

Château Ducru Beaucaillou 2000 (sold in a 3pk 1999/2000/2001)

CSPC# 758955

750mlx1

13.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

70% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Merlot

Appellation

Saint Julien

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

The winter was mild with very little rain. April and May were warm and moderately rainy. In June, the weather improved but the real summer only came mid-July. Although from then the grapes ripened gently and slowly. The very dry climate of August and September was very beneficial to the concentration and improved the maturity of the grapes. The sanitary state at the eve of the harvest was good: very good phenolic maturity and a strong anthocyanin concentration.

Vineyards

Ducru-Beaucaillou's 75 hectares are planted with 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Merlot Noir. The average age of the vines is 35. Over time, fertility is moderated, and a root network develops (reaching up to 6 metres deep), both reducing the effect of climatic excess and increasing the take-up of nutrients from the soil and subsoil. Meticulously exploring the poor, arid soil to find the necessary nutrients and water, the roots carry back the trace elements which 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"). It also generates a microclimate with many an advantage: Maximizing the leaf surface per hectare and therefore the rainwater consumption which are particularly profuse in our Atlantic climate Creating ideal conditions for the grapes

Harvest

The harvest began September 24th and ended October 7th.

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, 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

The colour is very concentrated in tones of purple-violet. The nose is impressive by its complexity and intensity: charming notes of black current, red fruits, enhanced by a slight touch of vanilla and flowers. In the mouth, the attack is rich with silky and elegant tannins. The finish is long and fruity. The Ducru Beaucaillou 2000 is racy and elegant, it is a rich, full bodied and complex wine with a wonderful finesse of the fruit.



Cellaring Drink 2015-2035
Scores/Awards **95 points** - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - March 31, 2003
95-100 points - James Suckling, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2001
95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #189 - June 2010
94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #146 - April 2003
92-94 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #139 - February 2002
93-95 points - Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #134 - April 2001
97 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - November 2011
96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - July 2010
94-96 points - Neal Martin, Wine Journal - June 2001
93 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com (score only)
92(+?) points - Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar - May/June 2003
19.5 points - Decanter.com - March 2001
88 points - Jean Marc Quarin - (score only)
96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - October 18, 2011
96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - August 1, 2011
95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 5, 2010
17 points - Vinum Wine Magazine - April 2011 (score only)
17.5 points - La Revue du Vin France (score only)
3 stars - Le Guide Hachette des Vins - 2004

Reviews *"Fantastic aromas of blackberries, wild berries and minerals. Extremely aromatic. Full-bodied and very tight, with big, silky tannins and a long, caressing finish. Superb. A muscular Ducru. Best after 2010. 17,500 cases made."*
- JS, Wine Spectator

"Super, raspberry character, with violet and minerals. Full-bodied, with super silky tannins. The finish goes on for minutes. Like the Ducru 1995, Wine Spectator's 1998 Wine of the Year. Score range: 95-100"
- JS, Wine Spectator

"A stunning wine from Ducru Beaucaillou which showcases its great terroir, this elegant but substantial 2000 has a dense purple color that has hardly budged since it was first bottled. Displaying a floral note, with hints of boysenberries, black raspberries, black currants and a touch of background oak, the wine has superb concentration and density, but still has some substantial tannins that are not yet fully resolved. I originally predicted that it should be drinkable from 2010-2030, but I would modify that now to 2015-2035."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"Floral notes intermixed with raspberries, black currants, minerals, and a hint of new oak emerge from the dense purple-colored 2000 Ducru-Beaucaillou. The wine is sweet, dense, and medium to full-bodied, with undeniable elegance and finesse as well as a finish that lasts for 45+ seconds. A wine of remarkable symmetry, balance, elegance, and minerality, it is the Lafite-Rothschild of St.-Julien. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2030+."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"An ethereal effort, the 2000 Ducru Beaucaillou is a reserved, backward yet authoritative Ducru with a firm structure, plenty of grip, significant concentration, and floral, black raspberry, and currant notes intermixed with tell-tale mineral characteristics. This gorgeous offering will require 8-10 years of cellaring. Anticipated maturity: 2010-2035."
- RP, Wine Advocate

"A prodigious Ducru Beaucaillou, the 2000 is compelling. It offers a terrific nose of red and black currants, blueberries, minerals, and spice. It is sweet, with multiple dimensions, medium to full body, fabulous purity, and a long finish with unobtrusive oak and moderately high tannin. A blend of 78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, and 2% Cabernet Franc, it will be at its finest between 2006-2030."
- RP, Wine Advocate

Reviews *"Tasted at Farr's Ducru-Beaucaillou dinner at the Ledbury. Consistent notes when compared to last year with a spellbinding bouquet: blackberries, smoke, a touch of dried herbs and pine needles with stunning delineation and vibrancy. The palate is full-bodied with outstanding minerality and a sense of symmetry that is beyond both the very impressive 1995 and 1996. It still needs another five or six years but will be worth the wait. Tasted October*

2010.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“Served at the chateau at their Vinexpo banquet from magnum, the millennial Ducru Beaucaillou has a more inward-looking bouquet compared to the 1995, black, smoky fruits, gravel, tinderbox and thyme inflecting the aromas. Despite coaxing, it remains surly, promising more in the future. The palate is full-bodied with superb depth and a firm backbone, a compelling sense of symmetry leading to a poised boysenberry and cedar-tinged, “determined” rather than “assertive” finish. Leave for another 5-8 years. Drink 2014-2040. Tasted June 2009.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“One of the best 2000's although curiously only tasted out of barrel. An intense nose of iodine and blueberry. Sublime integration on the palate with seamless tannins. Has the class of the Ducru Beaucaillou 1995. Very powerful and long. Brilliant wine. Tasted June 2001.”

- NM, Wine Journal

“Bright ruby-red, less saturated than the 2002. Very pure aromas of cassis, minerals and mocha, with a hint of raw berries. Juicy, pure and tightly wound, with intense flavors of dark berries, bitter chocolate, espresso and licorice. Broadens impressively on the long, aromatic, suave finish, showing lovely grip and class. Finer than Borie's 2000 Grand Puy Lacoste and in need of longer aging but not clearly stronger.”

- ST, International Wine Cellar

“Huge colour, lots of extraction but also a wonderfully floral expression, very good depth of fruit and length, like 1995 and 1996, but more silky and velvety, extraordinary richness and persistence. Ready 2008-2040.”

- Decanter.com

“Pungent aromas of truffle, flowers, mocha, cassis, blackberry, earth and cigar box come to the front without much effort. This full bodied, ripe, supple, refined St. Julien is elegant, classy and refined. With ripe tannins, the wine finishes with layers of sweet, juicy, spicy black cherries, cassis and blackberry. It's starting to come around and will be much better with a few more years of bottle age. It should have a long life.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“With scents of blackberry, earth, spice, truffle, cassis, smoke, blueberry and cigar box, this big, beautiful wine seeks and gets your focus. Your palate enjoys waves of pure, sweet, ripe, black cherry and spicy cassis. With round textures and a long, generous finish, this will continue improving for at least another 2-3 decades!”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Orange, floral, spice, black fruit and licorice scents. Big, intense and concentrated, this deep Bordeaux offers a lot of finesse and texture in its long, intense, ripe fruit filled finish.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com