fruits, hint of graphite and violets. Powerful and elegant structure, fleshy, rich, polished tannins, remarkable length risen by a wonderful freshness. A new standard.

**Serve with**

Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou is a perfect match with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, salmon, mushrooms, and pasta as well as cheese.

**Production**

7,000 cases made.

**Cellaring**

Drink 2027-2050



**Scores/Awards** **96-99 points** - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - April 2019  
**97-99 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - August 2020  
**97-99 points** - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019  
**99 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021  
**98-99 points** - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019  
**100 points/Cellar Selection** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2021  
**96-98 points** - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019  
**17+ points** - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019  
**97 points** - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020  
**99 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021  
**98-100 points** - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019  
**17.5+ points** - Farr Vintner - April 2019  
**96 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021  
**95-97 points** - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2019  
**95-98 points** - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019  
**98 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021  
**97-100 points** - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019  
**20+ points** - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019  
**98 points** - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - February 2021  
**96 points** - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - May 2019  
**17.5 points** - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only) - June 2019

**Reviews** *"Another rock 'em sock 'em St.-Julien here, brimming with nearly exotic blackberry, plum, blueberry and açai berry reduction notes, bristling with brambly energy and racing through a graphite-edged finish. Shows gorgeous perfume throughout, despite the fairly obvious level of concentration. Barrel Sample: 96-99."*  
 - JM, Wine Spectator

*"Tasted as a barrel sample. the 2018 Ducru-Beaucaillou has a very deep purple-black color. It charges out of the glass with bold crème de cassis, preserved plums and baked blueberries notes with touches of chocolate pie, Christmas pudding and Chinese five spice plus a hint of oolong tea. The full-bodied palate is simply a powerhouse, with super firm, super ripe, grainy tannins, lovely freshness, and tons of black fruit preserves flavor layers, finishing very long and very exotic. WOW! Barrel Sample: 97-99."*  
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

*"The 2018 Ducru-Beaucaillou is composed of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot, to be aged 18 months in 100% new barriques. It has a pH of 3.7, 14.5% alcohol and an IPT (total polyphenol index) of 95. Very deep purple black in color, it prances out of the glass with flamboyant, showy scents of cinnamon stick, wilted roses, star anise, fallen leaves and Ceylon tea with a core of blackcurrant cordial, black cherry compote, violets, chocolate mint and espresso plus a waft of crushed rocks. Full-bodied, opulent, and decadently fruited with layer upon layer of black/blue fruit and floral nuances, it has an exquisitely ripe, fine-grained frame and fantastic freshness supporting the multifaceted, beguiling fruit, finishing with tons of fragrant flowers and mineral sparks. At once beautifully elegant and wonderfully bold. About 7,000 cases of the grand vin will be produced, really focusing on the area around the estate."*  
 - LPB, Wine Advocate

*"Aromas of blackberries, blackcurrants, new leather and bark follow through to a full body with a dense, deep palate that goes on and on, but is still shy and reserved. Large amount of ultra-fine, cashmere-like tannins that are silky, sleek, and wonderfully integrated. Extremely long and focused. Needs at least four to five years to start opening. A beautiful wine for the cellar. Try after 2027."*  
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

*"This is so layered and beautiful with incredible tannin quality. Full-bodied with a caressing texture that reminds me of the finest cashmere. So, layered. You want to swallow this. Brings a smile to the face. Wow. So well crafted."*  
 - JS, JamesSuckling.com

**Reviews** *"Vintage 2018 was generous to the style of Ducru-Beaucaillou. The rich character of wines from this estate is*

*enhanced by the ripeness and concentration of this wine. At the same time, it keeps an amazing freshness that comes out of the acidity. This wine will go down in the annals of this historic estate. It is not likely to approach drinkability before 2028. \*Cellar Selection\*."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"This is a powerful wine that shows big tannins and great concentration that are matched with intense acidity. The result is a magnificent wine with the dense fruit flavor and bold structure that will lend well to aging."*

- RV, Wine Enthusiast

*"Black core. Intense black fruit. Highly structured but smooth, like thick velvet. Generous in fruit and massive but still surprisingly fresh. Long and refined finish even with all this power and density. Rich but not overly sweet or overripe. Savoury long finish. Hard to judge now."*

- JH, JancisRobinson.com

*"Extremely complex, this is tight and holds on with an initial austerity. The plentiful tannins layer up right through the palate, but they are sandwiched by gorgeous blackberry and cassis fruits. There's an inkiness and a spice box feel here, with notes of dried herbs, black olive tapenade and graphite, all generously present. The longer the wine stays in the glass, the more the flesh of the fruit takes precedence and yet the wine manages to also convey a St-Julien classicism. This has all the elements to age exceptionally well, and to give great pleasure along the way."*

- JA, Decanter.com

*"Stunning concentration, power and finesse, with a ton of chocolate, charcoal, slate and liquorice, set against sweet blueberries, damson and cassis. This is silky and polished, with a ton of layers and complexity. With 18 months' ageing in 100% new oak, this has delivered on its en primeur potential, but still needs a good decade in bottle."*

- Decanter.com

*"Intensely colored, the wine is completely opaque. The next thing you notice is the aromatics which pop thanks to the array of flowers, black and dark red fruits, forest floor, espresso, wet earth, tobacco leaf and bitter chocolate. Full-bodied, concentrated, rich, deep, opulent, fresh, and intense, the wine coats your palate and sticks with you. This is a good thing because it is difficult not to want more of all those sweet, ripe, luscious fruits. The purity, symmetry and length keep on going for close to 60 seconds! Give it at least 12-15 years to age and it could hit the triple digit mark! The wine blends 85% Cabernet Sauvignon with 15% Merlot, 14.5% ABV. The Grand Vin was made from only 35% of the harvest."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Pitch black in color, the wine explodes in the glass with flowers, black fruits, wet earth, rocks, stones and a vintage cigar box from the Hotel Monte Carlo. The depth of fruit and flavor is surreal. The wine has authority. Baskets of red and black pit fruit drench your palate, staining your teeth. It is refined, well-designed and dances on air. This is a contender for the best vintage ever produced at Ducru and that is really saying something considering the incredible run of vintages produced here since 2005. The wine was made from a blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot, reaching 14.5% alcohol with a pH of 3.7 and is aging in 100% new, French oak barrels for about 18 months. The harvest took place September 28-October 10. The Grand Vin was made from only 35% of the harvest."*

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

*"Deep purple in colour, with a pure cassis, cedar, tobacco and black cherry nose. There is a light touch of incense, but this is a classic, enticing St Julien. The palate is glossy, rich, and powerful. The tannins are chalky but very refined, allowing the pure, ripe fruit to shine through. This is exotic and hedonistic, with cassis, damson, nutmeg, and liquorice all on display. Despite this opulence, there is freshness of acidity that prevents any excess and gives focus on a long, spicy and pure finish."*

- Farr Vintners

## Reviews

*“Compared to the Second Wine, the 2018 Ducru-Beaucaillou clearly displays more new oak on the nose, which is to be expected given that it was entirely aged in new wood. The bouquet is very intense, particularly after 3–4 hours of opening (like many 2018s), offering copious scents of blackberries, blueberry, mint, and violet, all while maintaining excellent delineation and focus. The palate is medium-bodied with supple tannins that render the texture velvety-smooth and polished. There is a surfeit of exceedingly pure black fruits laced with cedar and mint bound up in this Saint-Julien. The finish is serene but very persistent. This will be a seductive and sophisticated Ducru-Beaucaillou that deserves several years in bottle.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The bouquet is very intense and needs a lot of coaxing from the glass - more so than previous vintages. It eventually, almost reluctantly reveals tightly wound black fruit laced with violet petals and touches of wild mint. It feels quite Margaux-like. The palate is silky smooth on the entry with layers of black fruit infused with graphite and minerals, a crescendo of flavours towards the powerful and quite grippy finish. Compared to the Croix de Beaucaillou, I find the alcohol more contained (14.5%), and it delivers lovely spicy notes that tingle on the tongue after the wine has departed. It will need at least a decade in bottle.”*

- NM, Vinous

*“The 2018 Ducru-Beaucaillou is a wine of pure and total sensual beauty. Layers of intense fruit nearly cover the massive tannins that lurk beneath. Sweet floral notes, spice, mint, lavender and rose petals all grace a sublime Ducru that is long on class and character. In most recent vintages, Ducru has been a tannic behemoth, but the 2018 is remarkably silky, sumptuous, and nuanced. In 2018, Ducru is not an obvious wine, but it is exceptionally beautiful. The 2018 is 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot. New oak is 100%. Tasted two times.”*

- AG, Vinous

*“This is a gorgeous, incredibly complete, classic expression of this terroir, offering a heavenly nose of crème de cassis, cedarwood, unsmoked tobacco, new leather, spring flowers, chocolate, and a touch of chalky minerality. With full-bodied richness, a monster of a mid-palate, remarkable purity, and a great, great finish, it's one of the most concentrated, impressive wines of the vintage, and might also be one of the longest lived. It actually reminds me of an improved version of the 1996 or a hypothetical mix of the 2010 and 2016. For the tech geeks out there, the IPT checks in at a massive 95 and the pH is 3.7.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“The grand vin of this terrific estate, the 2018 Château Ducru-Beaucaillou is based on 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Merlot that will spend 18 months in new barrels. It's as classy as they come, boasting a deep purple/blue color as well as awesome notes of pure crème de cassis, smoke tobacco, crushed rock-like minerality, and violets. Haute couture at its finest, with full-bodied richness, building structure and tannins, and remarkable purity, it's certainly in the same ballpark as the magical 2016. It will be approachable in just 4-5 years yet keep for 40+.”*

- Jeb Dunnuck

*“(85 Cabernet Sauvignon, 15 Merlot) | 100% new oak – matured for 18 months. | 14.5% alc | 3.7pH | 95 IPT. The berries here were around 10-15% smaller than in regular vintages and this goes some way to explaining the volume of flavour and devastating stance of this imperial creation. The key to making such a masterpiece at Ducru was avoiding over-extraction coupled with the care and attention that they paid during winemaking. Réjouissant was the word that owner Bruno Borie used when we tasted this wine together and I know that this translates as ‘worthy of rejoicing’, but also ‘heartening’ and ‘gratifying’. This wine is all of these things and more. It is nothing short of a masterpiece in my opinion. Of course, Ducru is often a flamboyant wine and in this vintage, with its extraordinary growing season, those Châteaux that are used to creating larger framed more ostentatious styles of wine were bound to do very well. With all of the exuberance one might expect under this label but also with immense reserve and a heightened IQ this wine sets a new standard for this estate. It is not a once in a decade wine - it is a once in half a century wine. Control and precision are the watchwords here and this is done of such a scale and with such panache that it is sensational. This is a wine which will amaze every single person on the planet. I cannot think how it could be improved. This is such a detailed wine with so much fruit integrity it is amazing, and I have never tasted anything like it from this property. It follows that I am honour-bound to award this delicious wine a perfect score.”*

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

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