

La Croix de Beaucaillou 2012

CSPC# 763558

750mlx12

13.10% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot

Appellation

St. Julien

Classification

'Appellation d'origine contrôlée' of Saint-Julien

Website

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

General Info

'Appellation d'origine contrôlée' of Saint-Julien. This is the second wine of Château Ducru-Beaucaillou, a 'grand cru' classified in 1855. The La Croix de Beaucaillou wines come from the Château Ducru Beaucaillou vineyard. Château Ducru-Beaucaillou is named after the beautiful, stones found in its unique wine-growing terroir. This exceptional ecosystem produces fine, elegant, tasty wines, with a long finish – in short, archetypal Saint-Julien wines.

The origins of Château Ducru-Beaucaillou date back to the beginning of the XVIII century, 1720 to be precise. 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 Médoc.

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.

The notion of Second growth is difficult to figure out. Most of the vineyards, from the greatest to the more modest ones, now produce a second growth. It is therefore essential to consider the soil's possibilities as well as the quality requirements of the wine owner. Indeed, the quality level of the second wine is directly derived from the first of these elements.

Croix Beaucaillou, like a first growth, is therefore submitted to careful selection. Most of the wines coming from the plots of young vineyard as well as the lesser batches will incorporate the third growth which will be sold or... drunk at the chateau. Croix de Beaucaillou is thus subjected to a reasoned blending aimed at producing a wine which will of course reveal its assets earlier than Ducru B but also the characteristics of a great Saint Julien: elegance, finesse and of course its ability to age. It is worth noting that this wine is far superior to the connotation of 'second wine'. It is a great, noble wine, which we are sure will play a prominent role in the Saint-Julien appellation. La Croix de Beaucaillou has been bottled on the property since 1995. Until then, it was sold in bulk to Bordeaux wine merchants.

Vintage

A very cold, dry winter, a humid and chilly spring, with here and there unexpectedly high temperatures - the 2012 Vintage started with mixed weather which lasted until mid-July, until bunch-closure in fact. Throughout the entire vegetative cycle total vigilance was absolutely necessary, together with unfailing and constant presence in the vineyards, to watch out for and contain all fungus attacks (mildew, oïdium, Botrytis) and reduce to a minimum the disparity between bunches, caused by a slow, difficult and protracted flowering.

The fine, hot and sunny days of August and those vital ones of September, together with a certain amount of summer drought, allowed the grapes on the best terroirs, and in the perfectly worked vineyards, to attain a fine concentration of sugar and a great richness in their phenolic composition. At the end of the cycle, rain allowed the grapes, whose maturation process had been halted by the drought, to continue to ripen. Just before the picking started, a period of considerable temperature differences between hot days and chilly nights helped to increase both the aromatic intensity and the synthesis of the anthocyanins in the grapes.



Vintage	Thus, after an uncertain start, came a happy ending! In the final analysis we achieved, at the beginning of October, a truly promising potential, which it was vital to preserve by not leaving the bunches on the vines too long
Vineyards	The 75 hectares of the Château Ducru-Beaucaillou vineyard are planted with 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot. The average age of the vines is 35 years. With age, the vines become less fertile and at the same time develop a deep root system (up to 6 metres deep) to better attenuate the impact of extreme weather conditions as well as better exploit the qualities of the terroir. By meticulously probing the poor, arid soil to find the moisture and nutrients they need, the roots retrieve the original elements that will give the wine its uniqueness: this is the essence of the terroir of Ducru Beaucaillou. The high plantation density (10,000 vines per ha.) has many advantages. It reduces the production of each plant while creating competition between the vines that will search deeper down into the soil to find their nutriment ("vines must suffer in order to produce").
Harvest	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.
Vinification/ Maturation	The vinification of each plot is done individually to optimize 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 into barrels to facilitate the selection of the press-wine batches. Malolactic fermentation is managed in vats for optimal control. The wine is barreled in duly identified individual batches immediately after malolactic fermentation. Blending takes place during the first racking operation; for La Croix de Beaucaillou, between 20 and 40% 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 12 months. Bottling is performed with special care in regard to both oenological controls and homogenization of the overall batch. The 5 cork makers supplying the estate have signed a detailed and stringent quality charter.
Tasting Notes	The Jade Jagger robed Croix de Beaucaillou is produced from 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot. This sumptuous stuff packed with svelte pure berry fruit. The bouquet is sexy, gravelly, mineral and perfumed, but quite understated. This will be aged for 12 months in 60% new oak barrels. There is wonderful balance and harmony here; a really pure, proper Claret.
Cellaring Scores/Awards	<p>Drink 2013-2025</p> <p>89 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2015</p> <p>90-93 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2014</p> <p>87-89 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #206 - April 2013</p> <p>89-91 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - May 2013</p> <p>87-88 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2013</p> <p>93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - May 1, 2015</p> <p>91-93 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 11, 2013</p> <p>17 points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - April 2013</p> <p>17 points - Stephen Spurrier, Decanter.com - April 2013</p> <p>92 points - Tim Atkin, MW - timatkin.com (score only)</p> <p>88-90 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 18, 2013</p> <p>15.5+ points - Farr Vintner - March 2013</p> <p>88-91 points - Derek Smedley, MW - April 2013</p> <p>88 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com - April 2013</p> <p>15 points - Vinum Wine Magazine (score only)</p> <p>91 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only)</p> <p>14.5 points - Gault & Millau (score only)</p>

- Reviews** *"Bright cherry, blackberry and plum fruit is laced with violet, bay leaf and juniper notes, all carried by energetic, brambly structure through the finish. Drink now through 2023."*
- JM, Wine Spectator
- "Features notes of dark plum, raspberry and anise, with singed spice and subtle black tea shadings. Displays refined structure and length for the vintage. Tasted non-blind. Score range: 90-93"*
- JM, Wine Spectator
- "The second wine (also about 50% of the total production), the 2012 Croix du Beaucaillou is composed of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon and the rest mostly Merlot with 2% Petit Verdot. It is a soft, round, attractively endowed effort with a deep ruby/plum color as well as a sweet nose of black currants, dusty, loamy, earthy notes and a touch of lead pencil shavings and vanilla. Well-made and medium-bodied, this attractive 2012 should drink well for 10-12 years.*
The charismatic Bruno Borie has produced a 2012 Ducru Beaucaillou made from 81% Cabernet Sauvignon and 19% Merlot (about 50% of the total production). The harvest began right after the deluge that occurred the weekend of October 7, 8 and 9. A lot of dry tannins were present the day I tasted this wine, but I think they will soften and become manageable as the wine continues its upbringing in barrel for another 12-14 months."
- RP, Wine Advocate
- "The Croix de Beaucaillou 2012 is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot delivering 13.10% alcohol. It is being raised in 60% in new oak and the rest in one-year old barrels. It has a fragrant, marine accent on the nose with hints of seaweed coming through. It is nicely defined and well integrated with the oak. The palate is medium-bodied and very sleek and silky on the entry with crisp acidity cutting through. There is certainly good weight here with a sweet seductive finish. Tasted April 2013."*
- NM, Wine Journal
- "Effectively a wine with its own dedicated portion of the Ducru Beaucaillou vineyard, this is structured and firm. It's concentrated with dark plum fruits and full of powerful tannins that go right through from start to finish. It certainly needs to age, so don't drink before 2022."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "91-93. Barrel sample. This wine is the second wine of Ducru-Beaucaillou, sourced from a vineyard in the heart of Saint-Julien. It's rich and dense, with plenty of firm tannins. The fruit is already delicious and ripe with black currant and berries."*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- "60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot, 2% Petit Verdot; two-thirds new oak. The Jade Jagger bottle. Bright crimson - no blue. Jazzy and lively and lots of zest and fruit. Very light tannins, and correct but not much density or tannin. This is for fun early drinking and lots of pleasure. I could drink this tonight. So pretty!"*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- "Wonderful vibrancy of fruit, depth, a sophisticated and polished St-Julien"*
- SS, Decanter.com
- "The second wine at Ducru is not a blockbuster in 2012, but lovers of old-fashioned Bordeaux won't have a problem with that. Elegant and refined, with good acidity, notes of cassis, pomegranate and Asian spices, medium-weight tannins and a fresh flourish of a finish. Drink: 2020-28"*
- TA, timatkin.com
- "2012 Croix de Beaucaillou is a blend of 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot that reached 13.10% alcohol and will be aged in 60% new French oak for 12 months. Coffee bean, boysenberry, licorice, and a fresh cherry finish are the hallmarks of what you'll find in this medium-bodied wine. 88-90 Pts (18-Apr-2013)"*
- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

Reviews *“Bruno Borie's relentless pursuit of excellence at Ducru Beaucaillou has resulted in the production levels of the Grand Vin falling by around 50%. The chief beneficiary of the draconian selection process here is this - the second label - which contains fruit that was once always used for Ducru itself. Another wine - Lalande Borie is made from the vineyards further inland from the estuary near Talbot and Lagrange. Really a single vineyard separate wine and now featuring a striking new label designed by Jade Jagger. Made from 60% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Merlot and 2% Petit Verdot. This has a deep colour with very good density of blackberry fruit and a waft of Havana cigar. Cedary and toasty on the palate with some solid fruit and firm tannins. Certainly, a wine of classed growth quality.”*
- Farr Vintners

The nose has the richness of ripe black fruits the black cherry and cassis mix backed by a hint of spicy oak. Fresher flavours are there in the middle some minty cassis and there is a lean tight feel on the finish. 2017-28.”
- Derek Smedley MW

“Approachable red with ripe plums and blackberries supported by supple, ripe tannins and good length. The wine offers good depth of flavours and gentle extraction this year. Easy to enjoy young but there is enough structure here for the wine to age for a decade easily. Tasted in Bordeaux, France. Maturity: Young. (11-Apr-2013”
- JCL, asianpalate.com
